

MONDAY
20 JULY
Micah 6:1-4. 6-8
Psalm 50:3-7. 14
Matthew 12:38-42

TUESDAY
21 JULY
Micah 7:14-15. 18-20
Psalm 85:1-7
Matthew 12:46-end

WEDNESDAY
22 JULY
Mary Magdalene
Song of Solomon
3:1-4

Psalm 42:1-10
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
John 20:1-2. 11-18

THURSDAY
23 JULY
Jeremiah 2:1-3.
7-8. 12-13
Psalm 36:5-10
Matthew 13:10-17

FRIDAY
24 JULY
Jeremiah 3:14-17
Psalm 23
or Canticle:
Jeremiah 31:10-13
Matthew 13:18-23

SATURDAY
25 JULY
James the Apostle
Jeremiah 45:1-5
or Acts 11:27 – 12:2
Psalm 126
Acts 11:27 – 12:2
or 2 Corinthians
4:7-15

Matthew 20:20-28

REFLECTION



Sometimes we are blinkered because we're so used to thinking in a certain way that alternative explanations pass us by. This week Jeremiah points out the failings that the people do not recognise in themselves, while the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew's Gospel want a sign, as if Jesus' words and actions are not enough. Jesus places himself in the context of the Old Testament story of Jonah, who spent three days in the belly of the sea monster. Jesus will spend three days in the earth, but will the scribes and Pharisees recognise the sign and make the connection when it happens? And why have James and John not understood that requests to sit at Jesus' right and left are not the point?

In the second half of the week Jesus explains how difficult it is for hearers to understand the parables he tells. We have the benefit of the explanations he gave to the disciples, but have they become so familiar and stale that they no longer speak to us? Can we recognise the signs that God is giving us, each time we read them?

PRAYER

Lord, teach us to listen and to really hear,
whether it be your words or those of other people.
Help us to lay aside our own assumptions
and be open to new interpretations
and to other points of view.

INNER JOURNEY, OUTER JOURNEY

PART III – WATERING THE SEED

Concluding our series of extracts from James Roose-Evans' classic book.

After being accepted as a candidate for ordination I developed an acute and painful depression that continued for weeks. I was convinced that it had nothing to do with any anxiety as to whether or not I would be accepted for ordination, and so I did what I often do in such circumstances: I sat down and drew the situation. I began by drawing a picture of what I was feeling: at the bottom of a dried-up well. My pen sketched a deep vertical tunnel with a little stick figure at the bottom, representing myself. At the well-head I drew a friar lowering a bucket from a winch which had a traditional tiled roof surmounted by a cross, rather like a sketch for a church. As I drew I saw that the bucket contained single drop of moisture. Then at the bottom of the well I noticed a slight opening, and so I began to draw further, realising that I had to make myself very small in order to crawl through this aperture. Beyond lay a cave. In the cave was an altar and on that altar lay a seed, circular in shape like the Host at Mass. I knew it was my task to take the single drop of moisture from the bucket and water the seed. It was, of course, the seed of prayer one must water daily. My pen began to sketch slender tendrils growing out from the seed, climbing up through the dark earth towards the light, massing together to form first the roots, then the trunk and, finally, the branches of a mighty tree stretching up into the sky, standing beside the well-head where the friar was lowering the bucket containing the drop of moisture. Inside the roots, trunk and branches I drew many faces which are the spirits of all creation – women, men and children – forming the living Tree of Christ.



James' blog can be found at: www.jamesrooseevans.co.uk. Inner Journey, Outer Journey is available from Redemptorist Publications: 01420 592974. Product code: 1852. ISBN: 9780852315569. Price: £9.95

Sixth week after Trinity

Monday 20 July to
Saturday 25 July
2020

WEEK