

Readings for the week

Today	Romans 7 v 15 – 25a Matthew 11 v 16 – 19 & v 25 – 30
Monday	Luke 17 v 20 – 27
Tuesday	Luke 18 v 1 – 14
Wednesday	Luke 18 v 15 – 30
Thursday	Luke 18 v 31 – 43
Friday	Luke 19 v 1 – 10
Saturday	Luke 19 v 11 – 27



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team would like you to pray for the following topics:

1. Pray for all those people who are reopening businesses or going back to work as lockdown eases, that they may find ways to stay safe.
2. As we begin to open churches for private prayer and think about how we may meet together for worship, pray for the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and imagination.

Help needed - we are really pleased to be gradually opening our churches for private prayer. In some churches, we plan to have a supervisor on duty to welcome and guide individuals to their places and oversee sanitiser and pew cleaning. If you are under 70 and not shielding, could you spare an hour or two to be on a rota at one of the churches? Please speak to the relevant Churchwarden or Tricia Berry.

Which of the Minster churches are currently open for private prayer and when are they open?

Kinwarton	Tuesday & Friday	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Alcester	Wednesday & Saturday	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sambourne	Wednesday & Saturday	10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Haselor	Wednesday	10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Great Alne	Saturday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Weethley	Saturday	10.00 am – 6.00 pm



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Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 05 July 2020

Trinity 4 Green

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11 v 28

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things
temporal
that we lose not our hold on things
eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to
our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with
your will,
that we may find all things
restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Trinity 4 Thought for the Day' presented by Sue

Reading: Matthew 11v.28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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Thought for the Day

Tired and fed-up – might be an apt description of how many people are feeling now. Weary of the restrictions of lockdown, burdened by the fear of infection and the need to stay safe, confused about what they can and can't do or who they can and can't meet. Many are longing for everything to get back to normal – as it was pre-virus. Sadly that is a long time in the future and in the meantime we shall all have to adapt to a new normal (whatever that will look like!).

In this passage from Matthew's Gospel Jesus is talking to Jews who were tired and fed-up, weary and burdened. They were weary of trying to be good enough for God, of struggling to earn their place in heaven. They were burdened by all the rules and regulations the Pharisees and teachers of the law said they had to follow to be acceptable to God.

Jesus invited them – and invites us – to come to him “and I will give you rest”. It is rest for their/our souls that he is offering. The deep and lasting peace with God that they are all longing for – not an opportunity for physical inactivity. He

not inviting them to put their feet up! The way to peace with God is not in keeping a long list of dos and don'ts, it is in responding to Jesus' invitation to come to him, to trust in him and to follow him. The way to God is through relationship, not rules.

To take Jesus' yoke means laying aside what is weighing us down and instead become his disciples, following him and learning from him. Jesus describes his yoke as easy and his burden as light. It is a good fit - it does not rub or hurt. It is not difficult or hard – but it is profound. To follow Jesus means a complete change of direction in life. It means doing his will and not our own, trusting in him completely. It means walking his way of love, humility and gentleness day by day.

Whatever our burdens, whatever our worries, however tired we are, we know we can find true rest and lasting peace with God by responding to Jesus' invitation “Come to me”.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are feeling far away from you, those who are struggling, weary or afraid. May they hear and respond to Jesus' invitation and find rest and peace in him. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen