

From the Chaplain...

This Sunday's Gospel reading (Mark 7. 24-end) contains two vignettes in which Jesus is called upon to heal someone who is afflicted. First, there is the case of the Syrophenician woman, who pleads with him to release her little daughter from an 'unclean spirit' (vv. 26-30). Then there is the case of the deaf man, who is brought forth by his neighbours in the hope that the Lord will restore his hearing (vv. 32-35). What the two episodes have in common is that Jesus responds to a person or persons who have approached him on behalf of someone else. A mother tenaciously makes the case for why he should help her non-Jewish daughter, and he is so impressed by her humility that the girl is healed instantly. Likewise, a crowd of people in the region of the Decapolis set aside their own concerns to promote the need of the deaf man, whom Jesus takes aside and ministers to privately. Through their advocacy, both the woman and the crowd have their belief in God's power affirmed precisely because they are ready to experience this power through the lens of someone else's need. In reading this narrative, we undoubtedly discover a lesson for our Christian faith. By looking for signs of God's presence not just in our own situation but in that of others, the possibility of experiencing God increases exponentially.

Earlier in the summer, it was announced that our much-loved organist, Jonathan Eyre, would be leaving the Chapel in mid-September. Because the process to recruit his successor is just getting started, however, Jonathan has kindly agreed to continue playing on Sunday mornings and other occasions during the coming term. I am immensely grateful to Jonathan for his flexibility and readiness to help us.

This Sunday, 8 September, marks the Accession of King Charles III in 2022. Please keep His Majesty and the whole Royal Family in your prayers as we observe this important anniversary. At our 11.00am Choral Eucharist, we will welcome the Revd Raymond Baudon as our preacher and Lewisham Choral Society as our visiting choir. Please note that due to filming on other parts of the ORNC site, post-service refreshments will be served in the Mews Schoolroom.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

chaplain@ornc.org

T: 020 8269 4796

M: 07814 704704