

## Readings for the week

<b>Today</b>	Romans 9 v 1 - 5 Matthew 14 v 13 - 21
Monday	Luke 23 v 13 - 25
Tuesday	Luke 23 v 26 - 43
Wednesday	Luke 23 v 44 - 56a
Thursday	1 John 3 v 1 - 3
Friday	Luke 24 v 13 - 35
Saturday	Luke 24 v 36 - 53



### Prayer

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

1. Think of Adrian and Juliette as they make their final preparations for moving, pray that God would give them his peace as they leave and excitement for the future in Weddington.
2. Pray for all those facing redundancy or the failure of their business, that they may get all the help they need to make a fresh start.

Reminder to please contact the Administrator to reserve a seat at any of the Minster Sunday services.

**Sadly, we will be saying farewell to Adrian and Juliette next Sunday at the only 10 am service at Alcester.**

We recognise that many people would love to attend the service but, as numbers will be limited, **priority will be given to those who will not be able to view the service on-line.**

The service will be recorded live and shown on-line later. There will therefore not be the usual on-line worship next week.

Please be aware that we request that everyone attending a service in church wears a face mask. If you do not have one to wear, every church has a supply of face masks to give you as you enter the building.



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook? Find details and pictures of events at [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster) If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the page then please email [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org)



## Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 02 August 2020

**Trinity 8** Green

*"Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.'"*

Matthew 14 v 16

### Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify  
and govern both our hearts and  
bodies  
in the ways of your laws and the  
works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty  
protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and  
soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Alternative Collect

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of  
heaven  
and became poor for our  
sake:  
when we prosper save us  
from pride,  
when we are needy save  
us from despair,  
that we may trust in you  
alone;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

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### Ministry Team:

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### Children & Family Worker:

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### Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday - Friday 10.00am - 1.30 pm) Tel: 07840 284 294  
email: [administrator@alcesterminster.org](mailto:administrator@alcesterminster.org) Alcester Minster Office, Church House,  
is currently closed. (Administrator Hours 10.30 - 13.30pm)

**Alcester Minster website:** [www.alcesterminster.org](http://www.alcesterminster.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster](https://www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster)

**Matthew 14.13-21 – Jesus feeds the five thousand**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill.

<sup>5</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'

**New International Version (NIV)**

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Who would have thought it?

Jesus had just heard that John the Baptist had been beheaded. Instead of hiding, Jesus wanted to continue his ministry away from unnecessary distractions. Now, I'm sure **I** would have crossed the sea of Galilee to carry on the ministry in other towns and villages.

But no, Jesus departed 'privately to a solitary place.' Hardly the recipe you would think, for effective ministry to the people! I would want to advertise it, shout it from the rooftops, share it on facebook, and the internet.

Look at this though! 'Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.'

Who told them? How did they find out?

When Jesus saw the large crowd, he had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

What a great comfort to us! The Lord Jesus has deep heart-felt compassion for ordinary people like you and me. How marvellous to read that he healed their sick! We know that Jesus healed blindness, deafness, those who were lame, those

with withered hands, those with contagious leprosy and skin diseases, those who were paralysed, those who had a fever, even those who were dead, he raised to life.

What wonderful rejoicing there must have been amongst the multitude that day! Can you imagine seeing people recovered from all manner of sickness and malady? Actually seeing the God-man working miracles all through the day!

Now you would think that Jesus would be content to let these happy people go home rejoicing. But no, he wanted them to be nourished and have strength for the journey home. He truly cares for the whole person!

He also wants you and me involved in His mission! Hence his command, '**You** give them something to eat!'

Now there's panic amongst the disciples! But we only have five small barley loaves and two fishes.

Do you ever feel you haven't got what it takes? Then take note what the disciples did – at Jesus invitation, they took the little supply they had, and gave it all to Jesus.

What a difference his blessing makes! 5,000 men, plus women and children were all fed, filled and satisfied – with plenty left over! How glad the disciples must have been that they obeyed Jesus invitation.

So, we can be assured that Jesus has deep heart-felt compassion for each one of us. He cares for **all** our needs. More than this, he wants every one of us involved in his mission. All he asks is that we give ourselves over to him – and watch the difference his blessing can make!

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, thank you for your love and compassion for me. I just give myself over to you afresh and ask your blessing on my life that I might be fruitful for you. Amen.