

## SPIRITUAL REALITY

Dear Friends,

I hope we are all continuing to navigate these strange times as well as possible. Reading the news, it is clear that many of us continue to carry worry and anxiety and that the “hang-over” of the last year or so is still being borne by so many people - whether it be health, wealth or the loss of happiness. It paints a potentially dystopian picture of the world and times we live in. It is so saddening to hear of the impact the continuing battle against the pandemic is having on the younger generation with such a significant increase in mental health issues.

### GENUINE CONCERNS

I wonder if one of the key aspects of this is a loss of hope and trust; hope that tomorrow is something to look forward to, and trust that the world is in good hands? These are very genuine concerns for anyone - not just arising from the social and health impacts from the pandemic but our sluggishness in dealing with the climate catastrophe and the growing inequality that our economic systems are nurturing.

What perspective can we offer as Christ's body here on earth to help place these great challenges in context? What can we say of the goodness of God in the face of all this?

Well the first thing we can do, as we do in the face of any concerns we hear, is to acknowledge the truth of them. These issues are real and it would be surprising if we weren't concerned about them. We should be. But once our attention is on these challenges, if we allow these difficult parts of our view of the world to become all consuming - the only things we can see - we miss out on the big picture.



And the big picture begins and ends with the reality of who ultimately holds and carries all of these things. One of the last things Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 before leaving the Kingdom mission in the hands of his disciples was the assurance that, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me”. This is a phenomenal statement; not some authority, not particular patches or nations, not even only earth! But all authority in heaven and on earth! The book of Revelation given to the churches undergoing a time of extreme persecution, growing the kingdom in a time of horrific violence and abuse of power, has this message right at its heart. Revelation 5 symbolically presents the throne of heaven and the Lamb as unquestionably in power! The message to the churches is clear. Whatever is happening is known and understood. The goodness of God is and always will be the true power in and underlying all things.

We must never let ourselves think that there is any other true power in the world.

### POWER & AUTHORITY

In Jesus, we are shown how this true power and authority is exercised in His Kingdom. The servant heart of Jesus remained unbroken through all his trials and his disciples were taught that Grace and service are the only means and ends of the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught that there would be times of tribulation and trial when those who follow Him live and serve in this way. He was open and straightforward about the reality of spiritual evil and its ability to corrupt people's hearts. But He named that power for what it was... lies and deceit. We know the names Jesus used for the worst of these spiritual evils; Satan - accuser, false accuser - or the devil - slanderer. In John 8:44, Jesus says of him that “when he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” No real power; no real authority - except to lie and deceive.

So when we are discerning the spiritual reality of what we are living through, we remember that the only true authority is Jesus and that He is at work in our world and loves it so much He gave His life to save it. We know the impact of our sinful nature

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is easily affected by the lies and deceit of evil influences - but the only power those influences have over us, is the power we give them. As James again writes, "Resist the devil and he will *flee from you*". Notice the word - *flee*!

It might be helpful to think a little about how we discern this influence and interpret it in the events around us. One way of thinking about this is to consider the dangers of misinterpretation. There are two mistakes it is easy to make when thinking about how and who we trust. The first is to underestimate the influence of evil and the second is to

## THE RISKS

overestimate it! There are risks with both. When we underestimate the influence of evil and play down the influence it can have on the human heart, we expose ourselves to the risk of lessening our personal battle against it. Right after saying "cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you", St. Peter writes, "discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:7-8). Notice that emphasis is on watching our own hearts against the lies that lead to greed, carelessness, heartlessness etc... The call is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, loving God and our neighbours. If our motives remain firmly rooted in compassion and service, as His are, then we are likely to reject those things which are not from Him.

The risk of overestimating the influence of evil in the world, feels a little darker and more difficult to deal with. For one thing, we are falling into the trap of believing the lies ourselves, making their influence more significant by adding ourselves to their audience. It's so easy to miss the beauty of the world, the billions of people living their lives with integrity and honesty, the billions of acts of kindness that happen every day that flow from the im-

age of God within each of us. This "overestimation of the influence of evil" underestimates just how far the Kingdom and the Church have grown and the work of the Holy Spirit in sustaining and renewing the earth every moment of every day. It is worth remembering that Jesus has faith in *us*, *that we are worth His love and care, even as we fail and try again*.

