

The Benefice of Cogenhoe and Great Houghton  
and Little Houghton with Brafield on the Green

## Sermon 11 April 2021, second Sunday of Easter

Reverend Irene

John 6 35-40 Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh.

*May I speak in the name of the Father.....*

The message of today's gospel is simply that everything points to Jesus, everyone who looks to Jesus, God's Son, and believes in him will have eternal life and be raised up on the last day! Jesus had miraculously just fed 5000 men, even more people if we include women and children, for certainly people would have followed Jesus in family groups. With only five small loaves and two small fishes to hand everyone was fed and there was food left over! Perhaps people wanted Jesus to continue to provide their food without them having to work for it, who knows? But if they did, they missed Jesus' point. So, Jesus, who didn't mince his words, gave it straight "I am the bread of life". With these few words, Jesus offered himself to us as God, or to use an T word Yahweh, to provide for us spiritual growth and eternal life after death. Jesus goes on to say "**Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me, will never be thirsty.**" So, there we have it. In Jesus, all our spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied, we have this blessing as long as we believe in him. The important point here is that we choose to "believe" and live our lives faithfully with God through his grace, by study his word through reading the bible and receiving the sacraments through being with others in our church communities. The most comforting words of the gospel passage come at the end "**And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.**" This is indeed the will of my father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and **I will raise them up on the last day**". That is our belief and our hope, and because of that promise we can find comfort through tears when someone

we love dies. Our prayers are with the queen today as she comes to term with the death of Prince Philip, her husband and consort of over 70 years. For all their extraordinary married life Philip was her husband, friend and mainstay, he firmly led the family and supported the Queen; he was her rock in times of trouble, he was the love of her life, the father of her children and her escape from the pressures of life in the spotlight. The death of a hardworking man at the age of 99 years old should not come as a shock, but the truth is that whenever death calls, it is never the right time. The Queen and the Royal family will be in shock at this time, and like the rest of us who face bereavement, they will have to grieve in their own way for the man they loved and respected. In the end, they will know that their lives were richer for having him as husband, father, grandfather or whatever the capacity was. Prince Philips health had been deteriorating for some time, but the family dealt with that in their own quiet way and it seems that God called him quietly home with family at his side. Like the Queen, Prince Philip was a man of faith who believed firmly in God, his hard-working time on earth is done and he is now at peace in a place where there is no more pain or distress. He has received God's glorious promise for himself because he believed in him; the promise of eternal life with God the Father, who created him and loves him.

Amen