

# NEWSLETTER



*This newsletter contains details of the upcoming events of the month, including Candlemas, together with news about our new Assistant Curate, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, our Calcutta link and of course the usual Vicar's letter, daily intentions for prayer and more.*

## Highlights of February

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

### **Candlemas or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

7:45am Low Mass

7pm High Mass with Candlemas ceremonies

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**The Revd Dr Rob Marshall from Lightline Pilgrimages will talk after the 10:30am High Mass about our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2018.**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

### **Monthly Healing Mass**

10am *preceded by prayers for the sick at 9:45am in the Lady Chapel. All welcome to this meditative service where personal prayer & anointing with oil are offered during the Mass.*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February

### **Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary**

7:30pm Office & Benediction at Fen Ditton parish church. *All welcome.*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### **4:30pm Bible Study in the parish centre.**

Exploring chapter five of John's Gospel, ending with Evening Prayer at 6pm.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

### **Mothers' Union Meeting**

10:30am – Prayers *in the Lady Chapel*; 11am – Coffee *in the Parish Centre.*

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*Advance Notice:*

### **Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Low Mass with ashing 10am & 12:30pm

High Mass with ashing 7pm

## From the Vicar

S. Thomas Aquinas, 2017  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In 2015 I buried the last stipendiary Assistant Curate of Little Saint Mary's. Fr Jeremy Bunting had been appointed here back in the 1960s and his funeral Mass took place at LSM two summers ago. Other than sharing part of Fr Tom Mendel with Downing College in the 1980s (his son is presently a theology undergraduate at Clare College!), LSM has not had a curate for over fifty years.

I'm pleased to say that this is about to change. From July this year we will welcome a stipendiary (i.e. paid) Assistant Curate. Fr Max was a non-stipendiary Assistant Curate – he earns his crust working in the Classics Faculty of Cambridge University – and both the fact and success of his time with us has encouraged the Bishop of Ely to designate LSM a training parish and move from a non-stipendiary to a stipendiary Assistant Curate's post here. I'm very grateful to the Bishop of Ely for his trust in me and in our parish as a good place for a priest to start their ministry.

I should immediately add that this has no impact on Fr Max and I hope he'll be with us for a long time – while recognising that it will be good for him to be able to move on to a stipendiary post himself in due course.

The person being sent to us is a little out of the ordinary... For a start, he is already ordained! The Rev'd Gregory Lipovsky was for many years both a Roman Catholic monk and priest in Hungary and then Italy. A few years ago he felt called to the Anglican Communion and is spending this year learning more about Anglicanism at S. Stephen's House in Oxford.

I'm grateful to Fr Gregory for writing a little about himself for us later in the newsletter. While he has been both a monk and a priest he has not run an ordinary parish nor, obviously, has he been a priest in the Church of England. Consequently, he is being appointed here as an Assistant Curate, in a training post.

Frs Max and Mark and the church wardens met him in the autumn and are as delighted as I am by his appointment. He brings a lot more experience than a newly-ordained deacon, as well as being already a priest and so able to celebrate the Eucharist with us immediately. It will be very good to have a full-time ordained colleague and an additional regular voice in the pulpit, together with all the enthusiasm and fresh insight a new person brings. I'm hoping the monastic holiness and depth of formation in the Roman Catholic Church will rub off on me!

Equally, Fr Gregory is keen to learn about the Church of England and the way priestly ministry is exercised in the Anglican tradition and how parish life works. Having only lived here since September he will also be learning about England and English culture too! I pray and hope that his three years with us will give him a wonderful grounding for ministry in the Church of England for years to come.

Fr Gregory will be living on Milton Road in the house currently occupied by Fr Geoff Dumbreck. Fr Geoff is to be Acting Dean of Peterhouse for four terms from this Easter and will be accommodated by Peterhouse – we look forward to seeing a bit more of him too. Fr Gregory will go on retreat with those preparing to be ordained this summer and will be present at the Ordination Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, although he will not need to be ordained. He will be formally welcomed to the Diocese and then begin work with us immediately.

Do keep Gregory in your prayers as he completes his year in Oxford and prepares to begin a new ministry as a priest in the Church of England. This is an exciting development for our parish and a fresh sign of confidence in our life together here.

