

NEWSLETTER



This newsletter contains details of our overseas links and social justice projects, news about our Passion Play, Holy Week & Easter and the Mothers' Union, plus the usual Vicar's letter, Fr Gregory's article, daily intentions for prayer and more.

Highlights of March

Wednesday 7th March

Stations of the Cross

7.30pm in church. *Walk with Jesus on His last journey in the flesh.*

Thursday 8th March

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

8pm Office & Benediction followed by AGM at S. Peter's, Ely. *All welcome, including non-members. See Bill de Quick for more information.*

Tuesday 13th March

Forum Lunch *for dementia sufferers and their carers*

11.30am-3pm. *Cooks & helpers wanted (training given). See Bob DeWolf for info.*

Wednesday 14th March

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 at Mass.*

Friday 16th & Saturday 17th March

Passion Play

7.30pm. *Don't miss this event – wonderful theatre and also a profound preparation for Holy Week.*

Monday 19th March

Feast of S. Joseph of Nazareth

12.30pm Low Mass, 7pm Sung Mass *followed by refreshments.*

Wednesday 21st March

Guild of All Souls

7.30pm Office & Benediction, followed by refreshments. *All welcome.*

Sunday 25th March

Palm Sunday & the beginning of Holy Week

10.15am (note earlier time) gather opposite the Mill Pub with our friends from Emmanuel URC for the Liturgy of Palms & Procession

From the Vicar

Saturday 3rd March 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There's nothing like seeing something familiar as if for the first time. This has been exactly my experience in rehearsing for our Passion Play in recent weeks. Passion Plays find their origin in the Middle Ages when theatrical and imaginative presentations of our Lord's life, death and resurrection became popular across the country. They've enjoyed a renewed lease of life in the last few years and in the twentieth century were sustained thanks to the great Passion Play at Oberammergau in Germany, performed there once a decade.

Using similar ideas and texts and inspired by recent Passion Plays in other parts of the country, Lucy McKitterick has written a wonderful play for us at LSM. I'm delighted, however, that it extends beyond LSM and includes clergy from other parishes and chaplaincies, and ordinands and young people from outside the parish. There are two performances – on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm – so I hope that increases the chance that you'll be able to see it.

One of the primary reasons I hope you'll come and see it is precisely the way in which the story of our salvation, so well known to so many of us, is presented afresh. It is not that there are additional stories or outlandish costumes or an especially different way of looking at some aspect of Jesus' Passion. It is just that performing it dramatically, with a combination of biblical quotation and imaginative verse brings the whole thing wonderfully alive. Above all, it does this by reminding us that we are part of this story and that the people involved are genuine and real human beings with all the complexity this brings.

The presence of so many of our friends and colleagues should be reason enough to make space in our diaries, not to mention the retiring collection in aid (jointly) of our Stations of the Cross appeal and the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project. Yet I pray that your encounter with the Play will be a chance to see Holy Week in a new light and inspire us all to take part with more of ourselves in the great liturgical drama of Holy Week beginning only a week later.

I should add that I am very grateful to the Diocese of Ely Mission Fund for a grant of almost £1,000 towards the costs of the play. This grant recognises the evangelistic potential of the project and I would certainly urge you to invite non-Christian or non-churchgoing friends and family to this play. It is entirely non-threatening but full of interest and power for those who are open to engaging with it.

I'm also delighted to report that the Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, will be our Holy Week preacher. Fr Alex read theology at Oxford and trained for the priesthood at Westcott House, worked in parishes in Oxfordshire and Portsmouth, was the Bishop of Portsmouth's domestic chaplain and then became Archdeacon of Cambridge (and my neighbour!) in 2014. He is a fine preacher and I'm very grateful to him for taking us through this most important week of the year. He will be preaching on Palm Sunday (25th March), the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, at the Liturgy on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, at the Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter on Saturday night and at the High Mass on Easter Sunday morning (1st April). Do keep him in your prayers as he prepares his sermons for us.

Two more things to share with you: the first that Tim Wheatley is undergoing intensive physiotherapy and has moved to the Manor Care Home on Milton Road (where Joan Waton lives) while this takes place. I'm delighted they have each other for company! Secondly, rejoice with me that we now have our Faculty (church planning permission) for the Stations of the Cross. The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop intend to have them finished before Christmas and installed in time for Lent 2019. This is wonderful news, as is the progress on the Lady Chapel (walls and floor now done!).

