

Dear Friends,

I've noticed something strange this week, people are beginning to exchange vaccine statistics like you used to do with cricketers playing in the Ashes Series, now it's all about vaccination efficacy. I think that this is okay as there is plenty of evidence to give us hope that life might soon return to some sort of normal.

However, alongside that promise of hope there is the debate over how richer countries with more than enough vaccine doses should pass their surplus on to poorer countries who are unable to vaccinate even those most in need. It's natural just to want to look after ourselves and our families but the global COVID situation reminds us that, if we are selfish, we leave others in danger and in turn endanger ourselves.

The Prime Minister has outlined a hope that takes us through the resurrection of Easter and beyond the empowerment of Pentecost. However, we are told by the Health Secretary that it is important that each person plays a part for the end of the roadmap to be reached successfully. In the same way, in order to share in Christ's dying and rising, he invites his disciples to play their part by taking up their cross.

Taking up the cross means entering into a life of service of God. That service is complete in every way. The Queen has made clear that she believes that royal service leaves no room for the partial. It has to be total service. Jesus says that those who want to save their lives will lose them. The response by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex is that service is universal. Service and God's work can be done by all people. However, it is worth reflecting on the servant rather than the service. Jesus explains that being one of his followers entails total submission. That means that there is no place for the half-hearted. Christian service involves accepting every aspect of the commandments to love.

In Mark 8.31-38 Jesus talks about the need for his followers to deny themselves, to make sacrifices. He made it clear to his followers not to expect an easy life, but he said their sacrifices would be worth it.

As I mentioned last week, if richer countries 'sacrifice' some of their vaccine supplies, that means other poorer countries can vaccinate their populations and it makes the world safer.

Similarly, when we, as Christians, learn to deny ourselves, step outside our comfort zones and take risks to show people God's love, we find ourselves being used by God in ways we could never imagine.

Are there any sacrifices you could make this week to show God's love to someone?

Keep well, Keep safe and Keep in touch

Paul

The Government has asked us to stay at home to save lives and protect the NHS. Under the current regulations the Government has permitted public worship to continue, if it is safe to do so. Due to the current pressure on our local hospitals, both the PCC's of St Mary's Newick and St Peter's Chailey have decided to offer digital services only for the time being via.

St Mary's Church, Newick-Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/saintmarysnewick/>
<https://vimeo.com/stmarysnewick> or on the website <https://newickchurch.org/>

St Mary's Newick is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Mary's Newick's Zoom Cafe

Time: Sunday Feb 28, 2021 11:15 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89399286335?pwd=Rk9DQjJJMTJMUWJ3L3dDRnpsVFc1dz09>

Meeting ID: 893 9928 6335

Passcode: 053210

Please come and join us on Thursday evening for the first session of our Lent Course

Reflection 2 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVmV_IpGyWk&feature=youtu.be

Conversation week 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftb9EAm7ppI&feature=youtu.be>

Bible Notes Week 2

https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2021/01/liturgy_week_2.pdf

Prayer Diary - week 2

https://cofechichester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2021/02/Week_two_prayer_diaryv2.pdf

St Mary's Newick is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Course Week 2

Time: Mar 4, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87445796076?pwd=eUVsMjlHZ3VheGdzcVdSNndDMnVjUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 4579 6076

Passcode: 956696