



Faith at Home

Growing Faith | Week 7 | 11 May 2020

Thought for the week

Empire State

By Reverend Andy Froud, St Mary Magdalene Clitheroe & Sixth from chaplain.

I come from a faraway country called Yorkshire so I am perhaps more impressed by your local history than you are.

On May 1, 1931, President Herbert Hoover officially dedicated New York City's Empire State Building. At the time and for forty years after it was built, it was the tallest building in the world. It won the title against the Chrysler building, which for just a year was the tallest building in the world partly because the architects knew that they were in a race and added a radio mast and a docking station for airships at the last minute. It was only used once because the constant high winds around the top made landing impossible.



And at the base of the Empire State building, under what was an amazing achievement in so many ways, are 300,000 Nori bricks from Accrington, renowned for their strength (they are also at the bottom of the Blackpool Tower.)

I love that Accrington (well Altham) led the world in making something that forms the part of such well-known landmarks. And although I'm not an architect or a builder I know the value of good foundations.

One of Jesus's stories (and one of my favourite songs) is about two builders, one of whom builds on rock and one who builds on sand. It teaches us an eternal truth: that in this life storms will always come and when they do they will reveal who has built on solid foundations and who has built on sand. Jesus tells his disciples to build their lives on his words: because Jesus Himself as Paul writes is the sure foundation. Everything else that you can build your life on: wealth, fame, education and learning, even personal relationships, will eventually be put to the test and broken by the storms of this life.

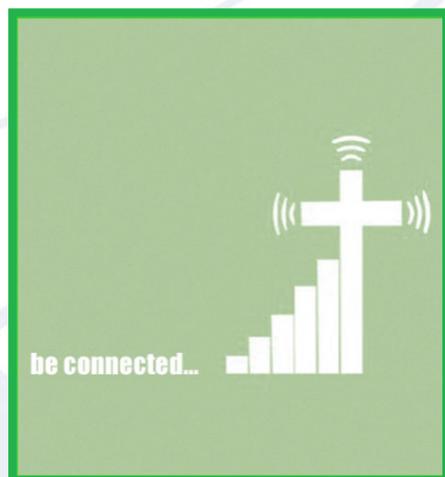
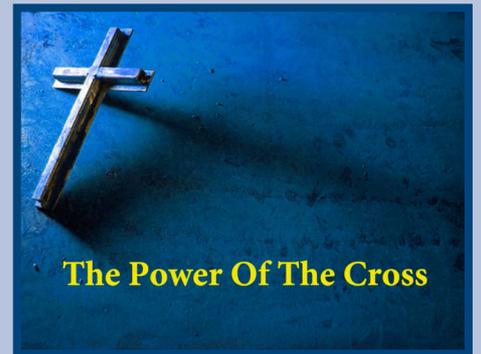
Only Christ is a firm foundation as He is, as John's Gospel tells us, before all things and so alone can make the promise to His disciples that He makes at the end of Matthew's Gospel to be with us always.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.



Sunday 7pm School Song

Why not sing this as we light our candles together!



Teenager's Tip

Lockdown Survival Guide

Matthew Hays from Year 13

Firstly, it's important not to isolate yourself from your faith. You can stay connected with God by setting aside 15 mins for prayer before you start the day. Alternatively, you could spend the same amount of time reading and reflecting on Bible commentary notes in the evening. These are simple but effective ways of strengthening your belief. If your church does its services on Zoom or live streams on YouTube, join in and watch them. Spending time with your church family is also really effective in keeping you grounded in your faith.

Secondly, keep spending time with family and friends. Play games, do movie nights and go for walks together and don't forget to keep in touch with your mates on social media. You'll feel better about the situation when you're talking with people in the same boat.

Thirdly, do activities that stretch you outside your comfort zone. If there's something you haven't tried for years, maybe drawing or making something using a DIY kit, have another go with it. If you play an instrument, don't just keep practising pieces for music exams, but see if you can play songs that you enjoy. I've recently started playing music from Queen and Elton John. These can really keep your brain engaged, helping alleviate boredom when you're stuck at home.

Finally, always remember that 'the Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?' (Psalm 27:1 from King James Bible) and that God will never abandon us during life's storms. In fact, he will be 'with you always, even until the end of the world' (Matthew 28:20 from Contemporary English Version).

Poem for the Week

Chosen by Mrs Stott who explains:

With last Friday marking the 75th anniversary celebration of VE day, I wanted to select a fitting poem which linked to this bank holiday; amidst an unusual time. Some of you may have decorated your houses, or picnicked in your garden and I am sure still very different from previous bank holiday celebrations. For those working on the front line of the caring profession, it may well feel as though we are at war. In times of uncertainty people struggle with the unknown and crave the familiarity and consistency of 'everyday life'. This poem reminds us of the one consistent in our lives; God, and the victory we have believing in him. As we look to next week and remember Ascension Day, we may reflect upon the words in this poem; 'the battle he won' and move into the future with hope in our hearts, remembering, we have the victory.

We Have the Victory

Mike Shugart

God's heavenly chorus
Proclaims before us
That Jesus Christ is Lord!
Forever is He.
Before history,
All things were made by His Word.
From lowest of depths
To highest of heights,
And breadth of land and sea,
The songs are sung
Of the battle He won.
We have the Victory!



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!

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](#).

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



Let's use this to praise the name of Jesus together.

"The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
Hatred stirs up conflict,
but love covers over all wrongs."

Proverbs 10:11-12

Look at this great reminder by Imogen Sethi:



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