



9th Sunday after Trinity | Sermon – Revd Stan Evans

‘Jesus said to them: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty’

Well, this pandemic has most certainly focused the mind on ‘what do we have to eat’ and how on earth are we going to manage. There is so much pain and deprivation, poverty and yes, hunger. That surely must be our focus if we are a living and caring church looking outward to our community and those we serve.

It is a well-known fact that people and communities on low incomes tend to be proportionately more generous than those with apparently more surplus to share. Is this because they are more virtuous? Probably not.

Is it because we all feel obliged to give a bare minimum whatever our economic status? May be.

Does it illustrate our strong attachment to the things of this world?

Most certainly.

We are creatures of the dust, inextricably bound to this mortal life. But Jesus calls us to something higher, and his gift is of a different order.

This Gospel story lays it on the line. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the son of man will give you -

Well, try telling that to those lining up outside the homeless project in Arrecife here on Lanzarote, or the mother desperately trying to make ends meet.

The Revd Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

So how can we make a difference?

How can we change lives and change people's attitude?

We work tirelessly for material things because we fear that without them, we perish. At the end of the day – what is it that really matters to us?

The gift of God is truly what 'gives life'. The bread of life brings that inner strength and Jesus challenges us as to how we live. Time and again his message is to 'seek first the kingdom of God', and huge amounts of effort, time and material resources go into maintaining and improving our physical well-being.

Yet all this will pass.

Mindful of this fact, we work to ensure that the maximum amount of anything we have can be passed to our children. Over, under and through everything we pass down the line is the 'value' of our obsession with material things. How can we effectively leave a legacy that teaches the opposite of this to future generations?

We often seek miracles to solve our problems or prove our faith. But Jesus said – 'This is the work of God, to believe in him whom he has sent'. Discipleship is not about validating ourselves, or the Church, or even the Gospel – but is getting to know Jesus and to walk in his footsteps.

Sadly, the reality of our world is that we, yes the wealthy and powerful of the world, having bread and food, decide who will get it. And sadly the poor still go hungry.

The Revd Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

We are confused about what the solutions might be. So I think it is very relevant that in the Lord's prayer, that great family prayer of the Church taught us by Jesus himself, after words of praise to God, the first plea we make, top of the agenda is 'Give us today our daily bread'.

So confronted with so many problems how can we possibly make a difference. Week by week we come and are fed by God's Word on the way to the breaking of bread together – but first of all we must be fed by the bread of heaven the bread of life in our hearts.

We are called to sow the seeds of love and understanding, of caring and loving and sharing – there is no greater harvest than in bringing others to know the love of Jesus in their hearts. We give thanks and our key word should be 'gratitude' for all that God does for each one of us on a day-by-day basis.

We must never forget that each one of us is called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I am amazed at the lack of understanding I find about ordinary Christian life. I find also that so many do not even know the name of Jesus and what it means to follow him and be part of the Christian family and Christian life. Most are living ordinary lives, different yes in some ways from yours and mine, and in many ways no different at all. And that's where the seeds are sown. Quite simply in our everyday world, there have to be ways in which as a Christian community – with each one of us as members- can make a fresh difference to the way things are – to the way the world around us is.

The Revd Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

What do we believe the Holy Spirit is saying to us at this time?

And put it in its most simplest, it's about evangelisation – about bridging the gap between people, carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ further into people's hearts and lives than ever before. It's about sharing good news with them – the good news of what God in Jesus has done for us and the real difference that makes, and can make not only for us, but for everyone, and for our world.

That is our aim for our Chaplaincy. To fan the flame of faith and hope.

So it is the business for everyone.

It is only by that sharing and caring that we can change people's lives and help us all to focus on the true food which sustains us through this earthly life with our goal being that heavenly banquet to which we are all invited.

So may we ourselves embrace more generously and joyfully this way and this new life of the Lord.

I close with this prayer in thankfulness for all he has done for us:

God our Father,

You have given us new life in your son Jesus Christ

And poured out your Spirit upon us.

Renew us by that new Spirit

And transform us into the image of Christ

That by the power of His love within us

Others may come to know Him as Saviour

And follow him as their Lord.

Amen