

Dear all

Quite a short message today.

Today is Maundy Thursday. On this day two significant actions almost vie with each other as to which is the main focus. The name 'Maundy' comes from 'mandatum' which means command (as in mandate). The command that Jesus gave was to love, which seems a bit counter-intuitive. Surely you either love or don't love. How can we command our feelings?

As a society, we have become accustomed to the idea that love is something we have to feel. We can fall in and out of love...

That is why the wedding service asks not "Do you love..." but "Will you love..." And Jesus shows love in two supreme ways – by serving his disciples/friends in the most subservient way possible, by washing their feet, and by instituting the Eucharist. Remember how much I love you... every time you eat... every time you drink... remember my body broken, my blood poured... my arms stretched wide... This is true love, a love of the will, a love of choice.

[One](#) of the documents attached is a reflection about love by Nadia Bolz-Weber. In it she reflects not just about giving love, but the difficulty of receiving it to.

The [other](#) document is our prayer diary – it is there for you to pray for one another. Please note, it only has the names of those who have given permission for their names to be on it. If yours is missing and you would like it added, please let me know.

Here are some links for you.

The first is our Maundy Thursday Eucharist, not quite live from the vicarage.

The next 3 links are pieces of music that we would have sung today: the hymns 'An Upper Room' and 'O Thou, who at Thy Eucharist didst pray' and Psalm 88 which we usually sing during the Stripping of the Altar. This Psalm recording is from our own Cathedral at Lincoln.

<https://youtu.be/PKRsvNv7mI4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2lukOxMrBA>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea_O021YhCo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cddpxCRolo>

As they are unable to get into church, Friday Knights have produced their own home-based Easter gardens:



Excellent efforts – well done all!

Finally, on a lighter note, a Beatitudes for our times, by the ever-perceptive David Walker.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS

FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED

FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS

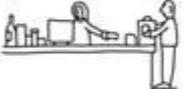
FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS

FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS

FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS

FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS

FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS

FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS

FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.

FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.

FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.

FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS

FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com

Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark