

Church Family Newsletter 3rd July 2020

Dear Church family,

As you know churches will begin to open up in the coming weeks to worship services in church. There is a huge amount of guidelines and health and safety implications for this, so do pray for us as we bring that all together to ensure everyone stays safe. The PCC will be agreeing a plan on how we start services again in church in the coming weeks, and we will let you know when and how this is able to start. Until then we hope you can continue to engage online through our online service.

One of the encouraging things I read this week was a poem from Patsy Cassidy, and she agreed that I can share it with you:

"COVID - 19"

But, life still continues
And now, as clearly seen,
God **IS** in control -
Birds are still singing,
Bees are still buzzing,
And butterflies fluttering,
Flowers still blooming
People are working, walking,
Zooming and talking,
Sharing, helping,
Clapping and applauding
The NHS!
Then, there's such Suffering
Much illness and pain,
Futures uncertain,
Fear and anxiety,
And... death.
No income, no food,
Much concern and distress,
Isolation, loneliness
Is God, also, in all of this too?
Does He still want to bless?
Yes! Yes! Yes!
We do need to trust Him,
To repent - and confess
Our **lack** of respect for His Law,
and **Awe for His Holiness**.
He desires our openness,
Honesty, closeness,
Our belief and deep trust
In Him, Who is Just,
And, over and above,
Above all else,
A growing relationship
With our God of Love!

This Sunday:
Matthew 5:21-32
Living Faith: Guard Your Heart

A number of times I have heard someone say something like: "I'm not that bad, I've not murdered anyone" as if the measure of our goodness is judged according to our comparison with the worst of sinners!

Rather the real comparison is with the perfect life of Jesus, in which we realise we all fail.

In case you hadn't realised you have failed to be good enough for God, Jesus really presses his point this week when he shows the problem and danger of our sin, is not just shown by bad things we do, but bad things we *want* even when we don't "do" anything about it.

We need to guard our hearts, and Jesus is going to show how important that is.

Join us for our online service from 9:30.

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDtsdqyqX6S8yZZI5S-pK6Q>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frantchurch>

Join us after our service
for our virtual coffee catchup

Join us by clicking here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84184233035?pwd=SmQyb1FVRXVBdk1WT3VzVUxVOGV6QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 8423 3035

Password: coffee

From 10ish, just after the service.

Every blessing,

-Rev Brendan