

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Aug 2025

Vicar: David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday 3th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Melanie

Prayers: Melanie

Sunday 10th:

10am Holy Communion Patronal Service

Refreshments: Kay

Prayers: Kay

Sunday 17th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Majella

Prayers: Majella

Sunday 24th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Trish

Prayers: Trish

Sunday 31st:

10am 1662 Holy Communion Service

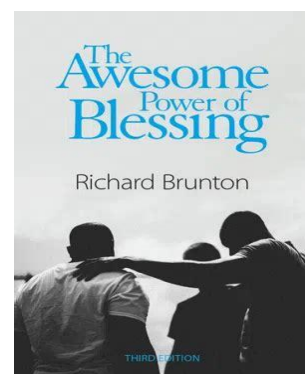
Refreshments: Parish lunch at a Cafe



Calf Fundraising Scheme: Donate a calf (if you are a farmer), or townies can donate \$250 which will cover the costs of purchasing a 4 day old bull old calf and rearing costs. Or you could wait until the calves are sold and donate the average cash price of what all the calves sold for. It is an easy and low maintenance fundraiser that has the potential to raise \$450 per calf sold. The better the calf, the higher the price we get for it. Forms and info on the Welcome table, or see Sally-Ann & Richard



PRAYER GROUP meets Weds 7pm at the church. Going through the Video version of Richard's Brunton's Awesome Power of Blessing



IS IT A SIN TO SWEAR?

It is definitely a sin to swear (curse, cuss, etc.). The Bible makes this abundantly clear. Ephesians 4:29 tells us, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." First Peter 3:10 declares, "For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech." James 3:9-12 summarizes the issue: "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

James makes it clear that the lives of Christians - the "brothers" - should not be characterized by evil speech. By making the analogy of both salt water and fresh water coming from the same spring (which is uncharacteristic of springs), he makes the point that it is uncharacteristic for a believer to have both praise and cursing come from his/her mouth. We cannot praise God while at the same time cursing our brothers.

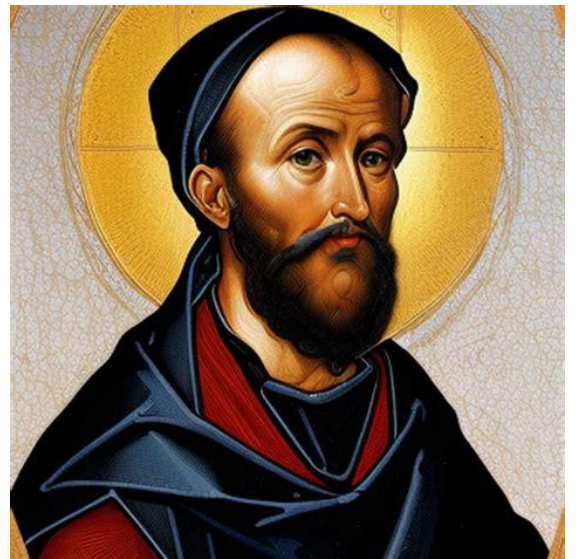
Jesus explained that what comes out of our mouths is that which fills our hearts. Sooner or later, the evil in the heart comes out through the mouth in curses and swearing. But when our hearts are filled with the goodness of God, praise for Him and love for others will pour forth. Our speech will always indicate what is in our hearts. "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

Why is it a sin to cuss / swear / curse? Sin is a condition of the heart, the mind, and "the inner man" (Romans 7:22), which is manifested in our thoughts, actions and words. When we swear and curse, we are giving evidence of the polluting sin in our hearts that must be confessed and repented of. When we put our faith in Christ, we receive a new nature from God (2 Corinthians 5:17), our hearts are transformed, and our speech reflects the new nature God has created within us (Romans 12:1-2). Thankfully, when we fail, our great God is "faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).



Words of St. Augustine

"Look upon me, O Lord, and let all the darkness of my soul vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill me with holy love, and open me to the treasures of your wisdom. All my desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun, and what your Spirit has awakened me to ask in prayer. I seek your face, turn your face to me and show me your glory. Then my longing shall be satisfied, and my peace shall be perfect."



This Month in Christian History:

1744: English religious leader Ann Lee and a small band of her followers arrive in America at New York City. Her sect, the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, is commonly known as the Shakers.

