

# Trinity News

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost If the Foundations are Shaken

I have been delving deeply into the matters of life as long as I can remember. But I do have to admit that in recent times I been somewhat shaken by what has been going on in the world around me. Where I had invested my trust in certain institutions and organisations, I have found that the trust was not warranted. There is so much that goes on that is very disturbing. We can shrug it off and try to imagine that's how it's always been. But this is hardly satisfactory, and in fact turns a blind eye to much that passes for the status quo in our world. I was brought up with a deep trust in British institutions. The so-called gutter tabloids in England did not disturb me so much. I thought that they were just a nasty little aberration. But when News of the World, a highly influential media outlet, turned out to be crooked in its dealings, then I have to admit that I have been somewhat shaken. All of the English-speaking nations owe a great deal to Great Britain because of the system of parliamentary procedures and law that we have inherited. The system has as its heart some excellent principles and ways are being as a government and as lawmakers in a democratic society. But the revelations in past weeks have shaken people. In our daily life we have to invest some trust in the organisations that are set up to maintain and protect our life. But when being the first with the latest becomes everything, then we have turned what is the function of gossip in communicating 'news' into a deadly tool. It is like having a body disturbed by criminals. Something inside us it is shaken by it. We are also revolted by it.

Money blinds our eyes to reality, and power blinds our eyes to evil. We start manipulating people's lives and in the end we are manipulated ourselves into believing that we are open and honest and clear minded. The capacity of the human mind to be darkened by its own machinations is incredibly complex and all too often very destructive. I think too that we need to be very careful about what we teach in the church. We need to make sure that we are clear about our teaching and how we back it up. No one is completely honest, and

no one possesses complete integrity. We are human and we have the capacity to slide around things and see things in an opaque way that glosses over reality. **But if we do not have the intention to be honest, the intention to be honourable, the intention to be a person of integrity, and try to maintain that at a consistent level, then who are we?** “If the foundations are shaken, what can the righteous do?”, as the Psalmist says (11:3). We have deluded ourselves in a post-modernist western view to think that everything is relative. It is all very clever, but is it real? I am cautious about sharp contrasts between black and white in observations about the human condition. I know that there are many shades of grey in the context of human conduct. But I’m also highly suspicious of bland relativism that sets no boundaries and gives people little hope of framing parameters within which to protect the hearts and minds of their children and their society.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

 **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:26-34; Matthew 13:31-33,44-49a

## **TO PLAN:**

### **July 18, Monday.**

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm.
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

### **July 19, Tuesday.**

- Bible Study, 10am.
- Bible Study @ the Tutton’s (#3 Sta.Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati), 7:15pm.

### **July 21, Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., Chapel