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**Weekly Letter – 30 April 2023**

**Fourth Sunday after Easter**

**John 10.1-11**

Today we are once again presented with an image of Jesus as the 'Good Shepherd'. It's a beautiful 1<sup>st</sup> century image of God becoming man because he desired that you "might have life and have it more abundantly". John 10.10

This means that Jesus Christ came to nourish you, enlighten your conscience and encourage you to open your hearts and minds to the inexhaustible layer of meaning in the life you have been given.

Remembering that you have free-will means God will never in a month of Sundays force his truths upon you. You have to seek him. You have to make a choice to open yourself up to his love. You, alone have to ask Him to sustain you. He most definitely can't impose himself on your fundamental human freedoms! If he did, you would be his puppet, and love would become meaningless.

Perhaps this image might help you? When a calf is hungry, it goes to its mother to receive the milk it needs to live. If you watch a cow it does not follow its calf around the field, nor does it immediately give its milk. What happens is the calf knocks with its nose the cow's udder, and then begins to suck. Once those two actions have happened then milk is freely given. Sometimes when the cow decides its given its calf enough it will just walk away!

So you too must knock, seek and ask.

Now of course you know this, and the more you knock, seek and ask, the greater abundance of God's guidance will come your way.

Why does Jesus Christ ask you to knock, seek and ask? Loves only desire can be to encourage you to be yourself. God's only desire is to give you the necessary 'milk' to strengthen your unique humanity. He desires that you become fully 'you'. St Thomas Aquinas said, "Grace is given to build upon your nature". God's only desire is for you to be you.

Clearly this requires a great deal of effort on your behalf – to be honest with yourself and God, that is to remember you have strengths and limitations, just like all the saints. Often you feel rather little and unsure. So do all the saints. You sometimes suffer and struggle. So do all the saints. But what we can all do as we acknowledge on the one hand our darkness, our uncertainties, our understandable questions, and therefore the risks we are taking, is that deep down we know we need that 'milk' – the truth to guide the goodness in us – to be our true selves – saints.

***Stephen***

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Linda Woollacott  
Bible Reading: John 10.1-10: 1 Peter 2.19-25.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Uniting Church Sketty  
Prayers for every Household – Manselton Road even nos. 138-172

**Tea and Chat – Christ Well – Tuesday – 2<sup>nd</sup> May - 2p-4pm** - Bunting making for the Community Coronation Afternoon Tea

### **Birthdays in May**

#### **Advance Notice - Christian Aid Week 14-20 May**

The Christian Aid Quiz will be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May, at 7 pm, so it's time to think about getting your teams ready for an evening of fun and laughter, presided over by our usual quiz master - Jeff Prangle - enough said!!

**King's Coronation Garden Party – 8 May (12-3 pm) at St John's Day Centre (BBQ, Cream Tea and Entertainment).** If anyone would like to help in the preparation for the event they are very welcome to join Adella & other volunteers from 11.00 at St John's.

### **A Prayer for the King and Queen**

Eternal God,  
You order and govern our world and all that is therein,  
bless, we pray Charles and Camilla  
that they may feel your loving presence,  
and fulfil faithfully the roles prescribed for them,  
and that we may in this kingdom be better governed,  
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come.  
Amen.  
(source - United Reformed Church)

