

A few words on our readings

Jeremiah 28:5-9 Jeremiah defends his stance as a true prophet of the Lord. He is not afraid to deliver a harsh message and questions the authenticity of the message of those who try to appease. We too must not be afraid to speak the truth and to defend God's word in a world which often tries to soften the demands of discipleship.

Romans 6: 12-end Paul underlines that Christians are not captive to sin but have been freed once and for all by Jesus Christ. In recent days we have become more sensitive to the word slave but when Paul was writing slavery was a part of the social structure. A slave's freedom could be bought and the image is used by Paul to show that Christ himself has 'bought us' or 'redeemed us.' Paul makes a sharp contrast between the path of sin and death and the glorious freedom of life in Christ.

Matthew 10:40-42 Jesus teaches his disciples that they will be acting in his name. It is almost like a chain reaction: if you give a cup of cold water to the very least of our fellow human beings in Christ's name then you are giving it not just for Jesus but for God who sent him. Our mission is to serve.

PETERTIDE ORDINATIONS

Due to the situation with Covid-19, **the ordination services** originally due to take place at Sheffield Cathedral on the weekend of 27-28 June have been **delayed**. Instead, those that are to be ordained as deacons (9 of them) will be licensed as **lay workers** to begin a new ministry from that day onwards in their respective parishes. The licensing service will be conducted virtually by Zoom.

Canon Sophie Jelley, Bishop Designate and Principal Commissary of the Bishop of Sheffield, will be conducting the licensing. Canon Sophie is the sponsoring bishop for candidates in the Diocese of Sheffield; she is also still awaiting her ordination as Bishop. Bishop Pete Wilcox will attend the service, introducing it and saying words of welcome.

The **ordination of 11 priests**, who were made deacons in 2019 has also been **delayed**. These will continue to serve in parishes throughout the diocese.

A video of the licensing will be available on the Diocesan website and social media channels on 29 June.

Collect from the Church of England Ordination service adapted for the present situation (PJW):

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants to be licensed as lay workers
and those who continue to serve as deacons
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen*

A prayer of Hope

*God of hope,
God-with-us,
God of all time and of every place:
may the earth be filled with the knowledge of you,
and may your light flow over the world like a covering,
bringing protection from the darkness
and from the evil that often frightens and wounds us.
Amen.*