

THE CHURCH IN PRESTON – 11 May 2020

These newsletters are usually sent monthly but whilst the lockdown continues and we're into a different routine I'll wait on sending the next email.

Following last eve's announcements, we are aware that as a country we have to move forward at some time but also recognise the deep concerns of many people. So please . . . take care of yourself & those with you; and continue to keep in (prayer and virtual) contact with people (with family and friends and with as MANY as you can from your church's congregation)

Blessings.

Ken Curphey Preston Deanery Synod secretary

Main news:

- 1, for Sunday 24 May: Laudato Si (Praise Be) Prayer - [see below](#)
- 2, The Chosen – Series on film on Christ, well worth watching (YouTube) - [see below](#)
- 3, Help available through NHS Volunteer Responders - [see below](#)

Continuing (details were in the previous email, sent 29 April)

- 1, Tuesday's "Preston Church in Prayer" is on Zoom, email Andy Pratt: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com
- 2, Daily Hope: The free national line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.
- 3, Not aware of any recent updates on Church Services, please let me know if anything has changed for you.

Details

1, for 24 May: Laudato Si (Praise Be) 'Prayer for our Earth' - [see below](#)

It would be lovely if our churches could include this prayer in their services on 24th May.

On the Feast of Pentecost five years ago (24 May 2015), Pope Francis unveiled his great encyclical letter on the environment: Laudato Si (Praise Be). It is subtitled "On care for our Common Home" and is addressed not just to the Catholic Church, but to the whole of humanity as we face the global climate emergency.

The week of 16-24 May 2020 has been designated "Laudato Si week" when we are asked to pray about caring for Our Common Home, particularly on the **24th May, the fifth anniversary.**

I have attached one of the prayers from the encyclical which you may find helpful. You can download it at:

https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/25373/182331/file/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

2, The Chosen – Series on film on Christ, well worth watching (YouTube)

A series of 8 short(ish) films on YouTube: search for '**The Chosen**'. At first each episode appears to be well over an hour but **the films themselves are 30 – 50 mins**. This is a 'crowd funding' project, so, to get to the film you can skip thru the introduction (after the adverts!). Once each film finishes, as it's 'crowd funding', there is more talk, often interviews with one of the cast, worth watching too.

The films include: the water into wine, the call of the disciples, healings, Nicodemus, the indignation of some Pharisees, etc., thru to Jacob's Well (the woman of Samaria). The plan seems to be another series of 8 when the funding is in place. **[Ken]**

3, Help available through NHS Volunteer Responders - see below

Please publicise this service for collecting prescriptions, shopping, and telephone support which is now available by self-referral on 0808 196 3646

[Rosy Townsend]

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis (Laudato Si)

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Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you, or someone you know, needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, our **NHS Volunteer Responders** are here to help.

Join the thousands of others throughout England who are already receiving support – even if it's just for a friendly chat.

**Call 0808 196 3646 or visit
nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk**

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.