On a different subject, I hope very much that by the time Fr Gregory arrives we will have completed the work of renovating the Lady Chapel. You will be pleased to know the Diocesan Advisory Committee approved our application and we have sent out the plans to tender. We now press on rapidly. Those of you who have donated to this project over the last few years will finally see the fruition of your generosity!

With my love & prayers, I am,  
yours in the Lord, Fr Robert.

## **A new Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Gregory Lipovsky**



*Fr Gregory writes:*

I am delighted to be coming to Little Saint Mary's in July to serve my curacy. Fr Robert has asked me to provide a short biography by way of introduction:

I am a good example of how complicated the history of central Europe has always been. I was born in 1979 in the now non-existent Czechoslovakia, with a Polish family name, as a Hungarian. I grew up in a Catholic family. After graduating from the high school of the Franciscan Fathers, I entered a monastic community where I was ordained priest at the age of 24.

After the ordination, I was sent to Italy, to Rome for further studies, and as so many before me, I immediately fell in love with that beautiful country. So I stayed there for 12 years as a parish priest in Tuscany.

We can never imagine what plans God has for us in His love to enrich our life. His plan for me was to encounter the Anglican Community at Saint Mark's in Florence. After a period of prayer and discernment, I have been received into the Church of England. In 2016 I moved to Oxford to start my formation at St Stephen's House. I cannot thank God enough that He led me from one beautiful country to another one, with such a fascinating and rich history and culture.

And wonderful nature... I love gardening (I might need some good advice there), animals, my two cats, a nice walk in the countryside. And on rainy days (as you can see, I am well prepared for England) I enjoy reading a good book or cooking.

I am excited about the training possibilities Little Saint Mary's, Cambridge and the Diocese of Ely have to offer. The kindness of all those whom I have met so far, the deep Catholic tradition of Little Saint Mary's, its beautiful liturgy, and your prayers and support will surely make my curacy serve God's glory, the good of His people and my personal growth and enrichment.

I look forward to joining you, and I ask for your prayers.

## **The Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union**

is looking for a qualified accountant to review independently the annual accounts for 2016. Please contact Jo Wibberley or Diederik Vergunst if you are an accountant or know someone who might be able to support:

[jowibs.mu@gmail.com](mailto:jowibs.mu@gmail.com)

or [diederikvergunst@gmail.com](mailto:diederikvergunst@gmail.com) (07881 971854)

## **Sweeping the Church Path**

The church is appealing for a kindly and willing soul to sweep the main church path regularly. If you feel you would be willing to devote some time and energy to this labour, please speak to Fr Robert or Jo Wibberley. It would be very much appreciated.

## **Summer Festival – Saturday 8th July**

Please note the day in your diaries in good time!

Books...we shall have a sale of cheap and cheerful paperback books so please start saving any you may not actually want to keep.

Stalls...we hope to have all our usual favourites but would welcome any suggestions for new ones.

If you have any other ideas we'd be thrilled to hear from you. Please email Christine Tipple [cstipple@gmail.com](mailto:cstipple@gmail.com)

## **Bizzie Lizzie Gardening**

*Ann and Michael Carter write on behalf of their daughter:*

Would you like help to get your garden ready for summer?

Mowing, weeding, planting, digging and many more of your gardening jobs, plus dog walking.

Liz and her friends live locally and travel by bike!

Rates: £15 per hour, with reduced rates for three and a half hours or more.

Tel: 07544 024828

Email: [BizzieLizzieGarden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:BizzieLizzieGarden@yahoo.co.uk)

# Calendar for February

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> *Saint Brigid of Kildare, Abbess*  
Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> **PRESENTATION of CHRIST in the TEMPLE**  
Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> S. Anskar, Bishop  
Sat 4<sup>th</sup> *S. Gilbert of Sempringham, founder of the Gilbertines*

**SUN 5<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Epiphany**  
Mon 6<sup>th</sup> *The Martyrs of Japan*  
Tue 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup>  
Thu 9<sup>th</sup>  
Fri 10<sup>th</sup> *S. Scholastica, Virgin & Abbess*  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> S. Radegund, Abbess

**SUN 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**  
Mon 13<sup>th</sup>  
Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Ss Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop; Missionaries  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> *Thomas Bray, Priest*  
Thu 16<sup>th</sup> of Requiem  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Janani Luwum, Bishop & Martyr  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup>