With the assurance of my prayers for you as we journey to the Cross and with a request for your prayers for me, I am,

Yours in the Lord,

Fr Robert.

Elements of the Spiritual Life: II. Mortification

Fr Gregory writes:

I am afraid that a lot of Christians are not sure what mortification is. Normally, one comes across two erroneous ideas regarding mortification. The first is that mortification is something we do during Lent. The second error is more “practical”: either we exaggerate (think about young people determinedly in the “odour of sanctity” who spend Lent continuously fainting because they have practically deprived themselves of all food and sleep), or we underestimate its importance (when we believe ourselves numbered among the greatest saints because we haven’t eaten chocolate for 40 days). So what is mortification, and what is it not? And how can we avoid the most frequent errors in this regard?

Without mortification there is no spiritual life. Acknowledging this, we can easily avoid the first error. Mortification is not something we practise during Lent or during other special seasons, but it should characterise our whole Christian life. In order to serve God, we must refuse to serve ourselves; to become one with Him, we must empty ourselves. From this a second truth is clear: mortification is not a goal in itself, and has no value in itself. It is only a means to reach self-discipline.

There is a further fact to consider. We are all affected by original sin, that is by the sin of Adam and Eve: our intellect struggles to recognise truth, and our will tends towards what is evil, sinful and selfish. Mortification must aim to “put to death” not what is good (our health, our efficacy at work, our energy) but what is sinful in us. Mortification should aim to extirpate sin. For this reason, mortification will hardly ever be fruitful unless accompanied by the regular practice of reasonably frequent Confession and Holy Communion (I will write more about the importance of the Sacraments in a future article).

So, first of all mortification consists in fighting temptation, avoiding sin, ceasing to love our sins, even the “smallest” ones as being incompatible with the love of God. This mortification is not easy, not only because we are too often fond of our sins, but also because this kind of mortification is not noticeable. There is no rumbling stomach, no weight loss, no admiring looks from people. It is not interesting, it is not exciting. This mortification is hidden, secret – only God sees it.

It is quite clear then that even the first steps of mortification require honesty, self-knowledge and examination of conscience. A good, experienced spiritual director is of immense help. With his or her assistance we can find our weak points, the opposite virtues to practise, things to give up on, and we can also avoid the temptations of pride, exaggeration, or acedia and discouragement.

This inner mortification is then followed by what is called the “mortification of the senses.” We are composed of soul and body. Our senses are vital for us: we get to know the created world, and even God, through them. They are good, but affected, just as we are, by original sin. Temptation (whatever its source is: the devil, concupiscence, the world or other people) reaches us through our senses. So there is a need for their mortification. It mainly consists in simplicity of life, avoidance of what is merely luxurious and superfluous. It does not mean that we have to mix ashes with our food (as the Carmelites used to do so that they didn’t enjoy it!) or to sell all we have and to become poor – this, in certain cases, would even be sinful (just let us think about our responsibilities towards our family, for example). It is more about how we use our goods, how attached we are to them, how generously we use them to help others. Our Lenten “givings up”, for example, rather than being mortifications, are useful reminders of a correct, Christian attitude towards earthly goods. S. John, in his first letter, assumes the importance of the mortification of the senses: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (2.16)

But it is S. James who touches an even more painful point, when he writes: “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” (3.6) I need hardly explain the apostle’s words. One spiritual writer notes: “How much harm is done to the soul by unnecessary discourses, idle words, calumny, detraction, murmuring and lies!”

Mortification thus conceived – starting with inner mortification, helped and sustained by the mortification of the senses with the goal of loving God more – will give sense to our Lenten “givings up” and penitence; and not only this: it will also lead us to a higher degree of Christian perfection, it will open us up to God’s grace and increase our love for Him.



