

MONDAY
21 JUNE
Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:12-end
Matthew 7:1-5

TUESDAY
22 JUNE
Genesis 13:2. 5-end
Psalm 15
Matthew 7:6. 12-14

WEDNESDAY
23 JUNE
Genesis 15:1-12. 17-18
Psalm 105:1-9
Matthew 7:15-20

THURSDAY
24 JUNE
Birth of John the Baptist
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:7-end
Acts 13:14b-26 or Galatians 3:23-end
Luke 1:57-66. 80

FRIDAY
25 JUNE
Genesis 17:1. 9-10. 15-22
Psalm 128
Matthew 8:1-4

SATURDAY
26 JUNE
Genesis 18:1-15
Canticle:
Luke 1:46b-55
Matthew 8:5-17

REFLECTION

The world's prejudices have been challenged recently by the MeToo movement and Black Lives Matter. On Thursday, we read Paul's words to the Galatians that gender and race are immaterial in God's eyes. We're all children of God, he writes, through faith in Jesus. Moreover, Gospel readings this week show how God loves "all the children of earth"; as Monday's psalm puts it.



Jesus mentions false prophets on Wednesday. Many still twist what he said and did, moulding the Gospel to suit their own prejudices and preoccupations, ignoring his teaching on Tuesday about the "golden rule" – treating others as we would want them to treat us. This, Jesus says, is what matters; this sums up all the Law and the prophets. And on Monday he'd cautioned against judging others. What a warning against prejudice of any kind!

On Friday we see Jesus healing a leper. Saturday's stories, of Jesus healing the Roman centurion's servant and Peter's mother-in-law, show that neither race nor gender are barriers to God's saving love. So, if we claim to follow Jesus, is there any excuse for us to treat others without respect?

PRAYER

Loving God, your Son died for the sins of the whole world.
 Help us to admit our sins against those who are different from us in any way.
 May we learn from his example of compassion for all, so that we may truly be his disciples.

HOLY PLACES

PART I – MALMESBURY ABBEY

Heather Smith continues her series from April, visiting some holy sites and reflecting on their significance.

St Aldhelm, the first saint of Wessex, was born around 639. Described as a pioneering church planter and evangelist by the Community of St Aldhelm based at Malmesbury Abbey (now in Wiltshire), he studied with the North African Scholar, Hadrian, in Canterbury. Afterwards he returned to Malmesbury where he had received his early education. He is famous as a scholar and a poet and his writings were known as far as Italy, leading him to be invited to visit Rome. In Malmesbury he became abbot and in 705 he added the newly created See of Sherborne to his responsibilities. He was buried in the church of St Michael, here at the abbey.

The current building dates from the twelfth century and is the third structure to stand on the site. In the time of St Aldhelm it was a wooden building, but he replaced it with large complex of stone buildings during his time as abbot.

A small market town, Malmesbury is an attractive place for a pilgrim. If you approach from the south you travel up the steep High Street as it bends round towards the crossroads at Abbey Row, with its fifteenth-century market cross. Behind the cross lies the abbey gateway which leads you into the churchyard and gives a stunning view of the west side of the church with its beautiful carved stone entrance. The nave is all that is left of the once extensive abbey buildings, covered with bullet marks made during the English Civil War. The large building dominates the small town and in its heyday must have been an impressive complex.



Step inside and you are greeted by a broad space. Although St Aldhelm himself did not see the current structure, you can meditate on the community he led here. Walk around the building to the cloister garden, where it is easier still to be transported back in time and to imagine the monks silently going about their business.

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith

Third week after Trinity

Monday 21 June to
 Saturday 26 June
 2021

WEEK