

**Timeless!**

[Proverbs 25<sup>6-7</sup>; Psalm 112;] Hebrews 13<sup>1-8,15-16</sup>; Luke 14<sup>1,7-14</sup>

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.*

[Hebrews 13<sup>8</sup>]

Adnan and Samira have had a few changes in their life - I don't imagine that they thought they would end up in Handsworth and have the joy of being together with their wonderful children, Ryan and Ronika, and having become part of the Church family here at St Mary's - when the English language has failed, the language of being held on God's love and in ours has broken through. It is always a particular joy as a Parish Priest to baptise those who are part of our worshipping community.

Amidst all the changes in this world, the faith of the Church is one that proclaims the timelessness and dependability of knowing **Jesus Christ** who **is the same yesterday and today and for ever**.

I do wonder what will have to happen to bring our divided society together after all the current political upheaval. After the upheaval of the Civil War in England and the execution of Charles I followed by Oliver Cromwell, Charles II came to the throne in 1660 and then published the Book of Common Prayer in 1662 and through that managed to draw his kingdom to pray together and thereby to build trust.

What we celebrate in our faith is not a passing phase, but that fixed on Jesus, the past the present and the future are held by God. Whatever happens in the world around us or to us in the world, it is an embrace that will never be relaxed.

✠ **Yesterday:** Jesus was God's partner in the creation of the world who chose to be born as a child to do for humans what they could not do for themselves: to deal with the divide we created between ourselves and God.

When we accept this, our past is forgiven and forgotten by God.

✠ **Today:** We celebrate baptism, in which we celebrate the resurrection from death and the new life God gives. We know that this risen Christ is with us today and that we are held by God.

Each day is a new day in God's grace - we begin again and again and again, and in each try to be be more like Jesus.

✠ **Forever:** we heard the words, **I will never leave you or forsake you**, and know that there is nothing we can do that hasn't already been forgiven and that our focus is on being with God.

If this were a Dedication of a baby, I would ask the parents if they accepted their child as a gift of God and then ask if they would remain faithful to their child wherever they may go and what ever the future would hold. The problem with that is that some human expressions of love aren't unconditional and they aren't dependable. In Baptism, however, it is something entirely dependent on God - and we trust him.

I do not know what changes there will in the world in which Ronika lives, but I trust her to God and God is dependable.