Calendar and Intentions
for
March 2018

*The list of Thanksgivings and Intercessions offers a focus
for our daily prayer, both at the Offices and Mass,
and in our personal times of prayer.*

*The Vicar would be glad of suggestions or
additions to the list of daily intentions.*

Calendar for March

Thu 1st S. David, bishop & patron of Wales
Fri 2nd *Chad, bishop & missionary*
Sat 3rd

SUN 4th THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Mon 5th
Tue 6th *S. Tibb, virgin & abbess*
Wed 7th *Ss Perpetua, Felicity & companions, martyrs*
Thu 8th *Edward King, bishop*
Fri 9th
Sat 10th

SUN 11th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (*Laetare*)

Mon 12th
Tue 13th
Wed 14th
Thu 15th
Fri 16th
Sat 17th *S. Patrick, bishop & patron of Ireland*

SUN 18th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)

Mon 19th **S. Joseph, Husband of the BVM**
Tue 20th *S. Cuthbert, bishop & missionary*
Wed 21st *Thomas Cranmer, bishop & martyr*
Thu 22nd
Fri 23rd
Sat 24th *Oscar Romero, bishop & martyr*

SUN 25th PALM SUNDAY

Mon 26th **in Holy Week**
Tue 27th **in Holy Week**
Wed 28th **in Holy Week**
Thu 29th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Fri 30th **GOOD FRIDAY**
Sat 31st **HOLY SATURDAY**

Daily Intentions and Anniversaries of death for March

The Church in Wales

The Diocese of Lichfield

Farmers and those who work on the land

Ceta Cherry, Harold Auckland

Our Parish & People

Stephen Barnard

Students & young people at LSM

Increase in visits to shrines and holy places

Roger Knight, Mary Rowlings

Those persecuted and killed for the Faith

Geoffrey Clayton, bp.

Diocese of Lincoln

Jessie Rolph

Increase in praying of the Stations of the Cross

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and all altar servers

Carl George 10

Our Parish and People

11

Thanksgiving for the gift of Lent

12

Those suffering from dementia

Elsie Murrell, Helen Dex, Beryl Oliver 13

The sick

14

Perseverance in fasting

Elizabeth Lampe, Violet Barnard, Michael Ogden,

Alan Gustard 15th

[Intention to be announced]

Teresa Pike, Jean Gustard 16

The Church in Ireland

Richard Boulind, Ann Robinson 17

Our Parish and People

18

All fathers

Mary McDougall, Eileen Barnard 19

LSM Lent Group

20

Guild of All Souls

Constance Hennings, Margaret Bottrall 21

The Mothers' Union

Emily Glennie, Nellie Edwards, Merlin Rotherham-

Brown, Ken Topley

22

The LSM Choir

23

Those with a particular ministry to the poor

George Head 24

Our Parish and People

25

Greater faith

Philip Hall 26

Greater hope

27

Greater love

John Gilling, pr. 28

Increase in devotion to the Eucharist

29

(No Mass today)

30

(No Mass today)

Pamela Horne 31

Saints of March

Joseph of Nazareth

Monday 19th March

God our Father, who from the family of Thy servant David didst raise up Joseph the carpenter to be the guardian of Thine incarnate Son and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, give us grace to follow him in faithful obedience to Thy commands; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph is depicted as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. He received God's messenger who shared with him God's will for him and for Mary, to whom he was engaged to be married. Luke's Gospel describes how Joseph took the newborn child as if He were his own. He was with Mary when, on the fortieth day after the birth, Jesus was presented in the Temple, 'where every first-born male is designated as holy to the Lord'. The adoption of Jesus by Joseph also established Jesus in the descent of David, to accord with the prophecy that Israel's deliverer would be of the House and lineage of David.

Joseph's occupation is mentioned only once, in the Gospel of Matthew (13.55) when someone asks about Jesus: 'Is not this the carpenter's son?' (οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ τοῦ τέκτονος υἱός;) Joseph's description as τέκτων in Greek has been traditionally translated into English as 'carpenter', but is a rather general word (from the same root that gives us 'technical') that could cover makers of objects in various materials. The Greek term evokes an artisan with wood in general, or an artisan in iron or stone. But the specific association with woodworking is a constant in early Christian tradition; Justin Martyr (who died c. AD 165) wrote that Jesus made yokes and ploughs, and there are many similar early references. Joseph is the patron saint of carpenters but also of fathers.

MOTHERING SUNDAY 11th March

The Mothers' Union is an international membership charity with four million members in 83 countries and as such is well placed to send aid directly to where it is needed. Their *Make a Mother's Day* initiative for Mothering Sunday invites gifts for, or in memory of, mothers, which will make a real difference to people's lives:

A greater love

£6 will support projects in the UK that help restore broken relationships in communities.



