



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 15 | 6 July 2020

Thought for the week

Rejoice in the Lord always

Written by Mr Alasdair Coates:

When I was a teenager, our Church organised an annual summer camp which I went on with my friends. We enjoyed sitting round a campfire in the evenings, singing songs in the sunset light and listening to gentle guitar playing. When we were asked by our leader what we wanted to sing next, the boys all used to clamour for a well-known chorus, "You shall go out with joy, And be led forth with peace." Our leader thought we must be very holy and worshipful - he hadn't quite realised that Joy was an attractive girl in our group and our thoughts were rather differently focused!

I was reminded of this by the reading in church this week from St Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!" Joy is a mark of Christian life, our life with God and with other people. It doesn't mean we have to put on a false, happy smile, nor that we must always be optimistic, though optimism is a good thing. And it isn't just saying, Look on the bright side. Paul was in prison when he wrote this, he knew about not being able to go around freely, like us at the moment, he understood hardship and tears, he had experienced physical pain and uncertainty about the future. But he still says that God is asking us to show Joy all the time! He doesn't let us off the hook and say, "Rejoice when there is no Covid virus around," or, "Rejoice when you can see your friends again normally", or even, "Rejoice when you feel like it,"; he says, "Rejoice always". And the key is, "Rejoice in the Lord". Joy is not a thing to be discovered on its own. It is as much a longing as anything else, not a possession to be owned. Joy is found in God himself. God is Love and the fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy and Peace. When you discover God, you discover Love, Joy and Peace.

The following three verses of this Bible passage go on to give us excellent advice, very relevant to us all now, this year, at this time of quarantine and the easing of rules but continuation of the need to be very careful.

- Be gentle and show other people that you are gentle. When we are restricted in our movements, stuck inside at home with our family or having to meet in a smaller group than usual, we can become short-tempered and intolerant, critical and even aggressive. But we like it when other people are gentle with us, so we can learn that it is a good thing to treat other people as we like to be treated, with gentleness and understanding.
- Do not be anxious about anything. Of course, it is hard not to worry about things – about school, about work you find hard, about relationships with friends or in your family, about what is going to happen next when that isn't clear. But God calls us to Himself to experience not only Joy but also Peace. His Peace. Not only just to know Joy and Peace but, as Christians, to be people of Joy and Peace.

So, these verses tell us how to live, how to be joyful, and how to find peace.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Teenager's Tip

How to use social media in a positive and beneficial way

By Lola Baron from Year 10

Lockdown has been hard for everyone, being unable to see your family and friends whenever you want isn't nice, and it really makes you realise how lucky we are to have them. But don't dwell on the fact we can't see them in person, as there is a wonderful world out there called Social Media. Too much social media, as we all know, isn't good for us, we get incredibly attached and therefore cannot leave our phones alone, but there is a balance between 'too much' and none at all.

Social media is a fantastic way for us to keep in close contact with our friends and family! Personally if it wasn't for Snapchat, Instagram, and other social media platforms, I don't think I'd have been able to get through lockdown! So instead of laying in bed all day, watching Netflix, you could take the time to get yourself on Zoom or FaceTime, and get in contact with your family and friends, this would be a fun way to pass the time with the people who you love the most. There are so many things to do online, like multiplayer games, or Group FaceTime calls, so you're never alone and always have something to do.

Ideas to do online with your friends:

- Zoom call quiz
- FaceTime party
- Multiplayer games (there's lots on snapchat you can do that you can play with lots of friends!)



Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!



Prayer and Poem for the Week

By Pam Haralambos – School Business Manager:

In these times of uncertainty, when each one of us has to make decisions that will affect others, I have always asked for strength to make the right decision at the right time, in work and at home. I hope this helps you too. Stay safe.

Pillar of Support

I pray to you my Father, that you influence all decisions I, my family, and my friends make today. You are our pillar of support and we want you to support us throughout the day by giving us strength and wisdom. God, we need you to bless all our actions and decisions. Let positivity follow us, Lord and allow us the ability to avoid anything negative in our time of need. Thank You, Lord, for gracing us with your presence.

Amen.

Don't Quit

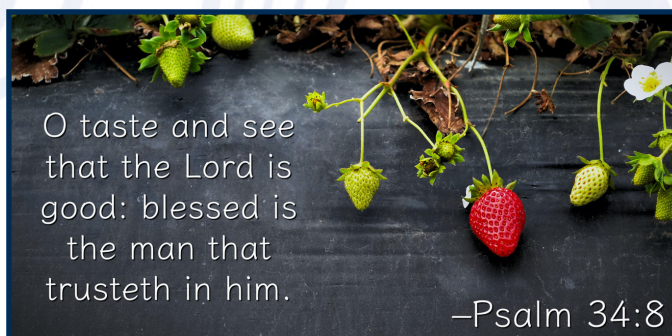
by John Greenleaf Whittier

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow—
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

Song of the Week



By Casting Crows



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.



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