

## Stay Connected – Sunday 20th July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

### This Week's Reading

**Bible Reading: Luke 10.38-end**

### Peter's Blurb

Hello everyone,

And the heat goes on! And on! We seem to be having August in July it is that hot. On the plus side, however, there has been some decent rain, including thundershowers, with more forecast so on that front we are keeping our heads above water (groan!). It is, of course, also the time of year that we start to hear of tropical storms in the vicinity so we shall keep our eyes on that front too (groan!).

Archdeacon John led our worship today and – cagey chap that he can be – he didn't let on that it was his birthday. I went later over to HTC to sing with them and that's when I first heard of it. So, Happy Birthday, John, we all hope you enjoy your day.

Next Sunday, will be Rev. Gav's final service at St. Mark's and it will be followed by a Farewell Lunch in honour of his and Helen's (and Keir's) ministry. It will be a poignant occasion as it brings to an end five wonderful, active years of his ministry at St. Marks and we will miss them all enormously. But *c'est la vie*, 'twas ever thus, and we hope and pray that God will reward our Search Committee's efforts and reveal a worthy successor in the week's ahead. Tytes will be a tough act to follow and it will take all of us collectively to be open-minded, welcoming and to be determined to move ahead one-day-at-a-time. Just thinking – since Canon Frank Ross this will be my 11th change of incumbent. My goodness, I must be getting old(er) 🙄



I have to say how much I – how much we all – appreciate the artistic skills of Annie whose decorative display today paid tribute to the up-coming Cup Match holiday which is just over a week away.

It is a real treat, each week, to see what magic Annie has wrought with her imagination and creativity – always something beautiful, tasteful and appropriate. Huge thanks and kudos to Annie, and any and all who may assist her, in showing off the beauty of our church. We remember too that she is also a wonderful cook – she and her sister Joann – have often contributed to our fellowship with their culinary delights. We are blessed to have them as part of our church.

Anyway, moving on. There are a number of events coming up which I need to tell you about so I'll move on to Coming Events below. Please do read through and make note of those that are of interest or that you wish to be involved in.

So, apart from that, that's all I have for this week. 😊

Love, Peter

**Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!**

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## Rev. John's Talk

The following is the text of Archdeacon John's talk today:

Luke 10.38–end

***'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'***

On the face of it, this is such a *hard* saying!

It's one of many hard sayings from Jesus, such as elsewhere, in John's Gospel (6:60), when Jesus said He was bread from heaven,

'On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"'

It's 'hard' here, in our Gospel story today, because it doesn't seem to put in a favourable light any of the three persons in the story!

- Jesus because he could seem to be insensitive and ungrateful for Martha's efforts.
- Martha, who seems to be so jealous in her outburst and controlling of her sister.
- Mary, who comes over as lazy and spoilt even, sitting and listening while Martha sees to everything.

With any hard saying, it's tempting to try to soften it, to explain it away.

Here, could this be just a canny observation from Jesus, of the fact of life that:

"The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, others willing to let them"?

A true observation, maybe! But this is not what he said here.

Or we may imagine that the story went on to have a softer ending, not recorded by Luke, after the main point had been made:

- Jesus could have explained afterwards how he appreciated Martha's hard work, and hadn't meant to upset her...
- Martha could replied to Jesus 'of course', and gone to take the pan off the stove and come back to sit and listen...
- Mary might later have apologized, promising her sister that next time she'll help Martha do the washing up!

No, the fact is, Jesus commends Mary *over* Martha. One of them has got it right, the other of them has got it wrong.

I can't help thinking of a story in Genesis that in many ways is parallel to this, about two other siblings, Cain and Abel.

Remember how Cain the farmer and Abel the herdsman both offer their sacrifices to God, and Abel's is accepted by God but Cain's is rejected?

We're not told why, and we have no reason to suppose that Cain was insincere. A hard story!

But back to our two sisters, Mary and Martha, and it's uncomfortable ending:

***'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'***

What is this 'better part'? Why was Martha corrected and Mary commended?

Martha was 'worried and distracted by many 'things'.

How we all know how *that* feels!

We have so much always to do, to worry about, to pull us off our focus of listening to the voice of our Lord when he says:

‘Be still and know that I am God’

Martha thought that her first responsibility towards her honoured guest was to get everything ready for him, to meet his needs.

But more important first was to relate to him in that other way, that Mary chose, to listen to him with her full attention.

So too for us, as Christians and members of the body of Christ, his Church, our *first* responsibility is to give God our love, and make space for him in our busy lives.

Put in the words with which we may be very familiar:

‘The first great commandment is this, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength – and then, the second – to love our neighbours as ourselves.’

Just now I wondered how the story of Mary and Martha ended that day. Well, we don’t know.

But we do meet them again in the Gospel story, in their house in Bethany, just round the back of the Mount of Olives on the way to Jerusalem, these two sisters with their brother – Lazarus.

When after Lazarus has died, Jesus eventually responds to the two sisters’ pleas for him to come, it’s *Martha* who reaches him first while Mary was still in the house.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” *Martha* answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus replied: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

It’s Martha now, not Mary who gets it right, knowing Jesus for who he is!

