

# TRINITY NEWS

## **Pentecost 14 Sources of Wisdom and the Wise Person in the Gospels**

Christians revere Jesus as the Christ who offers access to God. We have framed doctrines and dogmas about him to support this view. Alongside our claims about his Divinity there is considerable evidence from his teaching in the Gospels about his transparent and vulnerable humanity. He is portrayed there as a teacher of wisdom who exemplifies his teaching in his own speech and conduct.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock” (Matthew 7:24). “These words of mine” are the reported words of Christ from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew Chapters 5-7. It is not just his words but the example of his wise and resourceful life. He carries himself with dignity and even in the stylised layers of the Gospels we discern a warm and calm human being who is both passionately involved and yet standing apart from “the madding crowd”. Superior without condescension, involved without being coerced.

Jesus knew the wisdom teachings of Israel from Psalms and Proverbs and he had gleaned much from listening to mature and wise people in his own social circles. Someone of 20 years can be mature and someone who is seventy can be unwise. It is not age but aptitude that counts. Our “house” may not be a home and the “house” at Matthew 7:24 is also the home of our humanity.

Yu Dan has written a 10 million copy international best seller **Confucius from the Heart**. Confucius lived about 400 years before Christ, and his wisdom teaching parallels that of the sages of the wisdom literature in Israel. Yu Dan notes: “In China today, especially in the big cities, the old multi-family courtyards have all been pulled down and blocks of flats built in their place. Gone are the days when one family would make dumplings and give some to all the neighbours, and we no longer see all of the inhabitants of a courtyard celebrate New Year together, one table for the adults, another for the children. Often neighbours who have lived on the same staircase for three or four years don’t really know each other.” Jesus grew up in a communal atmosphere. We are often isolated and alone even if we are not made lonely by it. Every opportunity to have contact with wise and good people is a blessing. We cannot be on top of one another, because as the half-moon and the flower coming into bloom offer anticipation, so do relationships that leave space for growth.

Yu Dan tells the story of a boy given to rages. Hi father taught him to hit a nail into a picket fence every time he lost his temper and to draw one out every time he restrained himself. One day the boy proudly showed his father a fence with no nails. The father congratulated him and pointed out that the marks of the nails were still there. **“Nobody in the world sells a cure for regrets.”** We never cease attending the school of wisdom if we want to be wise. Jesus teaches and lives wisdom.

Jesus’ wisdom is in the Sermon on the Mount. Paul the Apostle’s wisdom is in I Corinthians 13 where he explores the foundations of his love of Christ, using the model of the wisdom of Christ. The search never ends, but wisdom awaits, encouraging us onward.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

## **THIS WEEK:**

### **Monday, September 15.**

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

### **Wednesday, September 17.**

- *Bible study, 10:00am*
- *Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office*

### **Thursday, September 18.**

- *Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel*

## **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:**

Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145; Philippians 1:21-27; Matthew 20:1-16