**SUN 19<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**  
Mon 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tue 21<sup>st</sup>  
Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> S. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup>  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**SUN 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday next before Lent**  
Mon 27<sup>th</sup> George Herbert, Priest  
Tue 28<sup>th</sup> **Shrove Tuesday**

## Daily Intentions and *Anniversaries of death* for February

The Church in Ireland		1 <sup>st</sup>
Thanksgiving for the light of Christ		2 <sup>nd</sup>
The Church in Scandinavia	<i>Dennis Christopher Barnard</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
The Gilbertine Order		4 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>		<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
The Church in Japan		6 <sup>th</sup>
The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project		7 <sup>th</sup>
Those prayerfully considering initiation into the Church		8 <sup>th</sup>
The LSM Choir		9 <sup>th</sup>
Female Benedictines	<i>Ronald Mourhouse, Bill Thomas</i>	10 <sup>th</sup>
Jesus College, Cambridge		11 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Margaret Webber, Enid Maycock</i>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Those suffering with dementia	<i>Alich Nilsson, Brian Poulter</i>	13 <sup>th</sup>
The Russian Orthodox Church		14 <sup>th</sup>
The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge		15 <sup>th</sup>
The Faithful Departed		16 <sup>th</sup>
The Church in Uganda		17 <sup>th</sup>
An increase in the study of scripture		18 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Audrey Sparrow, John Lyon, pr.</i>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>
Ordinands on attachment at LSM	<i>Mary Stubbs</i>	20 <sup>th</sup>
Those who suffer in the cold weather		

		21 <sup>st</sup>
S. Stephen's House, Oxford		22 <sup>nd</sup>
Christian Martyrs	<i>Mary Dawson</i>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Mothers' Union	<i>Frank Joanes, Percy Hays</i>	24 <sup>th</sup>
Places of worship dedicated to Our Lady		25 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Our Parish &amp; People</b>	<i>Arthur Leslie Peck, James Campbell Townley</i>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>
Priests working in the country		27 <sup>th</sup>
That we keep our Lenten fasts		28 <sup>th</sup>

# Saints of February

## 14<sup>th</sup> February – Saints Cyril & Methodius

*Lord of all, who gavest to Thy servants Cyril and Methodius the gift of tongues to proclaim the gospel to the Slavs: make Thy whole Church one, as Thou art one, that all Christians may honour one another, and east and west acknowledge one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and Thee, the God and Father of all; through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Saints Cyril and Methodius were two brothers who were Byzantine Christian theologians and Christian missionaries. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "Apostles to the Slavs". They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic.

The two brothers were born in Thessalonica, in present-day Greece – Cyril in about 827–828 and Methodius about 815–820. Cyril's mastery of theology and command of both Arabic and Hebrew made him eligible for his first state mission. He was sent to the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mutawakkil to discuss the principle of the Holy Trinity with the Arab theologians, and to improve relations between the Caliphate and the Empire. After his return to Constantinople, Cyril assumed the role of professor of philosophy at the University while his brother had by this time become a significant player in Byzantine political and administrative affairs, and an abbot of his monastery.

In 862, the brothers began the work which would give them their historical importance. That year Prince Rastislav of Great Moravia requested that Emperor Michael III and the Patriarch Photius send missionaries to evangelize his Slavic subjects. Rastislav is said to have expelled missionaries of the Roman Church and instead turned to Constantinople for ecclesiastical assistance and, presumably, a degree of political support. The Emperor quickly chose to send Cyril, accompanied by his brother Methodius.

In 863 they began the task of translating the Bible into the language now known as Old Church Slavonic, and travelled to Great Moravia to promote it. They enjoyed considerable success in this endeavour. However, they came into conflict with German ecclesiastics who opposed their efforts to create a specifically Slavic liturgy. For the purpose of this mission, they devised the Glagolitic alphabet (ancestor of the Cyrillic script) which was the first alphabet to be used for Slavonic manuscripts.

They wrote the first Slavic Civil Code, which was used in Great Moravia. The language derived from Old Church Slavonic, known as Church Slavonic, is still used in liturgy by several Orthodox Churches and also in some Eastern Catholic churches. In 867 Pope Nicholas I invited the brothers to Rome. In 868 They arrived in Rome, where they were warmly received. The brothers were praised for their learning and cultivated for their influence in Constantinople. Their project in Moravia found support from Pope Adrian II, who formally authorised the use of the new Slavic liturgy. Subsequently Methodius was ordained as priest by the Pope himself, and five Slavic disciples were ordained as priests (Saint Gorazd, Saint Clement of Ohrid and Saint Naum) and as deacons (Saint Angelar and Saint Sava) by the prominent bishops Formosus and Gauderic. The newly-made priests officiated in their own languages at the altars of some of the principal churches. Feeling his end approaching, Cyril became a monk, was given the new name Cyril, and died in Rome fifty days later (14 February 869).

