



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 12 | 15 June 2020

Thought for the week

Written by Jamie Jones Buchanan

Leeds Rhinos rugby league Superstar

As a professional sportsman for over 22 years I understand the collaborative power of a group of individuals with a common goal. Individuality brings diversity, diversity opens up a toolbox of God given gifts, which when used for the sake of the group empowers the collective to overcome almost any challenge.

I'm blessed to look back on a career spanning two decades in which the differences of my teammates contributed so heavily to the depth of our success. It's with this mindset that I am "hugely pained" by the recent global calamity in which our differences are seemingly still dividing us. The value of having 8 grand final rings under my bed from a 20 year career in rugby league isn't in the symbol of achievement itself or the value of gold in which that symbol is forged, rather, the value is rooted in the journey, overcoming the challenges, trials and tribulations in which we strived together. In my experience, friendships were galvanised for life and the learning experiences have empowered us – God willing – for a journey well into an unknown future.

"Proverbs 17:3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart".

As difficult as life can sometimes be, we can be encouraged that with the right heart, focussed on Jesus, we will emerge out of the other side of the challenges that face us a little more refined. In the same way silver and gold is refined by the furnace, so are our hearts through the fire of fortitude building experiences we strive through each day.

The first chapter of the bible alludes to the fact that it is "not good to be alone". Indeed, if we are to be in the image of a triune God then it seems obvious that if life is to thrive it would be in the context of community. Having transitioned into becoming an assistant coach in recent months, I'm privileged to still be around a group of elite athletes on a common pursuit of sporting success. So, to be deprived from that contact during the recent pandemic you can be forgiven for thinking that the experience would leave me at a low ebb.

However!!

Whilst it's never been lost on me how horrendous the coronavirus lockdown has been for a broad spectrum of reasons, the time it has allowed me to spend with my best friend has been a real blessing; my best friend by the way being my wife Emma. Emma is a wonderful loving soul that I have known since I was 14 and whom I have since married and manifest one flesh more than four times through the birth of our four boys.

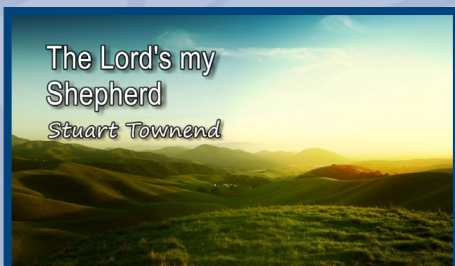
The sporting life consists of many sacrifices one of which being the lack of time we can spend with our loved ones. The bible starts and ends with a marriage and could possibly be the most blessed Godly institution. It's an institution which, for me, reflects how we can practice Christ like, unconditional Love manifest through our communal walk together. In many ways I hope it's a small picture of what an eternal rest with our creator may look like. This whole experience will – I pray – only encourage me with a new found zeal to reunite with my wider family, friends, colleagues and neighbours with a new heart and appreciation for unity in community, once the isolation finally ends.



A message from JJB
Please click here to view the video.

Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light
our candles together!



Teenager's Tip

Do Something Positive

By Emily Hall from Year 11

If you find yourself feeling bored and you can't find anything to do, there are a few things that I've been doing which you might also enjoy:

- If you have a sewing machine at home, google "Sew for the NHS" and take part in a project local to you. Some of these projects are harder than others but there are simple ones too, such as making draw string bags and face mask button bands that anyone can do. This is just a little way you can make a difference.
- If sewing isn't really your thing, you could try making tea for your family one evening or baking a cake/ some cupcakes to pass the time. I'm sure your parents wouldn't turn down the offer!
- Finally, to make the most of the nice weather you could try to grow some of your own fruit and veg. All you need is compost, seeds and a plant pot for the basics- lettuce, peppers and peas are quite easy. It just gives you a reason to go outside into your garden/backyard and anyone can do it.

Prayer for the Week

By Nina Bryan - Catering Manager

Everybody eats, food is universal, everywhere in the world, food unites us all, in the dining room at school having a rest in between lessons & chilling with friends, at home at tea time whether we're laughing or bickering, at events where people, friends & family congregate, food will usually be there.

During lockdown food has been bringing people together in community spirit with volunteers cooking, delivering food, helping to feed people from the house bound to frontline medical staff and assisting at food banks. We've had more time at home to cook food and we're having to be more resourceful at managing food from pre shop planning to making creative meals with what we have in the fridge.

Cooking from scratch is the one of the most important things we can do to improve our health and wellbeing. Don't be frightened of cooking even if it doesn't look good at your first attempt, if the ingredients that went in are good, it will still taste good. Give it a go after all what's the whisk!

Remembrance

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all. When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer. And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency, bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen - **Samuel F. Pugh**

Church Support

Here are links to some alternative services and ways to contact some of our School Chaplains or their Churches. You are not alone!

VISION: Vision Live Stream for 11-18s runs every Friday night from 7:30pm. Games, lockdown challenges and chance to think about God + life + faith. Find out more [here](#).

Revd Ian Enticott: Accrington St. James and St. Paul, find their YouTube Channel [here](#).

Revd Hugh Scriven: Huncoat St. John's and Augustine's is happy to send news, some written prayers and Bible reflections each week to anyone upon request. Please email him [here](#) or on their YouTube channel [here](#).

Revd Mark Pickett: Clitheroe St. James, Virtual Prayer Space and weekly online services can be found [here](#).

Father Chris Holden: Rishton St Peter's and St Paul's is happy for you to get in touch with him use this [email](#) and the church is now open for private prayer - 9am to 6pm daily

Pastor Matthew Clay: Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, find their channel [here](#).

Rev Toby Webber: Clayton All Saints have short family friendly times of worship at 10:45am each Sunday followed by a fuller service at 11am, and Friday Praise each Friday at 6:30pm. Night prayer daily at 9:30pm and other times as announced. Visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more info.

Father Andy Froud: Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene, prayers and worship online can be found [here](#).

A Church Near You: A website to help you find out what is going on in a Church local to you. Follow this [link](#).

Further links will be provided in future weekly bulletins.

Song of the Week



In good times or bad times, it is good to remember that God is more than enough for us.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10:14-15

Look at this great game idea called the 'Game of Compassion' created by Reece Byrne in Year 7!



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