

Sunday Thought

13th September 2020 24 in Ordinary Time

Readings

Exodus 14: 19 – 31

Psalm 1

Romans 14: 1 - 12

Matthew 18: 21 - 35

What Day?



I have had a copy of this picture from Winnie the Pooh on my desk during most of the Covid 19 lockdown.

"What day is it?" Pooh asks piglet and Piglet replies, "It's today!"

"That's my favourite day" says Pooh!

I am sure many others have asked the same question sometime in the past months. "What day is it today?" I'm equally sure too that some have said, "It's Sunday. It doesn't seem like Sunday." But then, perhaps we have been saying that for a long time now. Sunday is certainly not the same day as it was even fifty years ago. Then it was still too often a day of restrictions - 'we don't do that on Sunday!' For those from even the strictest Christian background Sunday has become far more relaxed – only one service to attend – contemporary worship styles – declining numbers (No-one need say 'this is MY pew' anymore.

There's a pew each some Sundays now!). In the space of a few months there have been more changes. A little while ago it was, *'It hurts my neck to read hymns from a screen.'* *'It's not my type of music. I prefer the old hymns'* and *'why do we have to use 'the book' for special services - including Holy Communion. Now it's, 'I can't do with all these internet services.'* *'I'm not a zoomer.'*

The situation is not new. It has been with us from the beginning as you can see from Paul's words to Christians in Rome. The Church has been splitting into differing factions ever since as sincere, well-meaning believers have said, *'This is the way I think God wants us to do it.'* and have walked away to start a new version of the never changing Gospel life.

What Paul writes to first century Rome seems vaguely similar to today – *'One person thinks that a certain day is more important than other days while someone else thinks all days are the same!* They even had vegetarians versus meat eaters! It's all there in today's reading but so is some very good advice from Paul.

'Christian life is all about love – for God and for everybody else.'

'Always remember you're a forgiven sinner too.'

'Don't argue about personal opinions. Express them if you wish but as opinions, not arguments.'

'Don't despise another Christian for her views. She's just another of the billions of beautiful oddities God calls his children - just like you and me!'

The Covid19 pandemic has made us think differently about many things. Sunday too. If we can't remember which day is Sunday, what about taking every day as The Lord's Day and re-writing Pooh and Piglet's conversation.

"What day is it?"

"It's today. It's the Lord's day."

"Good. My favourite day!"

A PRAYER

Lord, let us make every today a remembrance of you;
a day to show our love for you;
a day prove that love in all our neighbour relationships.