



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

April 2013

Price 10p

The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

For the first time since the beginning of Lent, we can join together with Christians all over the world in the Easter cry, "Alleluia! Christ is risen."

We declare the glory of the Resurrection, as the Easter hymn puts it:

Jesus Christ, the king of glory, now is risen from the dead.

And we reflect on its consequences for us:

Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

In our conviction that Christ's rising allows us to believe that "death has lost its sting," we gaze around us at the beauty of the decorated church, and in particular at the wonderful lilies---the symbol of Resurrection---each one donated in memory of a loved one whom we believe has passed into the joy of God's heavenly kingdom, and shares Christ's risen life. Easter is the climax of the Christian year; it is the foundation of our faith.

On Good Friday, we remember in penitent reflection before the Cross, Christ crucified, dying alone and in agony. Now the Cross is symbolically alive with flowers, its gloom dispelled. On Good Friday we were aware of Christ, the Incarnate Son of God; how he had experienced the pain and grief which all human beings may encounter, and we give thanks for the knowledge that he is able to share in, and bear our human sufferings with us.

Today we realise that in his rising from the dead, he offers us the chance to share in his eternal and resurrection life; that through his death and Resurrection, he has opened for us the gate of heaven, and transcended the darkness of death.

The Pascal Candle lit here today is the sign of his Resurrection. In the earliest days of the Church, new converts to Christianity were prepared during Lent for adult baptism by total immersion, which took place at the Easter Vigil, during the night.

Our modern baptism liturgy continues to reflect the imagery of Easter, as we proclaim, with St. Paul, that those who are baptised die to sin and are buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, and then rise to a new life within the Christian Church. I have been told by those who have experienced total immersion baptism that there is indeed a moment where one wonders if one is going to drown, and that the joy and relief of coming up into the air does give the sense of being offered a new chance at life.

We can imagine the power of those baptisms, which allowed the newly-baptised to rise with Christ on Easter day, to join with their new Christian community in the celebration of the Resurrection, and to share

for the first time in the Body and Blood of Christ. But it is from this custom that the practice of renewing our baptismal vows on Easter Day has derived, and it offers us a wonderful opportunity to recall that we too, have died with Christ, and risen with him to a new life.

In the prayer over the water, we hear how the Israelites passed through the waters of the Red Sea to find safety and freedom in the fulfilment of God's promises; something we can experience as we pass through the waters of baptism.

As we renew our commitment, and profess the Christian faith once again, we declare together that Jesus Christ "was crucified, dead and was buried; he descended to the dead, but on the third day he rose again."

Thanks to our Easter faith, we are able to proclaim, that "we believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

As we are sprinkled with the water of baptism, we can give thanks for our risen life with Christ, for the eternal hope it offers us, inspired by the glory of this day, and bound together as an Easter people. May I wish you the joy and peace of Easter.

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

Vicar

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SERVICES

All Sundays

8.00 am	Said Eucharist
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist
6.30 pm	Evening Service

Tuesdays

7.30 pm	Said Eucharist
<u>1st Saturday of month</u>	
10.00 am	Said Eucharist

FORTHCOMING (AND REGULAR) EVENTS

Small Saints: 1st Sunday of each month (in 10 am service) for children 3 to 8 yrs.

CTUN monthly prayer meeting: first Wednesday of every month at Methodist Church (by Iceland on Westow St) at 10.30 am. All are welcome. The next meetings are on 3rd April and 8th May.

A Thank You

Stella Jenkins wishes to thank parishioners for their prayers, kindness and get-well cards during her recent spell of ill health.

(We all wish Stella a full and speedy recovery – Ed.)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Prayers for the Month:

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ: grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

Saint of the Month: St George

One of the most famous, and elusive, of the early martyrs, still venerated especially in what was the eastern Roman Empire; George was probably martyred in Palestine at the turn of the third and fourth centuries. Nothing else seems to be known of him, but as early as the 6th century he was referred to as a good man “whose deeds are known only to God”. The popular story, first found in a medieval book, is of him as a knight, rescuing a maiden from a dragon, leading to the baptism of thousands. After many rather dubious miraculous events, George became a victim of the Emperor Diocletian’s persecutions and was beheaded. How George became adopted as protector of England is unknown; known of long before the Norman conquest, returning crusaders in the 12th century probably established his popularity – this would also account for his patronage of Catalonia (then a rich and powerful crusader nation) and Greece (where many minor kingdoms were established by crusaders). He may have been officially named as National Patron when Edward III founded the Order of the Garter under his patronage in about 1348.

CTUN News: For Your Diary

As well as the monthly prayer meeting mentioned above, the dates for the next Foodbank events (see previous newsletters for more details) outside Sainsbury's Upper Norwood are as follows:

4th May, 6th June and 3rd August (all Saturdays). For offers of help please phone Heather Peters on **0208 768 1722** or **07762583736**. For more information on this worthy project speak to Karen in church.

Advance Notice: Late June (Thursday 27th until Sunday 30th) will see the **Crystal Palace Festival**. On **27th/28th June** there will be events at various venues organised by local groups. Saturday **29th June** will be the main Westow Park day, and Sunday **30th June** the main Triangle day.

CTUN are involved in the planning and will be holding a table tennis event, a tea dance and a bingo session; offers of help with these events would be greatly appreciated. More information will follow later.

Saints of the Month: April.

- 16th St Bernadette of Lourdes 1844-79. As a girl of 14 she saw a series of visions of the Virgin Mary, as a result of which Lourdes became an international centre of pilgrimage and healing.
- 21st St Anselm. Archbishop of Canterbury 1093-1109, and Doctor of the Church.
- 23rd St George. Patron of England, Greece and Catalonia, also of soldiers and boy scouts.
- 25th St Mark. Evangelist and helper of St Paul. Died around the year 75. His remains were taken to Venice in the ninth century, since when he has been patron of that city.
- 29th St Catherine of Siena. Patron of nurses; Mystic and Dominican sister, 1347-80

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week this year is from **12th to 18th May**. To support this, All Saints will be holding a Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy Sale on **Saturday 18th May** from 10.00 am until 12.00.

Donations of cakes and other items will be most welcome.

In addition, there will be a CTUN Super Soup Lunch, also to raise funds for Christian Aid, on **Saturday 6th April** from 12 noon until 2.30 pm. This will be held at 34 Springfield Road, Thornton Heath CR7 8DY.