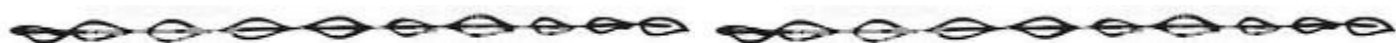
Practically speaking, finding our way through these two errors, is one for prayer, Scripture and shared discernment within our communities. We are called to be as "wise as serpents and as harmless as doves" - looking at the world as Jesus does, as worth the risk of loving while not allowing ourselves to fall into the trap of selfish and prideful attitudes. St. Ignatius highlighted in his work on spiritual direction the insight that there are spirits of consolation and spirits of desolation that work upon us as we think and pray about our lives and the life of the world. One builds us up, draws us together, encourages us in our walk with Jesus and nurtures love and compassion; the other draws us down, undermines our love, creates in us selfish motives, disturbs our peace and induces anxiety and fear.

Some of us are currently reading Max Lucado's book, Unshakeable Hope. It is an encouragement to trust the character and authority of God in all things, to trust His promises and His judgment in the unfolding of His salvation work in His creation. I will finish with a quote that spoke to some of us this week as we discussed this...

Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

With peace and blessings,

Jules.



## 'TOGETHER and APART'

We will continue to provide online 'Together and Apart' services, as well as the live Sunday service. There are also prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please contact us, if you would like details of how to join us.

<https://sites.google.com/view/holytrinitycorfuonline/home>

# PULSE PRAYERS



We give thanks for:-

- Answers to prayers and for your amazing power and work in our lives Lord.
- The Pastoral Care Team and the HTC messenger Prayer Group as they lift those in need of prayer to you Lord. *(If you need prayer or would like us to pray for you, please contact Lorraine.)*
- Jules, the Churchwardens and Church Council members in their steadfast efforts to keep the church running throughout this difficult time and observing all safety precautions. Thanks also to Peter for his technical abilities to help Jules. Lord, bless them for their dedication.
- Visitors who have been able to come to our island and our church. May they receive the blessings and encouragement that the congregation do.
- ICS Summer Mission in Corfu and the ministers who have shared their testimonies with us.
- Agencies who help others in regions of the world where the suffering is great. We particularly think of Sabina's Kitchen in Yemen, who we are also supporting. Bless Sabina and Pavla here who brought this charity to our attention.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I sing praise to you before the gods. I face your holy Temple, bow down, and praise your name because of your constant love and faithfulness, because you have shown that your name and your commands are supreme.

*Psalm 138:1-2*



We pray for:-

- The deaths and numbers of cases of Covid to reduce so that a sense of normalcy can return.
- Governments to help share the vaccines with poorer countries.
- The Eastern Archdeaconry Synod which is to be held in Corfu this year. May it be a time of blessing as we meet and share with brothers and sisters from around Eastern Europe.
- The approval of plans for Logos Café to go ahead so that more people will visit HTC and feel the warm welcome and love of your Holy Spirit.
- The autumn programme of events and services at HTC, especially the start of an Alpha course bringing new people to know you Lord and love you.
- Bev and family as they mourn the passing of their beloved Yannis. Take him in your arms Lord and give him the peace of your love.
- The sick and poorly whom we have on our hearts: We pray especially for the children: Piper, Gracie and recently diagnosed with Leukemia, 4 year old Lily, Why Lord?? Hold these innocents in your arms, heal them and give comfort and strength to their families.
- Young people returning to school after the summer break. Renew in them a willingness to learn. To those leaving home for the first time to start university. Help them to find a circle of friends with whom they can feel safe, find comfort and learn together.

