



TODAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: EX 2: 11-22

PSALM 69: 6-14, SECOND READING: ROM 8: 9-17

GOSPEL: MT 13:1-9, 18-23 1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop; a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear." 18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." (NIV)

PRAYERS: Denise Morton, Paddy Sander, Wendy & Chucky Young, Mike & Lindi, Sasha, Marlene Palm, Deborah Lewis.

YEARS MIND: Desmond Young, Marion Watson Fraser
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Last week we applauded Mr Vavi of Cosatu ; “ Corruption steals from the poor.” Coincidentally, the psalm set for that Saturday (131) cried for the people of the earth to “unbind their hearts”:

“The nations have chosen material idols- The lure of silver and gold. With their mouths they utter falsely, blind to the people’s needs; their ears are deaf to the cries of the poor, they breathe greed and spit out arrogance. Awaken, O people of the earth! Unbind the fetters of stone hearts that balance and harmony may be restored.”

Thomas Merton (see below): “Original sin is the refusal to care for the vulnerable.

The process, or journey, of opening our hearts to the Divine Whisper of the Spirit, is, at once difficult and painful, yet absolutely gorgeous liberation from our narrow viewpoint to that of the Divine.

I recently attended a “Conversation” evening at The Centre for Christian Spirituality. The subject was : meeting Merton: is a deep and transforming spirituality possible in the city? Is peace possible in the madness? It was a staggering, although short, presentation that was a testament to Fr Jeremy’s deep

knowledge of Merton (who was one of the spiritual giants of the 20th century). Fr Jeremy suggested that we go home and absorb some Merton – this led me to do a home “retreat” with Thomas Merton. The first short exercise was to pause and in silence consider these points:

1. To know the outcome of the journey is to trust God less
2. If the Spirit leads us, the journey is not ours alone
3. A journey of clarity and ease cannot reach a God of mystery and love
4. The experience of uncertainty brings us closer to our companions on the journey
5. No matter how unsettling the journey may be at times, God will not permit us to be lost.

I commend this exercise to you.

Journey, which I now understand better as being inward, is an incremental opening of our hearts to the Spirit and entering the dark waters of prayer as it becomes more and more a matter of listening -because God knows us so intimately already.

CHURCH PORTFOLIOS

PORTFOLIO	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Finance	Francis Legge
Finance Liaison	Tony Poriazis
Flowers	Fiona Holmes
Fundraising & Reconciliation	Tshepo Manyaka
Marketing & Advertising	Graham Taylor
Messy Church	Jean Pienaar
Outreach	Di Levinsohn
Prayer	Liz Davies
Social Fellowship	Penny Crawford
Sound & Video	Talfryn Davies
Tea	Maseri Seretlo
Worship	Michael Oliphant
Young Saints & Youth	Paul Duba

ALL SAINTS DIARY: JULY 2011

MONDAYS 13H30 BRIDGE (Beginners Welcome)

TUESDAYS 12h30 PRAYER GROUP
19h30 SERVICE PREPARATION

SATURDAYS 12H00 TO 13H00 BELL RINGING PRACTISE
(CONTACT BRIAN STACEY ON 0824946453)

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH: Worship meeting at 19h30

FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: Choir practise at 14h30

JULY

Saturday 16	09h00	Sunday School Discussion
	15h00	Messy Church
Thursday 21	19h30	Monthly Worship Meeting
Sunday 24	09h00	Baptism
Saturday 30	09h00	Flower Guild
	15H00	Social—Bingo afternoon