

I hope you will take the opportunity of our Holy Week and Easter services, listed in this newsletter to renew this faith in your lives.

Fr Leonard



CLERGY

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All Saints, Upper Norwood

SERVICES

All Sundays

8.00 am Said Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist

6.30 pm Night Prayer

Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

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. Mystic and Dominican sister; Patron of nurses; 1347-80

FORTHCOMING (AND REGULAR) EVENTS

28th April (Sunday) after the 10.00 am Eucharist: **Annual Parochial Meeting at 11.15** followed by **Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.30am**. See below for details.

Our regular 'Sunday School':

Small Saints: Every Sunday (depending on staffing) for children up to 10 yrs.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Articles etc. for inclusion are most welcome and can be given or sent to the editor (details above).

News and reviews from members of the congregation would be gratefully received; if you have news of a forthcoming event, please let us know.

Prayers for the Month:

Let us pray for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father may guide it and gather it together so that we may worship him in peace and tranquillity.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all the nations in Christ your son. Guide the work of your church; help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring salvation to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in his church all those who seek his truth with sincerity.

Almighty, eternal God, you keep together those you have united. Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your son. Make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love.

From the intercessions of the Good Friday service.

Maundy Thursday, 18 April 2019

Invitation to bring flowers

The Easter Triduum begins at 8:00 p.m. (20:00) with a sung Mass on Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday).

It is customary in this Church to invite people to bring flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one to the evening Mass, to place in the area around the Altar of Repose. In this Church that is the altar just under the stained-glass window at the East End of the Church. Your flowers do not need to be grand. Garden flowers in jam jars, or whatever you choose, are all welcome, and probably the less formal the better.

Please bring your flowers already in a jar/jug/vase whatever you choose. You can access the Church kitchen for water if need be. Please bring before the service. If possible, by 7.50 p.m. (19:50) at the latest. The Church will be open from 7.15 p.m. (19:15) onwards. Thank you.

For new members of our congregation whom may not be aware, on Maundy Thursday the Mass is celebrated in the evening because the Passover (last Supper) began at sundown. During the Mass, extra bread is consecrated for use the next day during the Good Friday liturgy. On Maundy Thursday after the Mass, the Sacrament for use at the Mass on the following day is taken in solemn procession to the Altar of Repose, where a vigil is kept.

At the Altar of Repose, we keep vigil in silent prayer and adoration, recalling our Lord's time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

It is the most solemn service in the Christian year. All Christians should try to be in Church on this particular evening. Please do try and come to this service. Put the date in your diary today!

After Maundy Thursday your flowers will go towards helping to decorate the Church for Easter Day.

Holy Week & Easter 2019

Palm Sunday 14th April: Mass
with the Blessing of Palm Crosses & Procession,
Commemorating Our Lord's arrival in Jerusalem

Maundy (Holy) Thursday 18th April: 8pm Mass
Commemorating the Last Supper
Followed by The Vigil
Commemorating Our Lord's time in the
Garden of Gethsemane

Good Friday 19th April
10am Stations of the Cross
Commemorating Our Lord's last journey through
Jerusalem
leading to his Crucifixion

2pm The Passion
Commemorating the last hours and death of Our Lord

Sunday 21st April Easter Day
Celebration of the Resurrection
8am First Mass of Easter
10am Celebration Sung Mass

He is not here, for he is risen, as he said he would. Matthew 28.6



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Upper Norwood

April 2019

The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends.

As we continue our journey through Lent together we there is a learning experience as we try to understand more deeply for ourselves the meaning of the cross in Christian faith. There are sometimes very inadequate ways of trying to come to terms with what the cross is about. The cross is not about Jesus reconciling an angry God to us; it's almost the opposite. It's about a totally loving God, incarnate in Christ, reconciling us to him. On the cross Jesus dies for our sins; the price of our sin is paid; but it is not paid to God but by God. As St Paul says, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Because he is Love, God does what Love does: He unites himself with the beloved. He enters his own creation and goes to the utmost for us. Not sending a substitute to vent his punishment on, but going himself to the bitter end, sharing in the worst of suffering and grief that life can throw at us, and finally sharing our death, so that he can bring us through death to life in him.

There's a song by Sidney Carter which ironically sums up our misunderstanding of the cross, in the words of the impenitent thief:

It was on a Friday morning when they took me from the cell,
And I saw they had a carpenter to crucify as well
Well: you can blame it on Pilate, you can blame it on the Jews
You can blame it on the Devil - but it's God that I accuse;
It's God they ought to crucify instead of you and me -
I said to the Carpenter a-hanging on the tree.

We can be so fixated on our picture of the punishing God of power we imagine up in heaven, we can't grasp he's really down here, bleeding and dying at our side. This is often the theme of our Stations of the Cross meditations at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday evenings in Lent. On the cross God absorbs into himself our human situation that has become separated from its true origin in the love and truth of God and offers us a new relationship. God shows he knows what it's like to be the loser; God hurts and weeps and bleeds and dies. It's a mystery we can hardly glimpse, let alone grasp; and if there is an answer to the problem of suffering, perhaps it's one for the heart, not the reason. Because the answer God's given is simply himself; to show that, so far from inflicting suffering as a punishment, he bears our griefs and shares our sorrow. From Good Friday on, God is no longer "God up there", inscrutably allotting rewards and retributions. On the Cross, even more than in the crib, he is Immanuel, God down here, God with us.

Annual Parochial Meeting - Sunday 28th April, 2019 at 11.15am (APM) **(i.e. directly after the 10am Mass)**

This meeting will be held just prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The APM elects the Churchwardens for the forthcoming parochial year (April 2019 – April 2020). This meeting is open to all.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 28th April, 2019 at 11.30am: **(APCM)**

Fr Leonard encourages you to stay for this meeting, which normally lasts no longer than 45 minutes. The meeting gives an opportunity to review the work of the Church during the past year. At this meeting elections will be held for the Parochial Church Council (PCC); and the North Croydon Deanery Synod. Members of the PCC have responsibility for the running of this Church; members of the Deanery Synod concentrate on the wider church – mission and ministry in the Deanery and Diocese. A person who is elected to the Deanery Synod automatically becomes an ex officio member of the PCC. If you are interested in serving on the PCC or the Deanery Synod, please speak with Fr Leonard; forms need to be completed before the meeting.