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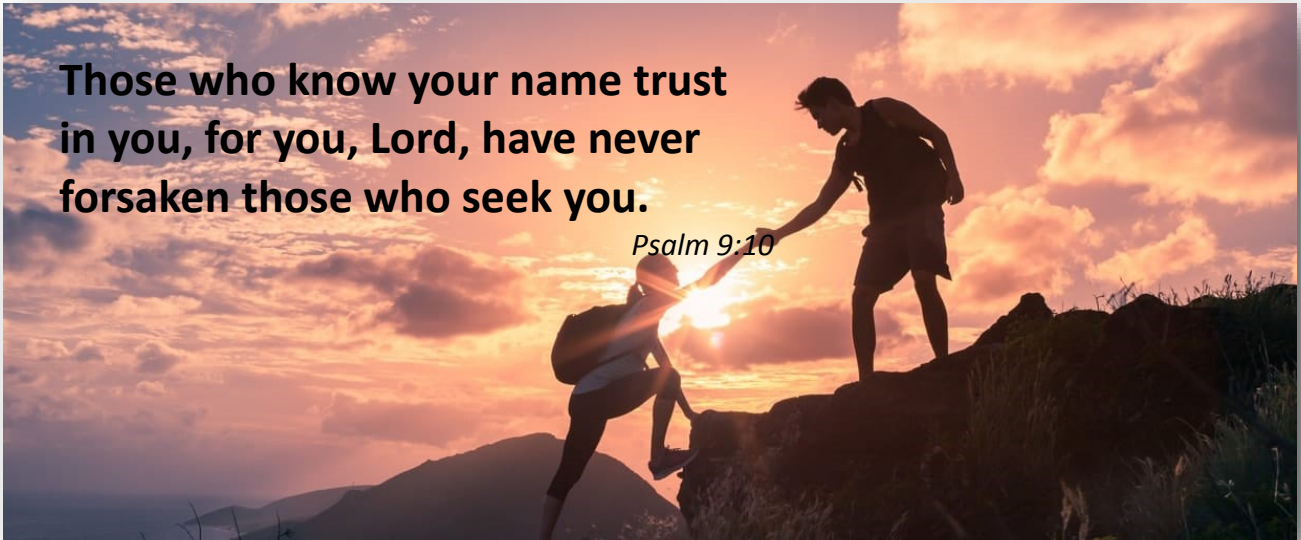


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- Those who feel isolated, depressed or neglected. The elderly who fear to go out and who have no visitors or contact with others. Show them your love and friendship and bring others to them who can help.
- People whose homes and businesses have been destroyed by wildfires this year.
- Wisdom to world leaders to tackle the global warming.
- Refugees to be accepted in countries that they have escaped to. An end to prejudice and bigotry. That everyone can be respected and valued as a Child of God.

**Those who know your name trust  
in you, for you, Lord, have never  
forsaken those who seek you.**

*Psalm 9:10*



## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



10-06-1999

WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY FIGURED A WAY FOR  
OUR 'ONLINE PRAYERS' WEBSITE TO GET  
PRAYERS TO GOD ... WE JUST FIGURE  
THAT HE'LL SEE PEOPLE TYPING THEM IN



Thanks to Pam (See Genesis 6-8)

10-04-1999

REALLY NOAH, WE'LL BE FINE

# FUND RAISING RESULTS IN ACTION!

Many will know that one of HTC's supported charities is the Unified Special Vocational High School and Lyceum (Enegyl) of Corfu..

Recently, the school moved premises and the headmaster attended a service at HTC to thank the church for the continued support and update the congregation on progress at the new premises.

The school have shared on Facebook how donations from HTC have been used... providing a green house for the students use. ***"Teachers and students, we set up the greenhouse necessary for the specialty! Another noble offer at our school from Holy Trinity Church Corfu! A big thank you for the continued offer at ENEGYL!"*** (translated from Greek by Facebook).

You can see more pictures of the school and their work on their [Facebook page](#).





# A (short) return visit to HTC

It was lovely to see Andrea Wells China on her short stay in September

I remember Andrea from late 90's ,with hair down to her waist, coming into boot sales and the first one in the queue for hot dogs! It's amazing how God works! She got to know Jesus at HTC, and soon became a church warden.

After hubby Akis very sadly died she and her children returned to England where Andrea took up her career again as theatre nurse. During lockdown and continuing now, Andrea joined the HTC messenger prayer group.

Andrea now worships at Kings Church Norwich and helps with cooking for the homeless .

Thank you Andrea for all your love and encouragement, love and every blessing in Jesus .



"As I'm preparing to leave this morning I'm thanking God for all of you in this group and at HCT, some I got to see and some I didn't but that's ok....it's been a blessing to come here after such a long and stressful time and just relax....God is good. I remember a favourite hymn, I will tell the wondrous story .....I love this song and it always rises up within me when I stand by the sea here in Corfu, the place where Christ claimed me as his own."

