

## Thought for the day - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

by Revd John Ohen.

### “The Grace of Unity”

As the saying goes “United we stand divided we fall.”

Unity is not easy, it doesn't come easily or naturally and it is hard won. Sometimes disunity can prevail in our homes, parishes, workplaces and communities.

That Jesus prayed for unity shows that it is a great grace coming from the God of peace as in John 17 - “That all of them may be one. Father.” Blessed are the peacemakers for they are the children of God. If we let peace and unity rule in our hearts, knowing that we have been reconciled to God, then peace and unity can continue to prevail.

It is striking that Jesus' first words to the disciples after his resurrection were, 'Peace be with you' (John 20 19). Our Lord Jesus repeated this twice as if to highlight its importance (John 20. 21). Peace and unity is not just the absence of war or divisions and that things are about to boil over. Peace and unity are first and foremost are about peace and Union with God.

Romans 5. 1, reminds us that since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace is also a gift of the spirit (Galatians 5. 22), and by God's Grace peace can dwell in our hearts. So, sisters and brothers let us do all that will bring about peace, as in our (Communion rite) “Let us offer each other the sign of Peace.”

Prayer:

O Lord God our Heavenly Father, you sent your Son our Lord Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. May his peace and unity of the Holy Spirit rule in our hearts and Nation.

Amen.