

Trinity News

Pentecost VII – Teacher and Healer.

When we encounter Christ we may meet “unlimited consciousness”. We are limited by our own spheres of interest and by the breadth of our capacity to find out what we do not know. When we meet Christ, our boundaries expand.

Christ sent his disciples out two by two because he knew that isolation breeds uncertainty. We all need companions on the way to monitor and support us. He gave them authority over “unclean spirits.” Every Christian is authorised by Christ to confront evil. Anything that distorts or plays games with our sensibilities is to be resisted. We have to resist it in ourselves before we attempt to resist it in others.

Only God can authenticate his presence within us. We cannot make God in our own image. God makes us in the Divine image. We have a place of stillness he provides within us. We spend our lives running away from that stillness. “Nothing I suppose is sadder than a person who lives year to year, but somehow never grows up, never truly integrates his or her experience” (John Main).

It is hard to see clearly when we are running with our head down. Yet it is the exercise of our body, and we all need it in some form. We can only look into our soul when we stop still.

“So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent” (Mark 6:12). The word ‘repent’ means ‘change of mind’, ‘change of direction’. “The gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known – it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing”. As Benedict XVI also says, it is “performative”, not just “informative”.

“So they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them” (Mark 6:13). Confronting evil and healing go together here. It is no help to confront someone without offering them the instruments of healing.

The Cross is an inexhaustible sign and symbol of healing.

Oil is a balm and a vehicle for healing. “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven” (James 5:14-15). This shows links with the healing stories in the Gospels.

We can always seek forgiveness, for sins that haunt us in the ‘night watches’ and sometimes in the clear light of day.

We can always seek healing in the name of Christ from the one who healed in Galilee. We pray for our medical people, for their perception and skills, and sometime we go directly to the Healer.

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Isaiah 57:14b-21; Psalm 22:22-30; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-44

THIS WEEK:

A healing service will be held today at 11:30 a.m. in the Resurrection Chapel after the Eucharist, though still connected to it. The service will be brief, using scripture readings about healing, prayers, comments, laying-on of hands and anointing with oil for healing. Do come to be ministered to as to support in prayer.

July 16, Monday.

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

July 17, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

July 19 Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.