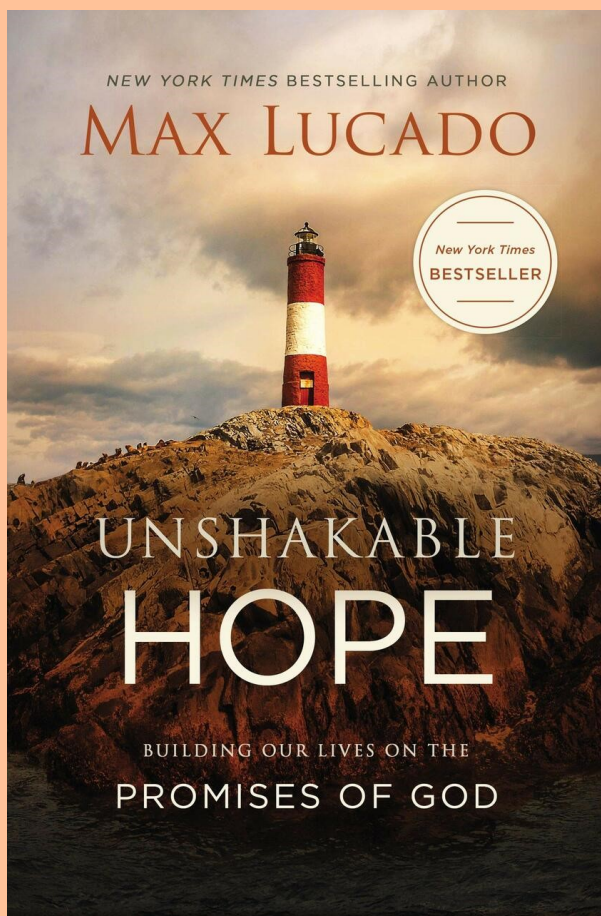
*Andrea*

# Remembrance Sunday

14th November

British Cemetery. Time to be confirmed.

## On-Line Reading Group



We have started an on-line reading group meeting every other Thursday on Zoom.

We're reading Max Lucado's book *Unshakeable Hope*. We read a couple of chapters then get together to think through the bible teaching and how it relates to our own lives and experiences. It's not too late to join and the book is not a complicated read, so if you would like to join in, just let Jules know and he will ensure you receive the meeting links.

The first chapter (if you would like a taster) is here and the book is available as a download too.

[Chapter 1...](#)





# Sabina's Kitchen Update

Dear friends,

You know at the beginning of our charity kitchen I was hoping to continue to cook for six months at least. On 4th of September, we finished our second year of cooking and entered the third!!!! Can you believe it? I can't and I am also very grateful for that. This is all thanks to you and all amazing people who helped us. Thank you.



Because of the terrible situation in public schools, we start to think how we can help and came up with nice project for near public school for girls Furad. We don't make difference between girls and boys, but we choose this school because if family in need have to choose who they send to school from their children, they usually choose boys. For that, we want to support girls a little more. Another thing is that boys and girls are going to school hungry, without the necessary equipment like uniform, notebooks and teachers are without wages

Our project will provide sandwiches for 500 students every day for the entire school year, every day of the week will be prepared different type of sandwich. We also give 500 students a new school uniform and white scarf and every month 500 notebooks to those who need it. On top of this, we will buy food baskets for 60 teachers to help them with their food supply for their families. And if we have some money left in the end, we will get some more food for the teachers. In this school are only female teachers and they work for about 5 years for free. They said that "If we leave these girls now in this already terrible situation what this generation will do? It's ok for us to struggle, as long we do our best for them to have a better life."

We are still waiting for approval and financial support from our embassy in Riyadh, but I really hope that we will be able to do this project and help so many girls and teachers.

We are also hoping and preparing other projects to help a little more.

Thank you for your interest in us and for your help.

Best regards  
*Sabina*





# Yannis Payiatis

Our friend and brother in Christ, Yannis Payiatis, 85 years, passed away on 21st September.

We give thanks for his life, friendship and fellowship in past years. Our heartfelt thoughts and love to Beverley and children, Phaethon, Sheann and Jason

May Jesus bless, enfold and strengthen them with His comfort and hope, and happy memories bring smiles of joy.

"No eye has seen no ear has heard no mind has conceived how wonderful are the things that God has prepared for those who love him "

*1 Corinthians 2:9*



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

*Deuteronomy 31:6*

## WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



## Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>

The Agiot

<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



[https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header)

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*We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.*

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

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