May we take the same path as she did, and welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes, learn to put aside our worries and distractions and see him as he is, our Saviour and our friend. Amen.

## Diocesan Corner

### Message from Bishop Nick:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepared for the annual joys of the Cup Match holiday – we do so reflecting that the days of celebration mark Emancipation Day and Mary Prince day – a sober commemoration of the ending of the era of chattel slavery and the freedom of enslaved persons in our Island home. Recognizing that the progress towards racial justice has not been fully achieved, the Racial Justice Committee are requesting that the Charter, approved and adopted by the Synod of the Anglican Church, be read at some point during services in this period and that, as previously requested, a copy of the charter be placed in a position of prominence in our churches and/or offices to reflect our commitment towards living out the truth of our equality before God in creation and redemption with equity, justice and in reconciled relationship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

In anticipation of the gathering of every nation, from all tribes, peoples and languages before the throne of God redeemed by Christ – we seek to manifest this sign of his Kingdom in our love and unity – willing to repent and change, to restore and repair, to celebrate and rejoice as a foretaste of that Kingdom – on earth as it is in heaven.

With every blessing for a happy Cup Match Holiday,

See: <https://anglican.bm/racial-justice-charter-2/>

+Nick

## In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Father Don, Margaret Blanchette, Al Spearing, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Vinette, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Robert & Kalreeta and for Sally Brown and Hilda Warner . We also ask for special prayers for all members of the church family who are travelling over the next few weeks.

### This Sunday



Archdeacon John's talk can be read above

Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or our

Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

### Next Sunday

Next **Sunday, 27th July** – There will be **NO 8.00 am** Peaceful Worship next Sunday. It will be Fr. Gav's last service at St. Mark's and our **Contemporary Worship will be held at 10.00 am**. There will be **NO Junior Church** and services will be led by Archdeacon John Stow.

### Coming Events

- **Bible Studies in Luke – Marks of a Disciple** – a series of lunchtime Bible Studies will be held in the Cathedral on Thursdays at 12.15 p.m. For details contact the Diocesan Office. Dates on poster below.
- **Memorial Service** – A Memorial Service **for the late Marianne Herbert** will be held at **3.00 p.m. on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July at Holy Trinity Church**
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 26th July;**
- **Farewell Luncheon.** A Farewell Luncheon will be held **post-service on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> July** given in honour and tribute for Fr. Gav's & Helen's ministry at St. Mark's during the past 5 years. **For catering purposes be sure to let Barbara or Pansy know if you wish to attend.** Barbara – 747-8893 or [bbwillis1949@gmail.com](mailto:bbwillis1949@gmail.com); Pansy – 332-2074 or [pmnichols@logic.bm](mailto:pmnichols@logic.bm). **If you have not done so DO IT NOW!**
- **St. James Guild Anniversary** – The St. James Choral Class and Communicants Guild will celebrate its 106th Anniversary at St. James Church, Sandys, on **Sunday, 27th July 2025 at 3:00pm**. Speaker, Revd. Jennie Foster Skelton. Refreshments to follow in the Church Hall.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd August** in the Parish Hall.
- **Take-Out Bar-b-que** – Saint James' Church will be hosting a Take-Out Bar-b-que on **Saturday, 20th August 2025**, The in the Church Hall. **Save the date** - details to follow.

**Down the Debt** – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

### Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>
- **Website:** <https://anglican.bm/churches/st-marks/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

## End Stuff:

**Here's a thought.** It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

**Direct deposits** can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

**St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.**

- **For Pledge Envelope donations** – if you already have a Pledge envelope number just be sure to enter your Name and Env # e.g. "Nash Env 190" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. "Grave 273 Peter Nash" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and "Donation" e.g. "Nash Donation" in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

**Use of the "Beneficiary" space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what. Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!**



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

THE HOSPITALS AUXILIARY OF BERMUDA IS IN NEED OF ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN OUR PINK CAFÉ &/OR AT THE BARN.

THE AUXILIARY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES SINCE 1953. WE OPERATE THREE BUSINESSES, THE PINK CAFÉ AND THE GIFT SHOP AT KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN PAGET AND THE BARN IN DEVONSHIRE. IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN THESE AREAS, WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS AT THE INFORMATION DESKS IN THE ACUTE CARE AND GENERAL WING OF KEMH. WE ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS VISITORS IN THE HOSPITAL. FUNDS RAISED THROUGH OUR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND DONATIONS, ARE USED TO PURCHASE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOSPITALS WHICH, IN TURN, BENEFITS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MADE UP OF VERY SPECIAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO GIVE THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT OF ALL – THEIR PRECIOUS TIME.

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WILLING TO VOLUNTEER ONE DAY A WEEK FOR 3 – 3 ½ HRS., PLEASE CONTACT NANCY OUGHTON, GENERAL MANAGER AT 239-1525 OR E-MAIL NANCY.OUGHTON@BHB.BM TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT, ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK.



## The Anglican Church of Bermuda

**Bible Studies in Luke – Marks of a Disciple**  
**Thursdays 12:15-1:00**  
**In the Cathedral Hall**

24 <sup>th</sup> July	Luke 11:1-13	Praying
Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>		
Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup>		
Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup>		
Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup>		