

Charity number 1180853

28th March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Palm Sunday is so different to the usual. No processing around with Palms. No re-enactment of singing praises to the King of kings riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. This year we are quieter, more reflective, perhaps more subdued. Our worship, like so much of our daily life, has been impacted by this pandemic.

We think twice before normal daily activities like entering a post office, or speaking to someone in the street. Perhaps this hesitancy is a chance to reflect on much of our everyday activities, our attitudes. In the letter to the Philippians, Paul says to those of us who are in Christ, 'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.' Not what you do, but your attitude, your whole frame of mind. Furthermore, he doesn't say 'have a go at being as similar to Christ as you can manage.' No, Paul is clear. Your attitude should be the same as Christ's. Just as Christ is.

So, what is this attitude that we are to adopt? Self-emptying, self-denying. Perhaps demonstrated most strongly when Jesus knelt down to do the job of a slave and washed the disciples' feet. He empties himself. He chooses to take on the form of and the role of a slave. No spotlight on him as he does so.

When we pray for someone, when we visit someone, when we give to those in need, when we give to the church – it should be done in a way that our left hand does not know what the right is doing – it should not be done so as to attract attention to ourselves. What is important is the service is carried out.

The attitude of a slave is to give others what they need, without expecting or requiring anything in return. If I'm really honest, I admit that doing something in service for others, I often hope for some kind of acknowledgement, or praise, or pay-back for what I do. That is not Christ's servant attitude, which is of true humility. Humility is thinking of others as better than ourselves. It's not falsely pretending that we do not have any abilities or good qualities of our own. But it's looking to others and thinking their needs, their interests are more important.

Jesus emptied himself. Made himself nothing. Took on becoming not only a human being, not only a servant, but a slave. Because being God is not a matter of getting, but of giving. This emptying, or pouring out of himself is like the opposite of what is talked about so much in today's society, of human rights. Jesus is God made human who emptied himself of all his rights. He submitted himself in obedience to the Father.

So, having the same self-emptying attitude as Christ, means not asserting 'It's my right...' but instead saying 'I will claim nothing for me, as if I have no right.' Paradoxically, at the same time as doing away with any claim to our own rights, Christians should also be at the front of the queue of people wanting to uphold and defend other people's rights.

As we approach the second Easter in lockdown, let us model all our attitudes, our thoughts and actions on the perfect example of humility and self-emptying, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in His grip,

Tina Upton

Charity number 1180853

NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website www.holytrinityblacon.org or our Facebook page ([hollytrinityblacon](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityblacon)) for updates.

EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY

Worshipping in the church (in a Covid-safe way) will be at the following times:

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Eucharist with stripping of altar

Good Friday 2.00pm Proclamation of the cross

Easter Sunday 9.30am Parish Eucharist

If you would like a lift on the minibus on Good Friday or Easter Day, please contact Tina or Louise.

PRAYING FOR BLACON

This week, Louise and Tina are joined by Jo P who is on placement with us, and we are prayerfully putting out chocolates, as we take our exercise. Do join us in praying for the residents of the following: Hafod Close, Nevin Road, Penmuir Close, Treborth Road.

EVENING PRAYER

We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom (this continues in Holy Week and Easter week). Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome!

BIBLE GROUP

is having an Easter break, and will restart on Thursday 22nd April at 7.30pm, on Zoom. When they will be looking at 'Prayer'. Please contact Louise Annison if you would like a link to join them.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS –

The video is now on our website, do go to <https://hollytrinityblacon.org/whats-on/events/stations-of-the-cross.php> If you do not have access to the internet, and would instead like a DVD of our stations video, please let Tina or Louise know.

ELECTORAL ROLL –

Alterations to our electoral roll before the annual meeting end on 1st April. If you want to check your entry, please contact Sue K or Linda in the Parish Office.

ANNUAL MEETING

will be held after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11th April, in church. Agenda and Minutes available today, reports will come out next week. We will be electing Wardens (Deputy wardens), PCC members and there is one vacancy for Deanery Synod. Please pray about whether you could stand for election, or there is someone you want to nominate. Nomination forms are at the back of church.

Rector

Rev Tina Upton