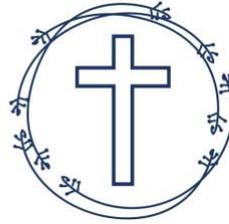


LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Sixth Sunday after Trinity – 11th July 2021

Read Mark 6.14-29

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Today's gospel reading is part of the story of John the Baptist. He was Jesus' cousin who taught people about God, and encouraged them to lead good lives. John criticised King Herod's wife, Herodias, so she was angry and wanted to kill John. But King Herod respected him and knew that he was a holy man.

At a party, Herod promises his stepdaughter anything she wants and, encouraged by her mother, she asks for the death of John the Baptist. Herod doesn't want to execute John but he decides that he must keep his promise because he doesn't want to lose face in front of his guests.



What do you think about Herod's promise to his stepdaughter? Was it sensible to promise her whatever she wants? Do you think he was trying to "show off" in front of his guests? Did Herod make a wise choice? Did he do what was right? Herod was a powerful man – a King. But who is the powerful person in this story?

People who are in powerful positions have to be careful to use their authority in the right way. They have to think carefully about what is right and what is wrong. They have to think about the consequences of their words and actions. Can you think of any people you know who have some authority over you? You might think of your parents or teachers at school or politicians. These are all people who try to make the right decisions in order to look after you.

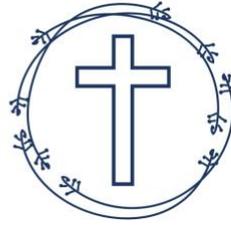
Each one of us can influence other people by what we say or do. We can influence our friends or people at school or at work or at church. But we, in turn, may also be influenced by other people or by social media. Do you think that you are influenced by celebrities or by what you see on social media?

God wants us to think carefully before we say or do things, so that we can be like Jesus and show that we care for each other.

Activity

- Look through newspapers and magazines, or browse the internet, for images of people who have power and influence in our world, and over our lives – e.g. world leaders, activists, celebrities and advertisers/influencers. Make a collage of the images, or write the people's names, placing them under three headings according to how their influence is perceived: positive, negative or both. Think about the influence you have over others – is it always positive?

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- Make a short video about social media and how it influences people. On the video discuss some of the positive and negative aspects of social media.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunities you give us to be an influence for good in our world. Help us to make the right choices about our words and actions and to encourage one another to do that little bit of good where we are. Inspire us to dream big dreams, and help us to make the world a better place. Amen.