



THE NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS CHURCH Upper Norwood

** March 2021 **



The Vicar's Monthly Letter

Dear friends,

The readings for the third Sunday of Lent are as follows:

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Lent is a time of reflection and discernment. This time of isolation and lockdown is a time of challenge for us all, some of course more than others. The following meditation is offered to help concentrate on our inner understanding of how we can draw closer to the God who is for us and draws us closer to himself always.

Everything that exists, exists within God. Nothing is separate, though self-centred desire may falsely make it seem so. That's an insight that shows up in every world religion at its mature level, and each of today's four readings speaks to a particular facet of that truth: The Ten Commandments declare an early awareness of it: no gods stand before God, a God whose "faith-keeping" draw our hearts from misdirected idolatries into God's own limitless faithfulness— "a thousand generations."

Psalm 19 proclaims perhaps more clearly than any biblical text how divine grandeur shines out in plain view through every ordinary facet of creation as it lives from its core identity in God.

Paul, following Jesus, proclaims this way, the power and wisdom of God, the "foolishness of the Cross" he calls it. In the world as God makes it, all of life is given as pure gift and each little life is laid down and lost—but held, absorbed into a larger pattern of unfolding Life. Self-centred living resists this way and brings so much unnecessary suffering into the world.

And finally, we find Jesus the prophet, proclaiming the way of God intensely! He takes on the cynical, religious usury going on in front of him, and declares its unreal bankruptcy: No gods can stand before God. This is not a jealously decreed divine command; it's simply a deep awareness of the architecture of Love that founds the universe and guides its movement in God toward God. Spend some time in prayer with one of these scriptures within the frame of this insight - that all of creation is forever held within God—including you! Listen for how this universal architecture of Love is calling you to practice love this day

I hope you will be able to join us as we continue to mark this Lent into Holy Week and Easter.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Leonard



CLERGY

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All Saints, Upper Norwood

SERVICES

All Sundays

10.00 am Parish Mass

6.00 pm Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

Tuesdays

7.30 pm Said Eucharist

1st Saturday of month

10.00 am Said Eucharist

Saints of the Month: March

- 1st St David. Patron Saint of Wales; died around 600. Founder of 10 monasteries, his relics are said to be preserved in St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. His emblems, the leek and daffodil, are still worn on his feast day.
- 17th St Patrick. Patron of Ireland.
- 19th St Joseph. Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron of fathers and carpenters.
- 20th St Cuthbert. Bishop of Lindisfarne.
- 25th The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day we traditionally celebrate the appearance of the angel to Mary announcing that she would bear the Lord.

Lent 2021

The Lent Group will continue to be held via Zoom at 8 pm on Wednesdays up to and including Holy Week, that is on **3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We shall be studying a book entitled *Candles in the Dark; Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic* by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

Sunday Evenings during Lent.

Stations of the Cross, in Church at 6.00pm.

Prayer of the Month

Let us pray in this season of Lent for the gift of integrity.

Father of light, in you is found no shadow of change but only the fullness of life and limitless truth. Open our hearts to the voice of your Word and free us from the original darkness that shadows our vision.

Return our sight that we may look upon your Son who calls us to repentance and a change of heart, for he lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

From the Catholic Missal, Opening Prayer for the Second Sunday of Lent.



*St David's Cathedral
St David's (the smallest
city in the UK)
Pembrokeshire*

St David – Patron Saint of Wales

Saint David (about 500 – 589) was a Welsh bishop of Mynyw (now St David's) during the 6th century. David was a native of Cardigan, in Wales, at that time one of many small independent petty kingdoms formed when Roman rule in Britain ended at the start of the fifth century. He is traditionally believed to be a grandson of a king of the region.

Many of the traditional tales about David are found in the *Buchedd Dewi* ("Life of David"), written by one Rhygyfarch in the late 11th century. The writer claimed it was based on documents found in the cathedral archives, but modern historians are sceptical of some of its claims: one of Rhygyfarch's aims was to establish some independence for the Welsh church, which had refused the Roman rite until the 8th century and now sought a metropolitan status equal to that of Canterbury. However, the tradition that he was born at Henfynyw near Aberaeron is not improbable. He became renowned as a teacher and preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Dumnonia (now Devon and Cornwall), and Brittany. St David's Cathedral stands on the site of the monastery he founded in a valley in Pembrokeshire. Around 550, he attended the Synod of Brefi, where his eloquence caused his fellow monks to elect him primate of the region. As such he presided over the synod of Caerleon (the "Synod of Victory") around 569.

His best-known miracle is traditionally said to have taken place when he was preaching in the middle of a large crowd at the Synod of Brefi: the ground on which he stood is reputed to have risen up to form a small hill, and a white dove, which became his emblem, was seen settling on his shoulder; he was subsequently declared archbishop by popular acclaim according to Rhygyfarch, bringing about the retirement of his predecessor Dubricius.

David lived a simple and ascetic life, teaching his followers to refrain from eating meat and drinking beer. His Monastic Rule prescribed that monks had to pull the plough themselves without draught animals and must drink only water and eat only bread with salt and herbs. The monks spent their evenings in prayer, reading and writing. No personal possessions were allowed: even to say "my book" was considered an offence.

Though the exact date of his death is not certain, tradition holds that it was on 1 March, his present feast day, in either 589 or 601. David was buried at St David's Cathedral where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. During the 10th and 11th centuries the Cathedral was regularly raided by Vikings, who removed the shrine from the church and stripped off the precious metal adornments. In 1275 a new shrine was constructed, and the relics of David and another local holy man were kept in a portable casket on the stone base of the shrine; it was at this shrine that Edward I came to pray in 1284. Those relics supposedly preserved there to the present day have, however, been carbon dated to the 12th century.

David was officially recognised by Pope Callixtus II in 1120, and he was later also canonized by the Eastern Orthodox Church. The restored Shrine of Saint David was unveiled and rededicated by the Right Reverend Wyn Evans, Bishop of St David's, on Saint David's Day, 2012. Saint David is usually represented standing on a hill with a dove on his shoulder. His symbol, also the symbol of Wales, is the leek.