

*St Mary's Fortnightly Sunday School Newsletter***10th Edition****"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**

John 14:15

**WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS**

Lots of chances to volunteer: helping with Sunday School if you're good with kids; serving food and cooking at our lunch clubs; flower arranging if you're arty; social media if you're tech-aware. Let Fr Morris know.

A SAINT TO KNOW

On Tuesday 21st we celebrate St Matthew. He's known as Levi when we're told about his conversion in At Luke 5:27-32. He wrote the Gospel that bears his name in the Bible. The unique things in his gospel include an emphasis on the story of St Joseph in chapters 1 & 2.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 10 Commandments were written on a set of stones presented by Moses on Mount Sinai to the Israelites who had escaped Egypt. These are a set of guidelines God has given us in which to live our lives and draw closer to Him.

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THE 10 COMMANDMENTS?

Whilst the 10 commandments may feel like they were written a long time ago written for the Christians of thousands of years ago and not meant for our time. This is so far from the truth, God's rules are as relevant to today as they were back then.

Think of the commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." I'm sure you've never thought about kneeling down to pray to small gold statues, but can we honestly say that there is nothing in our lives we put above God. It might be a hobby, job, money or a person that is absorbing all our time and energy. We're told our God is a jealous God, He shows us that we will never find true peace in anything other than Him. These false idols are temporary distractions. Jesus reminds us:

"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."



PAYING TAXES

by *Father Morris*

What do you want to be when you leave education? One question a first century Jew would not want to give is to be a tax collector. This was because tax collectors worked for the hated Roman Empire and you'd have to come in to contact with Gentiles (non-Jews). This is why time and again tax collectors are lumped together with sinners and other undesirables in the Gospels (eg. St Mark 2:15-16).

As normal, Jesus does exactly the opposite of what people thought He should: He goes and calls a tax collector to follow him, St Matthew. He's known here as Levi but God has a habit of changing people's names (eg. Abram becomes Abraham and Saul becomes Paul).

The Government has recently announced that National Insurance contributions will rise to help pay for Health and Social Care. Christians believe we should pay our taxes (St Mark 12:17) and have a concern that those most in need are supported. This should be balanced with our other beliefs: that individuals have to make decisions of what to do and that it should pay to work.

The concept of tithing is introduced early in the Old Testament where Abram gives a tenth of everything to God via King Melchizedek (Genesis 14:19-20). God is the source of all that we have and we offer it back to Him in thanksgiving. Not the last tenth or the worst tenth, but the first and the best tenth.

OUR 10TH EDITION!

Thank you to all our readers over the last 9 editions. We've shared music, ideas, Bible scripture and lessons. We hope to continue to provide you with content to help you on your christian journey and to do that it would be great to hear from you. Tell us of any ideas, opinions or thoughts you have to make our newsletters better for you.

Please email us at s.marysoffice@btinternet.com

KNOW YOUR SCRIPTURE

The list of the 10 commandments can be found Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

- You shall have no other gods before Me.
- You shall make no idols.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Keep the Sabbath day holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet.

Find these passages in your bible and try re-writing them in a way that would make it clear for young people today to understand what God was warning them about.