

15th March
2020

Third Sunday
of Lent

Psalm 95

We are constantly reminded in the book of psalms that a false piety will not do. The note of reality is constantly struck by the writers of the psalms. This is no exception. This psalm is used as the opening invitational song at Morning Prayer in both the Church of England and Roman Catholic Churches. The reality expressed here is twofold. First, God is Lord of all creation. We owe everything to him. He is the creator of everything. 'He is our God' (v7). The response to this is what is central to our Christian lives that is to worship and adore him: 'For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods' (v3). 'O Come, let us fall down at his feet, let us bow down and kneel before the Lord, our Maker' (v6). This means that our worship of the living God is no extra or addition to our lives when we feel like it. Worship and adoration comes first. We are to be at the Eucharist at least once a week if not more. Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a crucial way of experiencing full and true Christian worship and it needs to be present regularly in our Churches as a vital way of encouraging heartfelt of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Second, and in some ways shockingly yet brutally realistically, the psalmist reminds us not to engage in backsliding, hardening our hearts, away and indeed against God. He does so by reminding us of those Israelites who rejected God in the wilderness as at Meribah. The shock lies in the very fact that this is recounted in what until verse 7 is a very pleasant psalm, but the writer knows the fickleness of the human heart, indeed he uses the phrase: 'They are a people who do err in heart.' There is no room for pious sentiment and complacency in the devotional life of the Christian. The season of Lent reminds us of this. We can be like those Israelites and forget our first love and fail to be consistent in our adoration and worship of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Saints & Heroes

The Saint at the End of the Alphabet

It helps enormously on the route to sainthood if one is a pope. That ranks slightly above being a virgin (especially one who is martyred) or the child of a king (royalty are a good bet for topping up the papal coffers). Having a name like our subject for 15th March is an asset. It is unlikely that there will ever be a Pope Zacharias XXIV. Despite the fact that he was a Greek from Calabria and only a deacon, he was elected to the papacy on the death of Pope Gregory III. This either meant that there was a dearth of candidates or that the vote was rigged. In collaboration with St Boniface he suspended all polygamous priests, which spoiled their fun, and abolished all superstitious practices, even if they were carried out in Rome. What a killjoy!



FORWARDINFAITH

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Water



The Christian life begins in Baptism. Through the waters of the Font, we share in the death and resurrection of Christ. In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to the Samaritan woman at the well. He knows her story even better than she does, yet her first reaction is simply to think of his gift in physical terms, and as the end of a repetitive and awkward chore of drawing water regularly from the well. Yet the water he gives is the living spring, welling up to eternal life. We cannot live without water, and we cannot truly live without Christ. The hidden Christ is present in our first reading today. Exodus tells us how the people of Israel, led into the desert by Moses, are quarrelsome and thirsty, for water in the desert is the difference between life and death. Moses strikes the rock and brings forth living water. Christ is buried in the rock and brings forth the Resurrection life into which we are invited through the living water of baptism, that we may be fed with the pilgrim's food of the Holy Eucharist.

O Sing Unto the Lord

One of the sometimes-forgotten Lenten hymns, *Christian, dost thou see them* (NEH 65) is a translation by John Mason Neale (1818-66) of an unknown or lost Greek text. Neale had a particular interest in the hymns of the Eastern Church, and he attributed this hymn to St Andrew of Crete (c. 660-740). In its first printing the dramatic quality of the hymn was increased by italicising the verb in the first line of the first three stanzas: 'Christian, dost thou *see* them / *feel* them / *hear* them'. The tune normally used, *St Andrew of Crete* by J.B. Dykes, is unusual in having the first half of each verse in the minor key, and the second half in the major, but in doing so it illustrates the words most effectively.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome to our services today

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity

WEEKDAY MASS AT HOLY TRINITY

(Readings for third week of Lent)

Mon 16th **Feria in Lent**

9.30am Mass

Wed 18th **Feria in Lent**

7.30pm Mass

(7pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament)

Thurs 19th **S. Joseph, Husband of the BVM**

9.30am Mass

Sat 21st **Feria in Lent**

11am Mass Walsingham Cell – All Welcome

NEXT SUNDAY – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

The situation with Covid-19, and the instructions/recommendations we are receiving from the relevant authorities, is constantly developing. Please see the separate sheet for the most recent advice on steps which we are taking, and which we are asking all members of the congregation to take, to minimise the risk of infection

*******ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT POSTPONED*******

In view of the present health crisis, the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Guildford Diocese has been postponed. This means that his historic visit to Hawley will now **not take place this Friday**, nor will any of the other events previously advertised in connection with his visit. The Diocese wishes us to emphasise that the visit has not been cancelled outright, but delayed to a later date, and we therefore look forward to welcoming him to Hawley in due course.

