

# EVERYTHING IN ITS SEASON

Dear Friends,

So... how's Lent going? A perfect journey through this holy season with all our best intentions just slotting into place? Or... mixed? Or... oops!?

Watching (and occasionally doing a bit of manual labour for) Trish in the vegetable area I've really come to get quite excited about seeing the different veggies growing in their different seasons. I've been so impressed by peppers! They seem to keep producing for months and months, amazing. And as you're clearing out a bed for the next crop there is nearly always some random potato or carrot that has managed to keep under the soil. And don't even get me started on butternut squashes! Amazing things. They are great while growing but they become impossible to ignore... when they grow, boy do they grow! They spread out for metres upon metres dropping their amazing crop all over the place. And when you let the broccoli flower - the bees come from miles around to enjoy them and they keep producing something for supper. As I said, I've become rather excited about that little patch of land. Everything in its season.

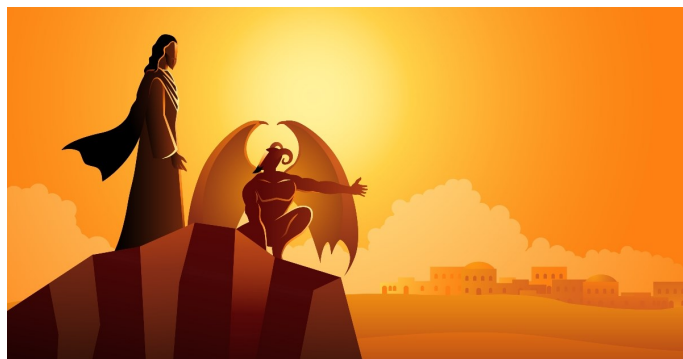


Now I know I'm slightly mixing my metaphors when I talk about the fruit of the Spirit and the veggie patch but this really did make me think

how different seasons of the church's year seem to be there to help different fruit of the Spirit to grow. Easter... well that must be joy! Advent... patience maybe? A time of waiting? And Lent, of course, must be that dreaded self control.

## FOCUS & CONTROL

I wonder if we immediately associate self control with the physical side of life. Making good decisions about what we eat or drink(!) or making sure that we fit some exercise into our schedule. These things are important and do require us to have a grown-up attitude to how we care for ourselves. No doubt there is a spiritual component to that too. However, as a spiritual fruit of the Spirit, self control must be primarily about what is going on in our inner life. In our thoughts and hearts, in our spiritual lives; who we are becoming with others. What might this look like?



For me, the amazing thing about the insight we have of Jesus' time in the desert for those forty days and forty nights isn't so much about the physical fasting (although that is hard to imagine), rather it is the clarity of thought and focus he exercises when he is at his most vulnerable. The Tempter comes to him with what could be for many of us I'm sure, spiritually subtle falsehoods, designed to undermine. You're hungry - well, make some bread - what's the use of power and resources if you don't use them... for yourself? Heading into

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trouble - just call on protection... isn't God just a supernatural force-field around you? All that power you have, you could take anything you want from this human world of ours... it's what others would do, I'll even help you!

Jesus' perfect self control means that these efforts at temptation are simply wasted on him. He knows who he is. He knows the spirit behind the scriptures - personally! His thinking,

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## SUDDENLY CHALLENGED

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his being is not "like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind" (*James 1:6*). *Here is our clue to what spiritual self control is all about.*

If you are anything like me, we can find ourselves suddenly challenged as we go about life by all kinds of surprising encounters. Words said to belittle or worse, barriers that arise before us as we try and move forward in the direction we feel led towards, the financial realities of living through challenging times or news reports that can make us fearful. And we cannot but feel deeply for those who are living through and in the world's areas of greatest suffering. At times, it really does feel like we are living through a storm.

But once our immediate emotional response has hit us, the question becomes, what are we going to do? How are we going to act? What are we going to settle on when our minds and

hearts have stopped racing? It's here that self-control growing in our souls and characters bears fruit. It's here we pray, seek His guidance, pray for the Spirit's strength to help us respond as "Jesus-like" as we are able. We probably know His thoughts on the matter... overcome evil with good, pray for those that persecute us... but it takes self control for us to stop and ask Him what it means for us to "pick up and carry our cross" at that moment.

It's not easy. In fact, it's a wrestle. It requires us to be immersed in our prayer lives with Him, understand more of His grace and what that means for us and others. It means we have to be lifted above the situation and our turbulent inner lives to a place where we can see clearly... hear clearly. Spiritual disciplines (not just in Lent, of course) create space for us to do these things; Not just for those special moments, the moments of closeness and peace with our Lord and Friend, but so that we're better taught and nurtured by Him and prepared for when we need to be; So self control can bear its fruit in our lives and our relationships when we need it the most.

So whatever we have decided we are going to put down or take up this Lent, let's keep our eyes on why we are doing it... to create that space to fit in a few extra lessons with the best teacher we could ever have.

With every blessing,

Jules.



# PULSE PRAYERS



**Let us give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for man.**  
*Psalm 107:8*

We really do have so much to be Thankful for, as always.

We Praise the Lord for the renovation program at HTC - LOGOS CAFÉ which is really moving along. We Thank Him for his gracious provision to be able to make some great changes to the church building, and we pray that we are able to finish it soon. We pray for the next stage, THE MOST IMPORTANT,...that these changes will draw people to HTC and ultimately to YOU. We pray for workers, the right people to run LOGOS CAFÉ. Lord, give us Your vision of how to use this place for Your Glory. For new ideas and inspiration. Give us servant's hearts and willing hands so we can share Your love with those that don't know You yet.

