

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 6th September, 13th Sunday after Trinity

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| Old Testament Reading: | Ezekiel 33: 7-11 |
| Psalm: | Psalm 119: 33-40 |
| New Testament: | Roman 13: 8-end |
| Gospel Reading: | Matthew 18: 15-20 |

Reflection on the Gospel reading:

In this passage, Jesus offers a blueprint for resolving conflict: first, go to the person alone; only if there is no resolution do we get a few others involved; only then should the conflict become widely known, and finally the broken relationship is acknowledged. In this approach we hear the view of the other person and perhaps realize that the fault lies not with them but with us – or, more often, with a combination of people and misunderstanding. The process starts in private, and its far easier to acknowledge fault when it's done before only one or two people, thus avoiding public humility. Wisdom comes in honouring the position of the other person and avoiding gossiping and point scoring.

In the 6th century, Benedict wrote a rule for monks that incorporated Jesus' approach to conflict resolution. He was also at pains to avoid 'murmuratio', or grumbling, which could undermine any community as surely as it undermined the Israelites, with their hardened hearts, wandering in the wilderness. Grumbling goes viral like a flashmob as people can gossip and plot over coffee and in cliques. The response for Jesus and Benedict is attentiveness. If someone upset you, don't gossip about them but instead make time and space for them. Listen, understand and respond with love. If, finally, you have to acknowledge a broken relationship, you can do so knowing you worked for peace and reconciliation. Reflection by Paul Kennedy, Copyright ©The Archbishops' Council 2016.

collect for the 13th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to
yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of
your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to
you; through him who was lifted up on the
cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning
Worship,
Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

**A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of
England.** This is a free number where you can
listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join
in worship with others.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers