

MONDAY
5 JULY
Genesis 28:10-end
Psalm 91:1-10
Matthew 9:18-26

TUESDAY
6 JULY
Genesis 32:22-end
Psalm 17:1-8
Matthew 9:32-end

WEDNESDAY
7 JULY
Genesis 41:55-end;
42:5-7.17-end
Psalm 33:1-4.18-end
Matthew 10:1-7

THURSDAY
8 JULY
Genesis 44:18-21. 23-
29; 45:1-5
Psalm 105:11-17
Matthew 10:7-15

FRIDAY
9 JULY
Genesis 46:1-7. 28-30
Psalm 37:3-6. 27-28
Matthew 10:16-23

SATURDAY
10 JULY
Genesis 49:29-end;
50:15-25
Psalm 105:1-7
Matthew 10:24-33

REFLECTION

This week's Gospel readings begin with some incredible miracles. Christ heals a woman who has been bleeding for twelve years, raises a young girl from the dead and enables someone who cannot talk to speak.



Clearly Jesus had incredible powers, so it's surprising he would want to involve fallible human beings in his work. Yet to do so was clearly important to him, for he appoints twelve disciples and equips them to do the same work he has been doing. He also makes it clear, though, that they could not share in his work without also sharing in his suffering. As the disciples face their first mission, he prepares them for rejection as well as acceptance and warns that in the future they will suffer arrest, trial and flogging for continuing his ministry.

The reminder that there is a cost to following Christ challenges us all and it is likely to make us uneasy. However, amidst this difficult teaching Jesus also offers encouragement, reassuring us that this suffering does not mean God has forgotten us. If God knows and cares about every tiny sparrow that falls, how much more will the Lord watch over us?

PRAYER

Dear Lord,
 give us the strength we need to continue serving you
 and carrying out your mission.
 When we find this hard and difficulties arise,
 help us to know your love comforting us,
 your help enabling us and your wisdom guiding us.

HOLY PLACES

PART III – ST ALDHELM'S WELL

St Aldhelm's Well in Doultling, Somerset, is a spring, the source of the River Sheppey, and it is in this village that St Aldhelm died in 709. He is said to have bathed at the well on the day of his death. If you visit it, you can drive down to the well from the main street of the attractive village, but far better is to approach it from the church. Dedicated to St Aldhelm, the church is an attractive twelfth-century building, but in the saint's time it is thought to have been a wooden construction. Walk along the path directly opposite, past a disused waterwheel on the left. It once pumped water up into the village. You can see it if you peer into a dilapidated building. The land falls away towards the well, which you reach by turning left at the end of the path and walking down a steep hill.

At the bottom is a high wall and a water trough with the spring water flowing into it. You could easily miss it, although it has a small notice proclaiming its name. The Victorians were responsible for the wall and if you are very lucky you may spot a water vole in the trough. Wild garlic scents the air in springtime and in the summertime the trough is surrounded by ferns. Climb up the path to the right, into the shady forest above the wall. To your left you will find the spring itself, flowing from two arches into a pool.

Fulfilling his role as a pastor, St Aldhelm was on his rounds of the diocese when he died in this atmospheric place.

Although famous in England and much further afield, this quiet place was where he left this world. It reminds us, perhaps, that those who are famous and important are just like us and that we can find God in the small places and the domestic places, in the places where we share life with each other.



St Aldhelm's Well, Doultling, Somerset
 Merryn/geograph.org.uk/en.wikipedia.org

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
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 and
 Heather Smith

Fifth week after Trinity

Monday 5 July to
 Saturday 10 July
 2021

WEEK

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