Methodius now continued the work among the Slavs alone. It was not until after Methodius' death, which is placed on 6 April 885, that problems arose. Gorazd, whom Methodius had designated as his successor, was not recognised by Pope Stephen V. The same Pope forbade the use of the Slavic liturgy. The disciples of the two brothers fled to the First Bulgarian Empire, where they were welcomed and commissioned to establish theological schools. There they devised the Cyrillic script, which gradually replaced Glagolitic as the alphabet of the Old Church Slavonic language, which became the official language of the Bulgarian Empire and later spread to the Eastern Slav lands of Kievan Rus'. Cyrillic eventually spread throughout most of the Slavic world to become the standard alphabet in the Eastern Orthodox Slavic countries. Hence, Cyril and Methodius' efforts also paved the way for the spread of Christianity throughout Eastern Europe.

# Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (CRS)

*Clive Brown writes:*

As many will know, we support CRS which works under the umbrella of St Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata to provide primary education, healthcare, and the empowerment of women in the City slums. While it was initially a relief organisation, born out of the civil war in what is now Bangladesh, it has transformed into an NGO which works with the people in the slums to enable them to meet the needs of the most deprived.

St Paul's Cathedral has established a link with Derby Diocese, and the Rev'd Anita Matthews, assistant priest at St Peter's in Derby, has been given the job by the Bishop of managing the link. Anita is also a trustee of the Friends of CRS. She and the Diocesan Director of Education have just returned from a visit to Kolkata. They took with them 17 teachers from schools in Derby Diocese. The purpose of the visit was to spend time with teachers from slum schools to help them improve their teaching methods and thus raise the standard of instruction in the schools. Rig David (the Director of CRS, whom some of you will have met when he has visited LSM) described the visit as "fantastic". The teachers in the schools mainly come from the slums themselves, and the standard of teaching is often rudimentary, so this initiative is of great benefit. There is great enthusiasm from the Derby teachers, and this is intended as an ongoing programme in order to sustain and continue to improve the school standards.

The Friends have been helping CRS establish a social enterprise to sell products made by women trained in sewing and embroidery. The women will be employed in the business and paid a regular salary. A company has been formed in Kolkata to run the business, and a production centre equipped with industrial sewing machines is being set up in a building in the grounds of the Cathedral. The business is called "Nari Dana" which means "Women's Wings". Getting this going has been a slow process, but it is hoped that regular production will soon start for the local market, with other products to be sold in the UK through an internet outlet being made in the near future.

People sometimes question why we should be donating money to India when it is such a booming and successful economy. The answer is that the boom has hardly touched the teeming masses of India's poor, something that is evident as soon as you get off an aeroplane in one of India's cities. Kolkata is one of the poorest cities in the world. Women are particularly disadvantaged, mainly because of ingrained cultural attitudes. Trafficking and prostitution in Kolkata is appallingly high. Things are slowly changing, with an increased social responsibility by many businesses. CRS has successfully tapped into this by getting grants from local corporations. A very substantial grant is being made to CRS by "Coal India", the national coal industry. Despite the good news, however, CRS finances remain critical, and it needs to increase its income if it is to maintain the level at which it is at present working.

## **Candlemas Poem**

*by Daphne Foreman:*

Light the candles, lift them high,  
Burning bright and steadily;  
Honouring Our Lady's Day,  
Symbols of her purity.

See the candle burns away,  
Itself the life that feeds the flame;  
So she gave her willing love,  
Ending in the Cross's shame.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord,  
Who first the incarnate Godhead saw;  
The lowly maid once magnified  
Shall blessed be for evermore.

**Candlemas**, or the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, forty days after Christmas Day, and completes our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany.

Candles for use in church during the coming year are blessed and we begin to turn our attention from Christmas and Epiphany towards Lent and Easter.

Low Mass is at 7:45am; High Mass with Candlemas ceremonies is at 7pm.