

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Greetings to all. As the evenings now begin to welcome darkness more rapidly, we can begin preparing to celebrate Christmas... (I couldn't resist that.) What a strange time it is proving to be. The weeks race by, sporting events flash past, and the usual changes we experience in times and seasons don't seem to happen. It must have been like this for the people on sailing ships who had become becalmed. In that mood we can thank God for water and fresh meat and security, and trust that a favourable wind will soon bring us in sight of land.

I was pleased that a number of you chose to read Job ch. 28 and 29 and to tell me about it. I personally find it baffling that so many intelligent people can say that the world of our experience has happened by chance. Other parts of the bible testify to the waves of belief and rejection of belief flowing through generations of the Israelites. There was always that small band of faithful people who nourished their own faith and religious practice, praying in desperation at times, but happy in other days to sing the praises of the God who showed his love for them.

I won't celebrate the feast of SS Peter and Paul in church this Tuesday, but we can all call them to mind in our prayers, and perhaps read a bit from the Acts of the Apostles about their amazing adventures and powerful sermons. On the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we have a rare mention of everlasting life, in the book of Wisdom, written in the century before Jesus was born. The passage from Paul to the Corinthians might help us to examine our own use of money. And the gospel tells the beautiful and detailed story of a healing, by Jesus, in response to 'an earnest request' by Jairus, one of the synagogue officials, to save the life of his daughter.

The planned 'Songs of Praise' service has been postponed, along with some other features of the Lymm Festival. I do hope you can get to enjoy some of the Virtual Events. Keep safe and sane.

Fr Tony Elder

CONGREGATION PARTS OF THE MASS

Entrance: All people clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!

Psalm: I will praise you, God: you have rescued me.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life. You have the message of eternal life.

Communion: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.