

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: June

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

**Vicars Warden:** John Heaton 07 8243996



## SERVICES FOR JUNE

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>:

NO SERVICE - QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Majella

**Readings/prayers:** Majella

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service.

**Refreshments:** Melanie

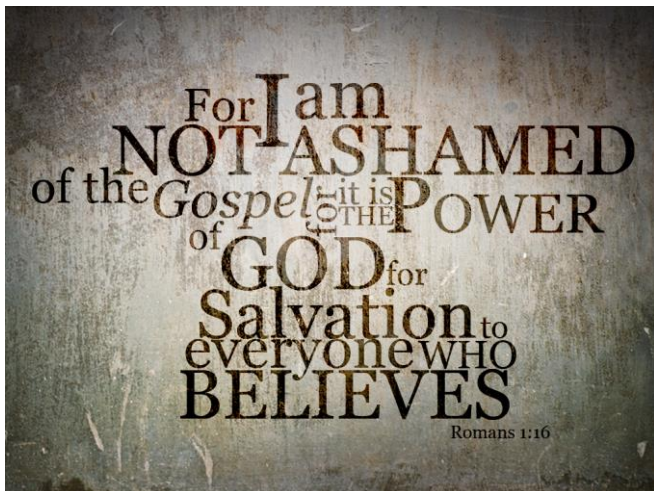
**Readings/prayers:** Melanie

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>:

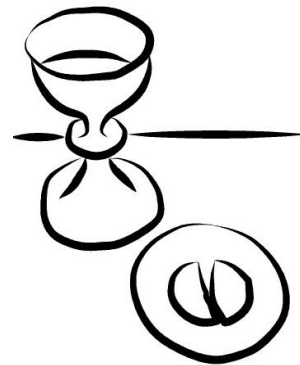
10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Katy

**Readings/prayers:** Katy



Please see the vicar if you would like to assist him during Communion with the ministry of the Chalice. The vicar will train/advise you.



### Some Interesting Facts about the Bible:

- The Bible is not a single work but a collection of works from a wide variety of authors, such as shepherds, kings, farmers, priests, poets, scribes, and fisherman. Authors also include traitors, embezzlers, and murderers
- The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, which states, "Jesus wept."
- The longest book in the Bible is Psalm 119.
- The shortest book in the Bible is Psalm 117, with just 2 verses.[3]
- The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9.

## What does the Bible say about fear?

The Bible mentions two specific types of fear. The first type is beneficial and is to be encouraged. The second type is a detriment and is to be overcome. The first type of fear is fear of the Lord. This type of fear does not necessarily mean to be afraid of something. Rather, it is a reverential awe of God, a reverence for His power and glory. However, it is also a proper respect for His wrath and anger. In other words, the fear of the Lord is a total acknowledgement of all that God is, which comes through knowing Him and His attributes.

Fear of the Lord brings with it many blessings and benefits. It is the beginning of wisdom and leads to good understanding (Psalm 111:10). Only fools despise wisdom and discipline (Proverbs 1:7). Furthermore, fear of the Lord leads to life, rest, peace, and contentment (Proverbs 19:23). It is the fountain and life (Proverbs 14:27) and provides a security and a place of safety for us (Proverbs 14:26).

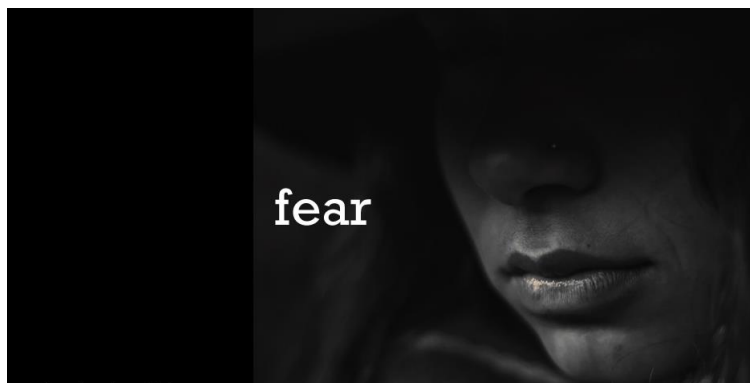
Thus, one can see how fearing God should be encouraged. However, the second type of fear mentioned in the Bible is not beneficial at all. This is the "spirit of fear" mentioned in 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJV). A spirit of fearfulness and timidity does not come from God.

However, sometimes we are afraid, sometimes this "spirit of fear" overcomes us, and to overcome it we need to trust in and love God completely. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). No one is perfect, and God knows this. That is why He has liberally sprinkled encouragement against fear throughout the Bible. Beginning in the book of Genesis and continuing throughout the book of Revelation, God reminds us to "Fear not."

For example, Isaiah 41:10 encourages us, "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Often we fear the future and what will become of us. But Jesus reminds us that God cares for the birds of the air, so how much more will He provide for His children? "So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31). Just these few verses cover many different types of fear. God tells us not to be afraid of being alone, of being too weak, of not being heard, and of lacking physical necessities. These admonishments continue throughout the Bible, covering the many different aspects of the "spirit of fear."

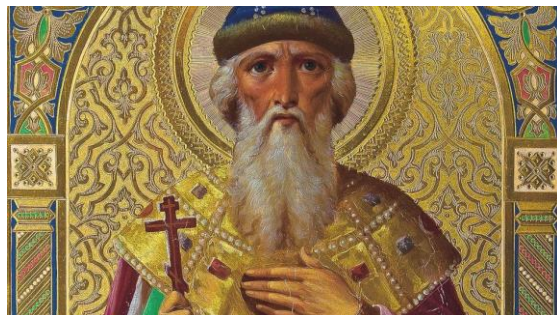
In Psalm 56:11 the psalmist writes, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" This is an awesome testimony to the power of trusting in God. Regardless of what happens, the psalmist will trust in God because he knows and understands the power of God. The key to overcoming fear, then, is total and complete trust in God. Trusting God is a refusal to give in to fear. It is a turning to God even in the darkest times and trusting Him to make things right. This trust comes from knowing God and knowing that He is good. As Job said when he was experiencing some of the most difficult trials recorded in the Bible, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15 NKJV).

Once we have learned to put our trust in God, we will no longer be afraid of the things that come against us. We will be like the psalmist who said with confidence "...let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you" (Psalm 5:11).



## This Month in Christian History:

*5<sup>th</sup> June 988:* Kiev's Grand prince Vladimir formally embraces the gospel, ordering his people to be baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith. Considered "the apostle to the Russians", Vladimir became the first Christian ruler of that nation, and afterward erected numerous churches, promoted education, and aided the poor.



## CHEQUES TO ST MARY'S :

Please be aware that cheques are no longer a form of payment. Now only cash, Internet banking, or AP

## Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. St Mary's has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese. Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

02 0410 0103053 00