



Growing Faith

24 - Summer | 22 July 2024

Running the Race

By Mr Pountain (Director of Spirituality)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Hebrews 12:1

As we closed our ‘running the race’ themed Spirituality week on Friday 12th July with an act of Eucharistic worship for all, a week in which we experienced God’s undeserved kindness poured out on us, I was struck afresh by our foundation scripture for the week. Hebrews 12:1 quite clearly instructs us to throw off the sin that so easily entangles so that we can run the race marked out for us with perseverance. This emphasis on sport, with the Paris Olympic Games just around the corner, worked well for us, with all kinds of high calibre guest speakers inspired by this verse to deliver sessions of the highest quality for us. However, there is a perhaps often missed 2nd category of ‘stuff’ that we need to throw off in order to run the race marked out for us: ‘everything that hinders’. Clearly, this seemingly all-inclusive word ‘everything’ doesn’t include the sin that so easily entangles because that is listed separately. Therefore, we have to conclude that there are plenty of things in this life that are not sin, but that do hinder us and need to be thrown off.

I am reminded here of the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10. Martha busied herself in the kitchen while her sister sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to his teaching. But it is Martha who receives the rebuke from Jesus even though our sympathies might be with her rather than her sister. After all, she was just trying to be a good hostess and practice hospitality, wasn’t she? It seems that we can even be distracted by good things. There was nothing outright sinful about Martha’s behaviour here, but it wasn’t what Jesus required. Perhaps we could say it this way: Good things are different to God things. Anything that isn’t a God thing needs to be thrown off so that we can run this race that requires such perseverance.

Our Spirituality week is over, but the race of the rest of our lives is just beginning. May we have the wisdom to know what to ‘throw off’, alongside the sin that so easily entangles. May we remain obedient as we run with Him to the end of our lives.



ST CHRISTOPHER'S YOUTH CHURCH

Reflection

By A Flynn
Worship Co-Ordinator

**'I have come that you might
have life, and life abundantly.'**

John10:10

After recently being appointed the role of senior Worship Coordinator, I truly believe the Lord led me to this position. I feel privileged to be able to serve my school and fellow pupils as a friend in Christ and consider this to be an act of worship to The Father. The fact that God has created each and every one of us as unique individuals means that there is a special plan and reason as to why we exist; right here and now. As The Bible reminds us, The Lord God is good and there is no darkness in Him and because of this we can rest in the knowledge that His plan for the lives of His children is positive and good.

Trust in The Lord for He has created a plan for your life!

A Prayer

By B Turner, Year 10
Courageous Christian Advocate

Heavenly Father,

we thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us this year. We pray for safety over the holidays and ask for your protection over those who are not well, to give them and ourselves courage as your presence guides them.

As we go about our day, let us reflect on the gifts we have received and how we can share our blessings with others. To rise to the upcoming challenges we will face, with your help and your **grace**.

Amen.

A Song for Reflection



Strong Enough to Save
by Tenth Avenue North

Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

Ernest Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

St Mary Magdalen's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

St Andrew's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

St Peter's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

Brave Church: [Website](#)

Trinity Church, Great Harwood: [Website](#)



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