

MONDAY
7 JUNE
2 Corinthians 1:1-7
Psalm 34:1-8
Matthew 5:1-12

TUESDAY
8 JUNE
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Psalm 119:129-136
Matthew 5:13-16

WEDNESDAY
9 JUNE
2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Psalm 78:1-4
Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY
10 JUNE
2 Corinthians 3:15 – 4:1. 3-6
Psalm 78:36-40
Matthew 5:20-26

FRIDAY
11 JUNE
Barnabas
the Apostle
Job 29:11-16
or Acts 11:19-end
Psalm 112
Acts 11:19-end
or Galatians 2:1-10
John 15:12-17

SATURDAY
12 JUNE
2 Corinthians 5:14-end
Psalm 103:1-12
Matthew 5:33-37

REFLECTION

Romantic break-ups are often heralded by the words, *“It’s not you, it’s me.”* Cliché or not, a loving relationship does depend on both parties giving their all. This week’s readings suggest how this applies to our relationship with the God of love.



As we celebrate on Friday how Barnabas and Saul/Paul were chosen to minister to the Gentiles, Jesus stresses that even if we don’t immediately choose him, he chooses us. Hinting at his forthcoming sacrifice, laying down his life for his friends, Jesus asks them, and us, to love one another, perhaps by behaving as he teaches on Thursday.

On Tuesday he tells us to let our light shine, so people can see God through us, our behaviour, our attitudes. We call Jesus the light of the world, yet Jesus tells us that *we are!* Psalms this week urge us to bless the Lord, yet on Monday Jesus tells us about human beings who are the blessed ones.

Each reciprocal theme of choice, blessing or light reinforces the amazing message that God needs our commitment to make the relationship work.

“It’s you and it’s me.” Are we ready to give our all?

PRAYER

God of love, in your Son you gave your all for us, in his life of service and his sacrifice on the cross. Help us to give ourselves, our love, our lives, in the service of others, and find that this deepens our own relationship with you.

CHURCH MUSIC

PART VI – WHEN WORDS FAIL

Andrew Lyon concludes his series about church music.

The Franciscan priest Richard Rohr prefers the drum over the organ as a *“religious”* instrument, and has used drumming in retreats. In many cultures throughout history, people have drummed together and through a repetitive, rhythmic action have found a deeper level of spiritual awareness and connection.

Instruments play an important part, not only in accompanying our singing, but also in providing liturgical music of their own. The most obvious example is the music at the end of the service accompanying the departure of the priests and people. But there are other occasions, such as the Gospel procession or the Offertory, where a musical interlude of sorts seems appropriate.

But music should never be thought of as mere filler, rather as an accompaniment for the liturgical movement. There is a certain amount of *“theatre”* in the way that we move liturgically and the appropriate music, in the right mood or style, can combine with the liturgical action to produce something truly numinous.

Like the music itself, no particular instrument is inherently good or bad and used sensitively all are worthy of incorporation. Instrumental music on its own can be an act of worship in and of itself. Within the liturgy this shouldn’t be a performance or glorify the musician any more than a choir should attract attention to the singers. But listening to a well-chosen piece can provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the message of the scripture readings, for example, or the sermon.

Silence is another tool at the liturgical musician’s disposal. The moment before the Post-Communion Prayer is a case in point. For it is in these moments of quiet reflection, such as during the breaking of the bread, where a little space can enable us to appreciate that we are coming face to face with the Lord. A musician’s skill lies not only in choosing the hymns, but also in crafting the musicality of the whole liturgical experience. It is just one more way in which *“good”* church music is able to deepen our worship and enrich our faith.

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by Caroline Hodgson and Heather Smith



First week after Trinity

Monday 7 June to Saturday 12 June 2021

WEEK