

## A few Words on the Readings Patrick White

**Isaiah 50 4:-9a.** This passage contains the 3rd of four songs, known as the Servant Songs. Each one is written by the servant of Yahveh, sometimes called the suffering servant because in his desire to serve God, he is cruelly treated. The New Testament portrays Christ as the suffering servant. In the Book of Acts Philip in his conversation with the Etheopian eunuch identifies Christ as the person Isaiah is referring to. In this song the servant presents himself as the faithful disciple who listens to God's word and courageously tries to put it into practice. He puts himself totally in God's hands and accepts his suffering. He knows that God is on the side of those who serve him. *It is the Lord God who helps me.*

**James 3:1-12** James speaks of the responsibility of those who teach in the church. He urges all Christians to be careful in what they say, to be consistent and faithful to the gospel and not to mis-use their words.

**Mark 8.27-end** Jesus asks his disciples about his identity. Peter declares him to be the Messiah. His statement sometimes known as his confession marks a turning point in Jesus's ministry. However Peter did not expect the follow up that Jesus gives. For the first time Jesus speaks of his passion. His words echo those of Isaiah in today's Old Testament, words which are at odds with Peter's understanding of a Messiah. As Jesus speaks of himself he also sets out what we as disciples are to expect as his followers: *let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

### Radio & TV:

**Sunday Worship Radio 4** 8.10am *Finding a voice* - the National Youth Choir of Wales.

**Songs of Praise BBC 1** at **1.45 pm** *Pendel Radicals* - Sean Fletcher climbs Pendel Hill in Lancashire to learn how the area inspired radical Christians in the past. James Lusted meets a local pastor continuing the tradition.

**Choral Evensong** BBC Radio 3 Sunday 3pm from St. David's Cathedral, Wednesday **4.00 pm** from Edington Priory

**The Daily Service** (15 m) Weekdays at 9h45 on BBC Radio 4 long wave.

**Daily Hope** is a free phonenumber of hymns, reflections, and prayers ring **0800 804 8044**.