

MONDAY
27 APRIL
Acts 6:8-15
Psalm 119:17-24
John 6:22-29

TUESDAY
28 APRIL
Acts 7:51 – 8:1a
Psalm 31:1-5, 16
John 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY
29 APRIL
Acts 8:1b-8
Psalm 66:1-6
John 6:35-40

THURSDAY
30 APRIL
Acts 8:26-end
Psalm 66:7-8, 14-end
John 6:44-51

FRIDAY
1 MAY
Philip and James, Apostles
Isaiah 30:15-21
Psalm 119:1-8
Ephesians 1:3-10
John 14:1-14

SATURDAY
2 MAY
Acts 9:31-42
Psalm 116:10-15
John 6:60-69

REFLECTION

The first Christians had a tough time and we hear in these readings about Stephen's arrest and death by stoning and the persecution that was encouraged by Saul. Yet this climate of fear and violence did not deter others like Philip and Peter from telling the good news of Jesus. That good news led to healing some sick people, such as Aeneas, and raising the dead woman Dorcas. It also led to the inclusion of the Ethiopian eunuch whom Philip met on the road.

Such inclusions are very significant in a culture where to be sick or disabled might suggest that God is punishing you. So in its earliest days, under significant persecution and danger, the Church lived out the message of Jesus, that all are to be included because he is God's gift of "the bread of life". That bread of life, which the writer of John's Gospel speaks about, turns out not to be a special thing only for a few people but "for the life of the world". The first Christians did not think they should keep such good news quiet, but took the risk and shouted it for everyone to hear.

PRAYER

Dear God,
 when we are afraid to speak your words of loving inclusion in a world that wants to keep us apart,
 give us the courage that Stephen and Peter showed.
 Keep us from judgement and teach us your radical acceptance of all creation.



The martyrdom of St Stephen, St Etienne du Mont Church, Paris.

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GODPARENTING

PART I – A RICH TRADITION

Godparenting has evolved through generations of Christians and is, of course, inextricably linked with baptism, which is itself rooted in ancient Jewish purification rites – Jesus was baptised and baptised others. Early Christianity was a persecuted faith, so an important function of godparents – who were initially known as sponsors – was to confirm the sincerity of any adult who was seeking to be baptised and to protect the community from being infiltrated by persecutors.

Initially, because a confession of faith was required on the part of the person being baptised, baptism was reserved for adults. Nobody knows exactly when infant baptism was introduced, although we do know that it was at some point in the first or second century AD. Baptising babies is a practice which remains contentious to this day and is a fundamental doctrinal difference between, for example, Baptists and Anglicans. Writing in around 200 AD, in one of the earliest mentions of godparents, Church Father Tertullian made his disapproval clear: "For why is it necessary... that the sponsors likewise should be thrust into danger? Who both themselves, by reason of mortality, may fail to fulfil their promises." It goes to show how seriously godparenting was taken.

Over time the focus of the role of the sponsor / godparent shifted away from acting as a gatekeeper of the Church, to vocalising the confession of faith on behalf of the person being baptised and acting as a guarantor of their faith going forward.

Understanding a bit of the history and background may be helpful for parents when it comes to choosing godparents for their children, and can help godparents and godchildren themselves – particularly older godchildren – to carve out a more meaningful and fulfilling role and relationship.

Even for someone who is not a parent, godparent or godchild, it provides a fascinating insight into the Christian faith. What does godparenting mean to you and how can your understanding of it inform and deepen your faith life?



LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and Heather Smith

Third week of Easter

Monday 27 April to
 Saturday 2 May
 2020

WEEK

The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Micklegate, York Weekly Pew Sheet (26 April to 2 May)

The church building is closed and there are no acts of public worship at the moment due to the coronavirus outbreak.

During this time, we have two ways you can join in prayer services from home or work – see below. For those at home, the weekly pew sheet and service book will be posted to you. If you have internet access, [both are available online](#).

You can join from 5 minutes before the start time.

To help with audio/sound quality we are changing how you join by telephone. We hope this will address feedback we have received.

To join by calling from your telephone

Please see the details under each service. Dial the number and when asked the meeting ID. Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls.

To join if you have internet access

Go to our Facebook page [Holy Trinity York](#) and watch the video. Once you are on the page, click on 'live video'.

How to contact us

Call 01904 630518 or text 07492 067803

info@holytrinityyork.org

www.holytrinityyork.org

Sunday 26 April – Morning Prayer at 11am

Dial-in number: 0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 234 796 177

Hymns: (1) Christ is the King; (2) Glorious things of thee are spoken

Readings: Psalm 23; Isaiah 40: 1-11; 1 Peter 5: 1-11

Monday 27 April – Compline at 7pm

Dial-in number: 0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 996 4371 7243

Readings: Psalm 104; Revelation 22: 4-5

Music: Tazié – Gloria and Kyrie

Wednesday 29 April – Coffee morning 10am-11am

As we are all in our homes, our coffee morning is now on Zoom and telephone. Come along and catch-up with everyone.

[Join from your computer, phone or tablet](#)

Dial-in number: 0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 788-838-668

Wednesday 29 April – Midday Prayer at 12.15pm

Dial-in number: 0330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 159 391 586

Readings: Psalm 118: 14-24; John 6: 39

Music: Taizé – Hear my prayer and Kyrie

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM was planned for 19 April. Due to Coronavirus this has been postponed. We will arrange a new date once we are able to. In the meantime, under direction of the Archbishop, Churchwardens and PCC members in place on 20 March 2020 will remain in office until the conclusion of the rescheduled APCM.