

~ Notices ~

**Prayers** - If you have any particular issue that you would like to be prayed for, do please email me on [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) or call me on 065 672 4721.

**Spanish Point** – This is to confirm that we shall move to summer pattern of services for August, ie a service each Sunday at 9.30am. The Rector will continue to lead the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, and Readers will cover the other Sundays.

**Readers** – This is an invitation to join a rota to give a reading in church and/or in the online service. Please do let me know if you might like the opportunity to read in church – if you haven't before don't worry – I am happy to arrange a practice session – otherwise, just go for it!

**Burren Walk** – We are hoping to reschedule the Burren walk now that outdoor activities are possible and most of the previous group will also have been vaccinated. Late August or early Sept seem likely times. I would be grateful for expressions of interest both from the previous list of participants but also anyone who would now like to join the walk.

**Mission Group** – I am looking to put a small team together to plan for the re-building of our church life, from small regular events for church members, to public events such as concerts, exhibitions and particularly the celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I shall be tapping on shoulders, but if anyone is keen to join – please do let me know. We need fresh ideas and fresh heart.

**Summer Garden Party** – Sue and I are looking to host a garden party/BBQ at the Rectory possibly sometime in August. We are vegetarians so we need someone with BBQ skills to help run that side of things and we shall invite people to bring their own meat and bring and share salads, bread, puddings etc. Suggestions as to dates welcome.

**RTE service** – One of the ironies of us working so hard on preparing for this broadcast is that we shall be in church when it is transmitted! I am looking into the possibility of having a local copy of the service that we can watch at St Colomba's at 11.00am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, but this will depend on RTE policy. More news asap.

**Resumption of Communion services** – from this month we shall have Communion in church once per month, increasing in regularity as the Covid restrictions lessen. Normally this will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Ennis and Kilnasoolagh) and 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (Spanish Point). For August however, as a number of us will be in Dublin on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> to record the RTE service, in Ennis and Kilnasoolagh, Communion will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

**Facebook** page: [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](https://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

**Rector:** Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) Tel: 065 672 4721

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# 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Year B) 2021

## Readings and Hymns

**Collect:** God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns:** *In conjunction with the online service you might like to view these hymns on YouTube - with internet links and lyrics so that you can sing along:*

- 1) We come as guests invited  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRJ9k20ZDPU>
- 2) Through all the changing scenes of life  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox1r0Ozlw00>
- 3) O praise ye the Lord!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRauK1m7Pko>
- 4) I, the Lord of sea and sky  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6grXk3e5bs0>

### Proverbs 9: 1-6

Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.  
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,  
'You that are simple, turn in here!'  
To those without sense she says,  
'Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.'

### Psalms 34:9-14

Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones, ♦  
for those who fear him lack nothing.  
Lions may lack and suffer hunger, ♦  
but those who seek the Lord  
lack nothing that is good.  
Come, my children, and listen to me; ♦  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is there who delights in life ♦  
and longs for days to enjoy good things?  
Keep your tongue from evil ♦  
and your lips from lying words.  
Turn from evil and do good; ♦  
seek peace and pursue it.

### Ephesians 5: 15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### John 6: 51-58

Jesus said to the crowd, I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who

eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

### Commentary

#### Proverbs

A proverb is a pithy statement expressing some truth in a striking way which is easy to remember. Most of this book is instructions given by a scholar (or father) to a student (or son) on how to lead a moral life, with proper respect for God. Life involves choices; it is important that one be informed, trained and persuaded to make the right ones. The objective of life is attainment of wisdom, i.e. integrity in God's eyes. Wisdom brings rewards: 22:4 says: "The reward of humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honour and life". 9:10 says "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Put another way, 1:7 says "The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility goes before honour." The opposite of being wise is being a fool; "fools despise wisdom and instruction."

It is difficult to date Proverbs. Sayings and poems appear to have been formed into an anthology after the Exile (in the 400s BC), but some of the sayings probably date back to Solomon's time. Solomon was known for his wisdom. Some of the sayings are known in other ancient Near East cultures; they have been acculturated to the Jewish tradition.

#### Psalm 34: 9-14

The readings from this psalm began last week in the paired readings, with verses 1-8. When King David was fleeing from King Saul, he took refuge in the Philistine city of Gath. There, however, he was recognised, and once again his life was in danger. Feigning insanity in order to appear harmless, he was dismissed by the king, and was able to escape (see I Samuel 21: 10-15).

Psalm 34 is written as an alphabetical acrostic. An extra verse was added at the end to avoid closing on a negative note.

Last week, we were told that when we bless the Lord, the humble hear and are glad (verses 1-2). We were invited to 'taste and see that the Lord is gracious' (verse 8). Religious experience precedes religious understanding.

The reading from this psalm continues in the paired readings this Sunday with verses 9-14. As the psalm continues, we are told that, as his 'holy ones,' we shall fear the Lord and lack nothing (verses 9-10), for God meets all our needs. We are called to keep our tongues from evil, to keep our tongues from speaking deceit (verse 13), to depart from evil and to do good, and to seek peace and pursue it (verse 14). (Comments: Patrick Comerford)

#### Ephesians 5:15-20

The author has given his readers, apparently new converts, some points regarding conduct as members of the Church. He has told them not to harbour anger, to actively care for the poor, to emphasize people's goodness in speaking to them, and thus to build up the community. They should cast aside vices, adopt virtuous ways, and forgive and love as Christ has showed them.

Now he tell them that wisdom is a characteristic of Christian living (because we are privileged to share in God's wisdom and insight through Christ.) Jewish belief was that society would become extremely decadent ("evil", v. 16) before the Messiah comes: we are to use this time wisely, effectively – to be alert to God's will (v. 17). (Wisdom and foolishness, v. 17, are opposites.) Joyful fellowship arises from being filled with the Spirit, not drunkenness; show this joy liturgically ("among yourselves", v. 19), prompted and assisted by the

Spirit, "giving thanks" (v. 20) to the Father "at all times" for the whole of creation, in the name of Christ.

#### John 6:51-58

In 20:30-31, John tells us the purpose of the book: that we may believe in Jesus as Christ or Messiah. Thus far, Jesus has emphasized belief in him as divine and as living bread. But now he speaks of a reality. For John, the context is the Church. In v. 51, Jesus says: "the living bread ... that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh"; "whoever eats of this flesh will live forever". This is how God will save the world: see 3:16-17. Jesus became flesh ( 1:14), i.e. assumed complete human nature. He offered himself to God in death, thus giving life, available to all. "The Jews" (v. 52, possibly some Jewish Christians) take him literally; that to eat someone's flesh was a Semitic figure of speech for to slander did not make Jesus' statement easier to understand!

Then v. 53: the only way to salvation ("life") is through "eat[ing] the flesh ... and drink[ing] his blood", i.e. just believing in Christ is insufficient. Sharing in the Eucharist provides "eternal life" (v. 54) and resurrection – to union with God. Why? Because it requires faith, trust, that the flesh and the blood are "true" (v. 55), real – the ultimate reality. It is through sharing in the Eucharist that we are joined to Christ. Note the word "abide" (v. 56): it involves remaining in a relationship. Believers dwell in Christ, and he in them, through participating in the Eucharist. Then v. 58: both the Eucharist (Christ) and manna "came down from heaven", but while manna nourished for a finite time, sharing in the Eucharist is the key to surviving the judgement at the end of time.

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