

A NEW KIND OF FAMILY

BEING CHURCH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Read:
Matthew 17:22-end

"The collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?"

GOOD VALUE

BY LAURA MARTIN

Joined with Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death at human hands, the scene in which Jesus is expected to pay the temple tax because he is regarded as a foreigner rather than as the Son of God, harkens back to the line from the opening of John's Gospel, "He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his people did not accept him" (*John 1:10-11*).

In our world today, we find that many people continue to reject Christ and resist his radical kingdom values. Christ and his teachings of justice, equality, respect, mutual flourishing and peace are frequently marginalised by politics, media and culture.



As Christians, we are called to hold the powerful to account and to speak God's kingdom of justice and peace into a world of ever-increasing confusion and hurt. We are also called to watch for Christ and to recognise where He is already at work in the world, not only acknowledging his presence but speaking out about what we see and hear of God as we look for signs of His kingdom breaking through.

So, let us continue to yearn for the Kingdom of God - a community of love where everybody is valued, loved and respected - and seek to build that kingdom both in our parish and in the wider world. We could do this through our willingness to challenge prejudice, injustice, inequality and poverty, and also through prayer, contemplation, love, and practical action.

To reflect upon:

- Have you fully welcomed Christ and his kingdom values into your life?
- Where can you recognise Christ at work in your life or the life of those around you?
- What injustices are concerning you today and can you commit to challenging - or praying about - any of these issues?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help me get to know you better and to long for your kingdom to come. Give me the courage to live by your kingdom values, to make the right choices and to be willing to speak out for equality, justice and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.