



## A Reflection for Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Readings - Romans 14. 1-12 & Matthew 18. 21-35

We make appropriate and necessary judgements all the time. Everyday living requires us to make judgments in order to keep ourselves and those we encounter safe. That is possibly never more so than at the present time. We may be lamenting over the times when we could be out and about without being concerned about viral safety. The letter of Paul reflects a society that we can easily identify with. For we too make judgements about individuals.

*Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*

*Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.*

*We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

The way in which we cope with being judged and to acknowledge that we judge others can create many issues in terms of our personal well being. Paul offers a positive antidote to our judgmental society. We are not to be people who pass judgement on individuals. We are not to spend our finite time being critical as we look down on others.

We are loved by the Creator of all things. In Christ we are called to be children of God. We are to be brothers and sisters in Christ who are to truly love our neighbour as ourselves. Love and not to judge.

The stark reality is, that if, there is any judging to be done there is one who will judge and that is in God's hands and not ours. There is no distinction between all people for we are all accountable to God.

I do appreciate that this may not be easy to consider and may pull us up short but that is surely better when we have time to do something about it. Our way of living is to be all about love as in Christ we can live a full life regardless of what others think about us. Jesus calls us to be people who are ready to forgive, to love and not to judge.

Thank you for reading and please keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Adrian's music choices for Trinity Fourteen. Hymn: 453 Great is thy faithfulness.  
Psalm: 119, vv. 65-72. Organ: Sonata No. 3 (1st movt.) - Felix Mendelssohn*

*If you are able, join me for a service of holy communion from The Priory.  
Live streaming from 10.55am. Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*

*Image - The Last Judgement by Michelangelo*