



Sunday 22 November – SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

A REFLECTION BY MARY SERGEL

I have never been an avid reader of books but, occasionally I find one which grips my attention, so I keep reading to the end. No, I don't read the last chapter before I begin, to find out how it ends!!

In my experience of life thus far, I have had a similar attitude and, in one way, I have some idea of what will happen after this life has ended, and this gives me hope, joy and peace to cope with the ups, downs and uncertainties of life.

So often in this time of the Coronavirus, many people are expressing their fear, depression, despair and lack of hope. They want to know the end of the story before we get there. The simple truth is that no human being knows the answer because no one has been through this before – not even the Prime Minister!

In my recent Bible readings, I have been reading the accounts of Ruth (in the book named after her) and Joseph (in Genesis chapters 37-50). In these passages we find exactly the same emotions that we experience. In both stories God is clearly working in the background and He had the long view, which neither Ruth nor Joseph could see as they lived through their experiences, but they had to live one day at a time. How true that is for us today!

If you enjoy a good story, I recommend these two, but the Bible goes on, in both the Old and New Testaments to give us hope in our trials.

We are approaching Christmas! This year it may be very different for us all in the way we celebrate, but the truth of Christmas is that Jesus came to give us **Hope – Hope** of eternal life, through His death on the cross and His resurrection. We don't have to wait till the end of our life on earth, we can have that hope **now** by accepting His free gift.

Mary Sergel

Please click here www.allsaintsmilford.co.uk to find the church website.

Our Sunday service can be found [here](#), from 8am on Sunday.

TODAY'S COLLECT

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

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TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

[Ephesians 1:15-end](#)

[Matthew 25:31-end](#)

NEWS

- **Priest-in-Charge Recruitment** - Following a successful advertising campaign a strong group of candidates has been called for interview in early December. Please continue to pray for God's hand on the selection process to deliver the right person for our community.
- **Parish Magazine** – the copy date for contributions for the January magazine is 12 noon on Thursday 26 November. Please send copy to [Jackie Parker](#) and [Valerie Kidd](#).
- **Prayer for the Nation** – Pray daily at 6pm. More information is on the [Church of England website](#)
- **Advent Windows** – Advent Windows will be 'opening' around the Milford and Everton from Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday). Please [sign up on our website](#) to find where they are located.
- **Christmas Eve Christingle** – Thurs 24 December, 4pm by Zoom. Please [sign up](#) here.
- **Christmas Giveaways** – we have ordered some lovely Christmas booklets to be included in our Christingle Packs this year. Please [let us know](#) if you would like to contribute to them financially.

PRAYER POINTS

Proverbs 31:8 (GNB)

"Speak up for people who cannot speak up for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless"

- God of righteousness; hear our prayer for those who seek justice for women suffering from gender violence and for the victims of modern-day slavery.
- We give thanks for the scientists who have developed vaccines to protect us against Covid-19.
- We pray for our Prime Minister and all those self-isolating; for our government, local councils and police as they enforce the latest regulations. We pray for the Lockdown to be effective.
- We pray for all those in hospital and for all staff caring for them, especially in ICU 's.
- We give thanks for all the businesses and individuals who continue to donate to Food Banks; and for the volunteers who work in them.
- We bring our church members and leaders before you, Lord; asking you to provide for their needs; giving strength and hope as we wait for the person of your choice to be selected as our Vicar.

CONTACTING US

- **The Church Office is closed.** Lesley is working from home Tues-Thurs, 9am-11.30am and can be contacted by email office@allsaintsmilford.co.uk or telephone (07842 544711).
- **St Mary's** | Gillian Peard | 01590 644739 **All Saints'** | Francis & Tina Cumberlege | 01590 719421
- **Prayer Team** | Libby Gillespie-Smith | 01590 643964 | Mary Sergel | 01590 645544
- **Pastoral Care** | Sue Forward | 01590 644553 | Frances Daniel | 01590 642127
- **Safeguarding** | Annabelle Short | 07514 471545 | safe@allsaintsmilford.co.uk
- **Website** | www.allsaintsmilford.co.uk/ **Facebook** | <https://facebook.com/AllSaintsMilfordOnSea>
- **In an emergency** please contact our Churchwardens Olga (07835 821728) or Matt (01590 642310)

Please email news to admin@allsaintsmilford.co.uk by 9am Wednesday.