LENTEN LUNCHESES CANCELLED

Consistent with advice which has been received from Church authorities, it has been decided with regret to cancel the remaining Friday Lenten Lunches this year. Our thanks go to those who volunteered to provide soup and bread. It is still possible to make donations to our Lent Charity (see below)

MU CANCELLED

Please note that tomorrow's meeting of the Mothers Union has been cancelled.

LENT CHARITY - this year's nominated charity is the Bishop of Guildford's Lent Challenge, which is supporting two causes: the diocesan Communities Fund, transforming the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our diocese through the ministry of our churches; and the Anglican Church in South Sudan, raising up leaders to build the church in this young nation.

LENT REFLECTIONS - you are encouraged to sign up for the daily Lent reflections, on the theme "Keeping Things Simple", available at cofeguildford.org.uk/len

TEA AT TWO AT ALL SAINTS' - meets on Fridays from 2pm - 4pm in All Saints' Hall.

WALSINGHAM CELL - meet on Saturday, 21st March, 11am Mass at Holy Trinity followed by a bring and share meal at the home of Anne Leppard, as always everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL - our Church Electoral Roll needs updating before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 26th April. The official revision ends on Sunday 29th March. Application forms are available today at both churches from Corinne Chapman. If your name is already on the Roll but if any of your contact details (i.e. home address, e-mail address, land line, mobile no.) have changed please let Corinne Chapman know in writing as soon as possible, thank you.

DIARY DATES - FIF GUILDFORD

CHRISM MASS AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL - Saturday 4th April. **Sign up sheets are in the porch, please add your name to the list.**

RICHBOROUGH FESTIVAL - at Canterbury Cathedral, Saturday 16th May.

CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL - at St Augustine's Church, Aldershot, Friday 12th June.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL - Saturday 8th August.

Full details of all trips are on the notice boards.

HAMPSHIRE FIRE SERVICE HOME SAFE AND WELL CHECK - is a home fire safety visit tailored to an individual's needs, free of charge to over 65's. For more information and to sign up for a Fire Officer to visit please see the information on the notice boards.

TOILETRIES FOR THE HOMELESS - Marian King at All Saints' is collecting both men and ladies small items of toiletries e.g shower gel, soap, flannels, shampoo, shaving items and women's sanitary products. (A bag or man's holdall to put them would also be very welcome.) Items left at Holy Trinity, clearly labelled, will be passed to Marian.

PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND HEAR IT!

Our neighbours at the benefice of 'Mattingley, Rotherwick and Heckfield, and neighbouring parishes are celebrating the Royal College of Organists National Organ Day on 18th April. Organists have made themselves available at Rotherwick, 10-11am, St John's Hartley Wintney, 10-11:30am, Mattingley 11:30am -12:30 pm, St Michael's Heckfield, 1-2pm; The Methodist Church, Hartley Witney, 3-4pm and St. John's Hook 4-5:30pm. Why not take yourself on a Church Crawl with pub lunch. In addition, why not attend a lunchtime informal organ recital at St. John's Hartley Witney on Fridays: May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, Sept 4th. St John's has a wonderful coffee shop where lunch can be purchased. Darren Neve.

PARISH OF HAWLEY APCM

Notice is hereby given that The Parish of Hawley APCM will be held on Sunday 26th April in Trinity Hall, commencing at 3:30pm.

Applications for Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Rep's, and members of the PCC are sought now.

Forms can be found at the back of the Church and should be returned, completed, to Susan Brown or Mike Gunston.

WEEKLY SHEET ITEMS THIS WEEK should be sent by Wednesday morning at the latest to pauline_scott@icloud.com thank you.