

St Richard of Chichester

Tuesday 16 June 2020

Richard de Wych (or ‘of Droitwich’ as it is today) was born there in 1197. He first worked for his yeoman father to restore his family’s fortunes.

Richard then studied at Oxford, Paris, then Bologna as a Church lawyer. He returned to England in 1235 to become Chancellor of Oxford University then Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Richard was made Bishop of Chichester and was soon recognised as a model bishop. He progressed round his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, generally being accessible to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with a proper dignity.

Richard fell ill at Dover while recruiting for the Crusades. He died there on 3 April 1253 and his remains carried to Chichester on this day in the year 1276.



Statue of Richard in the grounds of Chichester Cathedral

- All Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymn is a Youtube link. Please hover the mouse over the link, press Ctrl and then return.

HYMN Make me a channel of your peace [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.'

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
 with all your soul, with all your mind,
 and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Gloria

Click [here](#) for the tune for this version of the Gloria (the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda').

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

**Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Richard of Chichester

Most merciful Redeemer,
who gave to your bishop Richard a love of learning,
a zeal for souls and a devotion to the poor:
grant that, encouraged by his example,
we may know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are alive and reign,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of Job

Job said, 'If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold. My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured in my bosom the words of his mouth. But he stands alone and who can dissuade him?

What he desires, that he does. For he will complete what he appoints for me; and many such things are in his mind.' *Job 23:8-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.' But when it says, 'All things are put in subjection,' it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

As the disciples were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

To another he said, 'Follow me;' but he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' *John 21:15-19*

This is the Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

St Richard of Chichester was famous for caring for everyone and making himself available to people regardless of background. He walked among people with fewer material or intellectual gifts than his own, and with those who spend their days working for others. He gained degrees and was ordained as a priest in order to help everyday people.

We know St Richard was an orphan. He had seen both the best and the worst of life. Most likely he will have felt unloved and thought sometimes that he had lost everything. We all know ‘that’ feeling, with the world on our shoulders; when those we loved have gone; when all we want to do is hide under the duvet! But Richard seems to have been a resilient man and carried on regardless. He picked himself up and fought back.

Picking ourselves up and carrying on is one of the hardest fights of life. It would be easy to lie down and close our eyes. Thankfully Richard didn’t. He was therefore another example of how we, as people of faith, should fight to help *everyone*.

Like Jesus, St Richard of Chichester sought to bring God and His love to everyone. He spread that message to everyone, giving them hope. He didn’t work for those inside the Church already, for those safely behind closed doors, paying for those with money, but he spread it widely, just as we should be doing. Part of his message was resilience: everyone should love God as far as they can. Even when we feel we’ve been knocked back, we should continue to love everyone and use that love to help the everyday labouring person.

The world can sometimes seem a scary place. It certainly feels so at the moment, and feels as though it’s getting worse. But we also see people fighting for causes regardless of cost. We all need to continue working for God whether we’ve been held back by our class, sexuality, race, religion, or gender. We may need to fight against ‘the system’ in order to spread the love of God. The fight may involve risks and activism as we seek for peace and equity everywhere and to share God’s love.

Some people may say that life is a matter of the survival of the fittest, but it shouldn’t feel that way. The Kingdom of God is different. It teaches us to support one another, holding each other up, just as God wants us to do. Like St Richard, we should spread the love of God to *everyone*!

There will be dark days where the fight may seem impossible and we will want to give up. St Richard must’ve felt exactly the same and maybe often. However, we

need to embrace every moment of our lives—even the bad ones—for they have made us who we are and will most likely strengthen our love and service for God. If we're going through a rough moment, we need to remember that we are capable of getting up to fight because we have God beside us. We are someone else's reason to get up: we can deliver the message of God to those who need it, to bring them a reason to fight for themselves, for others, and hopefully for the Kingdom of God.

We are all born equal before God. So, when you have got back up, we can go to those who are different to us and maybe needy, poor or helpless, and give them our all. We need to be like St Richard: standing beside everyone because there is no hierarchy in the Kingdom of God. We don't need a denominational Church in order to spread God love. All of us are commoners in His Kingdom. God's love can be spread everywhere and by everyone.

As brothers and sisters, we can fight with the help of God to treat everyone as equals without hierarchy or politics. We can talk about God with one another. That's a good reason to fight! With God's help, we can find the fight within ourselves and work together to spread God's love to many, many more people. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel: that's why we have trust and have Faith in God.

Prayers of intercession

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your Spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.
Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.

Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the good news of your healing love.

Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

We summarise these prayers using the words of St Richard himself,
Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

All Amen

The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All And also with you.

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who has transformed those we remember today,
raise and strengthen you that you may transform the world;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost,
restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name, for ever praising you and saying,

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Richard of Chichester and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
because we all share in one bread.

All **Lamb of God,**
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**All We do not presume
 to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
 trusting in our own righteousness,
 but in your manifold and great mercies.
 We are not worthy
 so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
 But you are the same Lord
 whose nature is always to have mercy.
 Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
 so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
 and to drink his blood,
 that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
 and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
 and that we may evermore dwell in him,
 and he in us. Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God, shepherd of your people,
 whose servant Richard revealed the loving service of Christ
 in his ministry as a pastor of your people:
 by this eucharist in which we share
 awaken within us the love of Christ
 and keep us faithful to our Christian calling;
 through him who laid down his life for us,
 but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever.

All Amen

**All Almighty God,
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out
 in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work
 to your praise and glory. Amen.**