

Thought for the day – Friday 23rd July 2021

By Revd John Ohen

Family and Togetherness.

In our busy world it is hard to find some peace and quiet, but to our God all things are possible. “Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest for a while”. This week our Bishop sent out a Pastoral letter to all the clergy and hope that we will be able to find the right balance between ministry, rest, and recreation.

The very nature of family life is a life we live and share together, be it in the church or in our own homes. We are nourished through love and forgiveness, and strengthens each other through patience and perseverance, by so doing foster personal growth and maturity.

Family ties in Jesus’ day in a Jewish society were extraordinarily strong and deeply woven. In extending this relationship beyond family and blood relatives was radical and can be challenging. Jesus was not in any way denying his family but highlighting that a true disciple is one who obeys God, which will bring grace and blessings. We should learn true obedience as Christ did by staying in close communion with the Father always. (Heb. 5: 8).

It was through disobedience that Adam became estranged from our Heavenly Father. We have a choice as laid down in the Old Testament, (Deut. 11:26 -28) to choose life or death. A blessing or a curse, we have this choice presented to us each day, but for me, I rather a blessing. What about you sisters and brothers?

Bible Passage: Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

⁴⁸ He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Prayer: Lord God of all creation, let our hearts and our will be like yours, as we give this day and every day in obedience to you.