Lord, there is so much tragedy and suffering in the world right now, and we lift those in such great need to You.

We pray for Turkey & Syria as they cope with the aftermath of the earthquake. The loss of loved ones, homes, lives turned upside down. We pray for all the dedicated men & women who have gone to help. We pray for all the aid organisations assisting and that people will reach out & give generously at this critical & sad time. Even in the midst of such disaster we Thank you for the hope you give in the many amazing miracles we have seen of survival.

We pray for the Red Cross here in Corfu who are providing fresh food for local families and now collecting to help those in need in Turkey in Syria.. We ask for continued support of their work.

A year of the war started...We pray for peace in Ukraine & Russia and an end to the conflict. Lord, touch the hearts of those in power that can put an end this war. We pray for the churches there, that they can be a beacon of light in the darkness.

We pray for Yemen, another place close to our hearts that is in such need. We pray for Sabina and her work there, feeding so many people each day.

We pray for the sick & those in need of your healing touch. Especially for little Nellie, Charlie, Piper, Gracie & Ben.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5 AMEN & AMEN





# A Prayer For Peace

God give the nations peace,  
Grant us from war release.  
God give us peace.  
Guide Thou the helm of State,  
Still Thou the blast of hate,  
Bid waves of strife abate,  
God give us peace.

Touch, Lord, the human heart,  
Bid hate and greed depart,  
From fear release.  
Let men in every land  
Stretch forth the helping hand.  
Brother to brother stand  
Blest by Thy peace.

Send truth and righteousness  
Healing the world's distress.  
Great King of Peace.  
For Him Who died that we  
Saved by His love may be,  
From war. Oh, set us free!  
God give us peace.

*Poet: Unknown*



This year ICS celebrates 200 years of English-speaking Ministry and making Jesus known all over the world. A Thanksgiving Service on 27 June will be held in London to which anyone is invited. Further details and to sign up are [here](#).

ICS has committed to give £200,000 in our 200th year to stimulate and support new mission work, reaffirming our commitment to making Jesus known. Would you stand with us and raise money towards this too? We are encouraging people to take part in the '200 Challenge'.

If you like your exercise and feel energetic, take up the challenge and walk, swim, run, ski or cycle 200 miles/kms. If you prefer to do something a bit more leisurely, do 200 minutes of Pilates a week/month. And with the summer upon us, how about planting 200 seeds? Bake 200 cupcakes and hold a coffee morning in church; knitting hats, socks or scarfs - really anything that would help raise some money for ICS, please be creative!

More ideas and details on how to set up your fundraising page can be found on the ICS website [here](#)

With best wishes

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# Forgiveness

In our Lent course this year, we will be thinking about forgiveness.

In the six sessions, we draw on contemporary writing and biblical teaching to help us rediscover how and why forgiveness is central to the mission of Jesus and the mission he calls us to, both in our own lives and in the lives of our communities and societies.

For each session, reading material provided via email and the sessions will be teaching around the texts with discussion, poetry (written by Violetta) and prayer. The course will be offered on zoom on **Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm, from 23rd February through to 30th March..**

I hope you will plan to join us as we deepen our understanding and application of this most central of Christian treasures..

Session 1, 23rd February	Us and them. Exploring monsters and saints.	Ref to Raging with compassion by John Swinton
Session 2, 2nd March	The meaning of the broken body of Jesus.	Reference to the crucifixion by Matthias Grünewald. Based on John Swinton's work.
Session 3, 9th March	The loss of forgiveness in our society.	Reference to an article The fading of forgiveness by Timothy Keller. <a href="https://comment.org/the-fading-of-forgiveness/">https://comment.org/the-fading-of-forgiveness/</a> and reflection by Bishop Barron
Session 4, 16th March	The Christian response to the loss of forgiveness in our society.	Reference to an article The fading of forgiveness by Timothy Keller. <a href="https://comment.org/the-fading-of-forgiveness/">https://comment.org/the-fading-of-forgiveness/</a> and reflection by Bishop Barron
Session 5, 23rd March	The prodigal son	Bible study with reference to chapter from Martyn Sanders
Session 6, 30th March	The prodigal God	ref to book by Timothy Keller

It's not too late to join in, so if you would like to drop Jules an email and he will add you to the course email list.



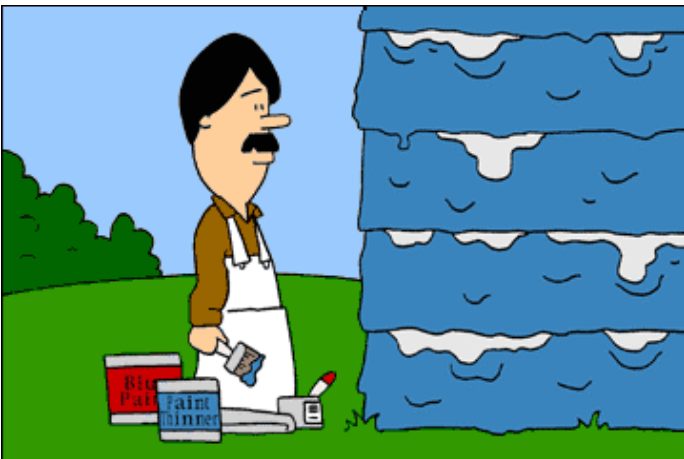




Progressing



## Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Jack Kelly 04-17-2001  
BEUFORD REALIZED THAT IT WAS TIME TO  
REPAINT ... AND THIN NO MORE



Thanks to Stacy Jackson (See Exodus 16) 04-06-2015  
DUDE, THAT'S NOT MANNA

## 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)

*We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.*

*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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