

Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26

For reflection and prayer

- **Jeremiah 17:** Jeremiah reminds us that we each have a choice - to trust in ourselves and live without God, or to trust in God and follow His way. The latter is life-giving. We live in a society today where most people seem to trust in anything and everything but God. And yet there is a growing interest in spirituality. It might be good for us to reflect this week on what or on whom our hearts are set. Are our choices leading us to life in all its fullness? Or is there an emptiness and a lack of meaning which have a deadening effect on us? Where does God fit into our life - at the periphery, or at the centre?
- **Psalm 1:** As with Jeremiah, the Psalmist outlines two ways open to us: the way of God, the way of Love, the way of Goodness, that is, delighting in pleasing God, in living as God wants us to - the way that leads to life, fruitfulness and blessing, because we know that, whatever life brings, we share it with God by our side, so that we experience growth out of pain, hope out of despair etc. The other way is the way of self-centredness which is not satisfying or life-giving. How important it is for us to be in community and to support one another and encourage one another in the path that leads to life. Let's be open this week to God's Spirit and affirm everyone we meet, encouraging them in the way of Love and Life.
- **1 Corinthians 15:** The hope of resurrection is central to the Christian faith. We have this hope and assurance as Christians that we will live in union with God for ever. But we don't have to wait until after death before we experience resurrection. We can open ourselves to the risen life of Jesus here and now and live in intimate fellowship with Him today. Our choices in the little things determine our bigger choices. How can we open ourselves to God so that new life is ours day by day because we have made that our choice? How can we cultivate a closer walk with God here and now? This is God's desire for us; and He has made Himself wholly available to us. But we need to respond to His gesture of generosity and extravagant giving.
- **Luke 6:** People flocked to Jesus to touch Him and receive some of the energy surging from Him, and to be healed by Him. Do we have that longing to share in the new life that Jesus came to bring us? These blessings and curses challenge us as Christians to reflect on where our faith lies and how our faith affects how we operate day by day. Where are we finding our security - in God or in things? How much of what we call faith is really faith? We might like to ask ourselves what we are living for, what is driving us, what we are passionate about. To what extent are we experiencing Kingdom life, living by the Spirit of God, living by the values Jesus taught which are totally opposed to the values of the world? We have choices to make each day. Do we bring God into these choices, or do we go our way, with no thought of whether our choices are in line with who God is and who He wants each one of us to be? Much to reflect on prayerfully.