Practical skills for a better home

£10 will help a mother attend a Bible course and learn practical skills to improve life at home.

Literacy and numeracy

£15 will help a mother learn to read and write, and bring transformation to her entire community.



Learn a livelihood

£24 will help a mother learn a skill to start a business and earn a living for her family.

Gain parenting skills

£40 will help a mum gain confidence in her skills to care for her children.



There are leaflets at the back of the church or go on line to:
www.makeamothersday.org/choose-a-gift

EASTER CARDS

Order form at the back of the church or from Jo Wibberley
jowibs.mu@gmail.com

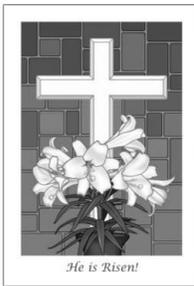


1

Text: And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

Greeting: May the joy of Easter be yours!

50p each



2

Text: And this is the promise that He made to us – eternal life. (I John 2:25)

Greeting: May Easter be a time of hope and new beginnings.

50p each



3

Text: For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.

50p each



4

Text: Anyone who is in Christ, is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.

Greeting: Happy Easter

50p each

5 Assorted bookmark cards 15p each

News from South Africa

(where we have a linked parish in Sharpeville)

Water taps in Cape Town could be switched off on 16th April unless efforts to reduce usage are achieved. City officials have dubbed the date “Day Zero” and warned that residents would be limited to a daily allowance of 25 litres, which they would have to collect from one of 200 collection points if the taps are switched off. To avoid it, residents have been told that they must limit their water usage to 50 litres a day in order to deal with a sustained water crisis.

The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev'd Thabo Makgoba, said that he believes the switch-off can be avoided. And he is urging residents to sustain their reduced usage going forward. “I have so much hope,” he told a *Water (In)Justice* conference on Saturday, the *Weekend Argus* reports.

“Let’s look at what we have in terms of desalination and that there is reduced usage from the agriculture sector. This helps us to change our thinking and save more when we see Day Zero coming.

“We need to sustain this reduction and encourage people that if Day Zero does not come we should not be cynical and we shouldn’t say it was all a lie or electioneering but rather respect that we have avoided it and maintain our water usage,” he said.

Archbishop Makgoba urged people to “soak the crisis with prayer” and said that all the country’s faith communities could play a significant role in communicating ways to reduce water to the more than 80% of the population that are religious. “There is a beautiful significance to this crisis happening over Lent because it gives us time to reflect on our water usage,” he said. “Cape Town is in a drought and that’s the desert, then Day Zero could be the crucifixion, and the resurrection follows the crucifixion, so this too shall pass, but it requires working together.”

We pray for the Anglican Church in South Africa and especially for those places where water is in such short supply.

News from Jimmy's Cambridge

“Jimmy's continues to work at full stretch to meet the needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed. When the temperature drops below zero degrees Centigrade (as in the last couple of weeks) the council pays Jimmy's and other providers to give temporary shelter from the severe weather. Jimmy's provides 30 more beds during these periods and the guests have even more complex needs than the usual clients. Jimmy's is always pleased to receive donations to meet the extra needs of the vulnerable. Jimmy's is always grateful for food gifts but at present the need is for toiletries, winter clothing such as socks, gloves and scarves and sleeping bags, sheets and towels. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity.”

Don't forget we receive things for Jimmy's every week and they are collected and taken to Jimmy's on the FIRST Sunday of the month.

DO YOU HAVE THE VOTE?

If your name is on the Church Electoral Roll you are eligible to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and will have a say in decisions affecting the church. The 2018 APCM is planned for Sunday 8th April, and the Electoral Roll must be revised and displayed in church for at least two weeks before then.

If your name is not on the Roll at present, and you have been regularly attending LSM for six months or more, please complete an application form (*available at the back of the church or from me*).

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY ENROLLED...The Electoral Roll must be kept up to date, so if you have changed your name, address, email etc., please do let me know, if you have not done so already.

The closing date for the returning of completed application forms, to me or to the Vicar, is **Sunday 18th March**

Susan Coote (Electoral Roll Officer) smcoote23@hotmail.com