

St Gilberts Cathedral

Lincoln.

Trinity Sunday.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

During the Covid 19 pandemic, churches throughout the land were forced to close. One consequence of the closures has been an acceleration in the decline of Christians failing to return to the pews. You could argue, that in this so-called post Christian era the closures provided the perfect excuse for some to simply walk away.

Here in Lincoln, we too sadly witnessed decline and losses in part through the tragic passing of three of our most devout worshippers and three who in one case relocated to Scotland and two who wanted life to be different. However, I am really pleased to confirm that the majority remain fully committed to the Kingdom of God and contribute richly to our services.

There can be no real substitute to corporate worship for worship provides the perfect escape from the tyranny of self, and in my experience we all need to escape from ourselves from time to time. Worship is a fundamental need of the soul, and if this instinct is smothered and in the case of Covid 19 denied, the soul simply cannot breathe and grow. Worship turns thought away from our own pains and problems and lifts it onto a supernatural level.

Intercessory and supplicatory prayers spring from our personal desires, but true worship is a self-effacing act of adoration. Some people are so busy asking God to do things for them or to give them some special gift that they seldom remember to praise Him for Himself. The greatest prayer in the world begins with worship: "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy name."

So, when we worship God, we put ourselves into a physical and mental posture of humility and this is a good thing. It establishes the right relation between creature and creator. If therefore, we train our minds to see God's glory in every loving thing we shall live in an atmosphere of perpetual worship. To try to live without God is in fact to cut yourself off from your natural sources of energy and inspiration. Worship is as necessary for the health of the soul as food, water and exercise are for the health of the body.

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord." - LUKE 1.46.

May God Bless You all.

In Christ Jesus

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