

LOCKDOWN DAY 42 – 7 MAY 2020

Greetings beautiful people of God,

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45 **Hymn:** *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise.*

I pray that we are all **still coping** with lockdown and **respecting the boundaries** of others sharing your space.

We continue looking at the life and witness of **St John**, Apostle and Evangelist. John **witnessed** the rare and significant events, like the raising of the daughter of Jairus, the Transfiguration, the agony in Gethsemane and the crucifixion. After the miraculous catch of fish in the sea of Tiberius, it was John who recognised Jesus and said, *“It is the Lord”*. Jesus dying on the cross commended his Mother Mary to John, who was the only Apostle who did not forsake the Lord at the time of his Passion and Death. On the Resurrection morning John ran with Peter to the tomb. Later John participated in the Council of Jerusalem as a leader.

Yesterday, we briefly looked at James and John wanting to make sure of their intimate places alongside Jesus but incur the **wrath** of the other disciples for getting beyond themselves. The argument provides Jesus with an opportunity to talk about **relationships among his followers**.

Let us use this time of lockdown to ponder on **power relationships** within the church and community. Jesus insists that Christian leaders are not to lord it over other members of the Church. On the **contrary**, those who are in a **position of leadership** must set an example of **humble service**. They must even, in effect, be slaves to other members of the community. They must do this in order to follow the example of their one true leader, Jesus himself, who, as the Gospel says, *“came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

The whole of Jesus’ life, ministry and death was an **expression** of submission, of service to the human-race. Jesus **modelled** a new kind of leadership. His kingship is one gained through the ultimate **act of service**, his death on the cross. If his followers are to be true to him, they must adopt the same **patterns of leadership and relationships**. The Christian community is to be a community of mutual service and love.

I invite all of us to be **honest** today in the presence of the Holy Spirit, to think about whether we enjoy our own importance? Is it our attitude that we have worked hard in the church and it is therefore our right to be recognised as leaders and honoured by others? We see it as our due reward.

If we think deeper about it, we can see that an **attitude** of service modelled on that of Jesus would transform all our relationships, from international politics to family life. Only God can bring about that transformation: but that does **not** excuse us from trying to follow Jesus’ example in our local churches and in our personal lives. How many of those quarrels between church members could be avoided if everyone adopted an attitude of mutuality and service?

To summarise, yesterday we looked at Jesus asking James and John: *“Can you **drink** the cup that I am going to drink?”* Like them, we often say *“**We can**”* without fully thinking through the **commitment** that we make. Today we looked at *“**Power relationships**”*. Tomorrow, God willing, I will continue with the theme that: *“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”*

Please reach out today to anyone serving in **Chaplaincies** in our Parish, Archdeaconry and Diocese.

We pray the Prayer attributed to St Francis (An APB, pg 91). We continue to pray for the protection of health workers and the full recovery of those already tested positive with Covid-19.

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God’s world. *I love and appreciate you.*
