

Thought for the Week

Let us remind ourselves what preceded Jesus' statement about "eternal sin". His ministry began in Galilee where he healed many people, including a leper, a paralysed man and a man with a shrivelled hand. Some of these miracles were performed on the sabbath and the religious elite were posturing shock and horror. Already they were plotting to kill him. Crowds followed Jesus everywhere, wanting to touch him, seeking both healing and to be exorcised of various demons. There were rumours that Jesus was himself possessed and his family had set out from Nazareth to take care of him. The scribes sent from Jerusalem were aware that, increasingly, the people were concluding from the miracles that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Certainly the scribes knew that Jesus was from God, and one of their number, Nicodemus, confirmed it: "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God" (John 3:2).

In order to prevent the power and influence of the religious leaders from being completely undermined, Jesus had to be dealt with. So a very public declaration was made – that the exorcisms were only possible because Jesus himself was possessed by Beelzebub. This false accusation is what Jesus announced as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This was the eternal, unforgivable sin. The scribes had clear evidence that the power at work in Jesus was the power of good but they conspired to represent it as the power of evil. Jesus, though, refuted this in his parable. The defeat of the "strong man" was the defeat of the power of evil.

Intercessions

In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them.

We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends.

Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

This week's Bible Text

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5: 1)

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. (Mark 3: 24-25)

The Prayer

Glorious God,
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Week Ahead

Mon 11	7.30 pm	Standing Committee St M
Tues 12	7.15 pm	Homegroup David and Peggy 8028 3154
	7.30 pm	Rock Choir St M
Weds 13	10.30 am	Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts
	11.00 am	Bellringing AS
Thurs 14	1.30 pm	Churchwardens and Admin meeting St M
	3.00 pm	Churchwardens meeting Merton Cottage
	7.30 pm	Homegroup AS
	7.30 pm	Bellringing St M and AS
Fri 15	3.00 pm	Kneeler Group AS

Next Sunday 17th June 2018

Trinity 3

9.30 am	Holy Communion AS
11.00 am	Holy Communion and coffee St M
6.00 pm	Sunday at Six – Animal Blessing with the Reverend Peter Murphy CC

1 Samuel 15. 34-16. 13

GNB OT 270

2 Corinthians 5. 6-17

GNB NT 216

Mark 4. 26-34

GNB NT 48

Chrisitan Aid Tea

A message from Peggy and Peter:
Thank God for giving us a glorious afternoon. We thank all the wonderful helpers and all those who supported this event. The total raised so far is £1210 and rising.

Benefice Office Hours

Monday 10am-2pm Wednesday 10am-3.30pm
Thursday 1.30-3.30pm and Friday 10am-2pm
And if we are not in please leave a message and we will get back to you. 8028 3175

June/July

24th June

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship
St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

1st July

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am YouChurch CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

8th July

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship
St M
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm Evensong AS

15th July

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M
6 pm Sunday at Six CC

22nd July

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship
St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

29th July

10.30 am Morning Worship CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship
St M
10.30 am Service of worship and Music
AS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD

Trusting Christ Transforming Church
Transforming Community

10th June 2018

Trinity 2

Welcome to our gathering today!
If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us benefice@newforestparishes.com or look us up on Facebook, or the website (www.newforestparishes.com).

Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship St M
6.00 pm Evensong AS

Collect

Lord, you have taught us □
that all our doings without love
are nothing worth: □
send your Holy Spirit □
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love, □
the true bond of peace and of all virtues, □
without which whoever lives
is counted dead before you. □
Grant this
for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, □
who is alive and reigns with you, □
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, □
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 8:4-11 16-20 **GNB OT 262**
In common with other nations the Israelites want a king, but not either of Samuel's wayward sons. Through Samuel, God reminds them of the unpleasant realities of kingship, but the people refuse to listen and elect Saul.

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1 **GNB NT 216**
Our outer bodily frame is being eroded on a daily basis but at the same time we are renewed inwardly by God's Holy Spirit.

Mark 3:20-end **GNB NT 46**
Despite clear evidence that Jesus' healing work originates from God, the scribes denounce it as the work of Satan. Jesus tells them that this is an unforgivable blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.