

Colossians 3:12-17

John 19:25b-27

The two set Bible passages for today are perfect for Mothering Sunday. They are also perfect for us during this time of unknown.

As we live through this very difficult time, I have no doubt, there will be times that we feel frustrated, or even angry, as we seem to have no control over what is happening in the world.

St. Paul wrote this letter to the church at Colossae to confront the false teaching that was infiltrating the church and weakening Christian doctrine.

Paul had never visited this church at Colossae, it had been founded by Epaphras and other converts. He is writing from prison in an effort to draw the people back to the two ground beliefs that must underwrite any place of Christian worship.

Jesus on the cross was God and Saviour.

Our love for him must translate into love for others. All others.

In a world where more and more people are rejecting the basic teaching that supports Christianity, we are seeing self-empowerment as becoming paramount as a sign of success in life.

And love and compassion for others as a sign of weakness.

As this virus progresses, more and more of us are going to be reliant on other people's love for us. And more and more people are going to be reliant on us showing our love for them

Colossians 3:12 - 14

Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

You must make allowances for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love.

Love is what binds us together in perfect harmony.

And how we demonstrate that love will depend on our circumstances. But one important way is for all of us to keep in touch with each other and be ready to offer words of hope and encouragement. We are fortunate that most of us are able to socialise through telephones, texts, online.

The second and most important way is prayer – pray for those we know, pray for those we don't know. Pray for healing, pray for protection, pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our land and in the world.

And perhaps on this Mothering Sunday we can concentrate our thoughts and prayers on the elderly and lonely.

As Jesus instructed his mother to consider John her son and John to consider Mary his mother. So, we as disciples who Jesus loves, are committed to loving as sons and daughters and as mothers to all those who Jesus brings to our notice.

Back to Colossians chapter 3:16-17

Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Keep safe, God bless x