

## 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year A

In our second reading this Sunday, we are urged by St Paul to be like Jesus. He pleads, in his letter to the Philippians, for them and us, to be

*“united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind.”*



St Paul is saying that if the blessings you have received mean anything to you, then listen to me! Once more, he speaks of those beautiful graces and blessings from God – love, tenderness, sympathy. It would appear that the Church in Philippi had a problem with unity and so St Paul is imploring them to be of one mind and heart, to be unselfish and to have the strength of humility.

Whilst the image above might have been appropriate a year ago, the second part of the reading speaks of our need to consider the other person and not put our own needs first. In this difficult time with Covid-19, we need to apply this to our lives in a way that is far from what St Paul was imagining. We need to keep one another safe. We need to consider the impact our actions have on other people.



The late Jesuit priest Antony de Mello wrote that while we are searching wildly for that “great experience of God,” there are a host of rich experiences of God passing us by. He says, “You wish to see God? Look at the face of the person next to you. You want to hear God? Listen to the cry of a baby, the laughter of a friend, the wind rustling in the trees. You want to feel God? Stretch your hand out and hold someone.”

The first reading and the psalm today, speak once more of God's forgiveness and mercy.

*Remember your mercy, Lord*

*Lord, make me know your ways.*

*Lord, teach me your paths.*

*Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:*

*for you are God my saviour*

*Remember your mercy, Lord,*

*and the love you have shown from of old.*

*Do not remember the sins of my youth.*

*In your love remember me,*

*because of your goodness, O Lord.*

*The Lord is good and upright.*

*He shows the path to those who stray,*

*he guides the humble in the right path;*

*he teaches his way to the poor.*



During the coming week, let us ask God to lead us in the ways of compassion, humility, love and tenderness. May we, as the Christian community of The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, be a Beacon to all those in Bermondsey who are in need of the healing touch and mercy of God.

