

I Corinthians 12.1-11

St Paul encourages the church to rejoice in its diversity. We are not all the same, for we each have been given different gifts by God. Being a Christian, you might say, releases us from the need to compete with others, to compare ourselves (whether favourably or unfavourably) with the person sat next to us in the pew. This is how the world works, but it is a path that can lead only to pride (if we puff ourselves up), or despair (if we think that we are useless). Rather, God has given you particular gifts, unique to you, for the building up of the people of God. This means that we don't need to play the comparisons game, because God calls us to serve him in our own special way. So rejoice in the range of people, and the variety of gifts, present in church this Sunday – and ask God to help you to deepen your own relationship with him.

Saints & Heroes

Conversion of St Paul

I've never endured sensory loss, and so can't readily imagine what going through it feels like. Those I've met who have would tell me that it seems like losing a part of you, so intense is the sensation and its impact on them and those around them. This incident recalled on the feast of the conversion of St Paul on the Damascus Road reminds us that Paul lost his sight for three days. We are then told he is led by the hand onward where he meets the disciple Ananias. 'Brother Saul,' Ananias addresses him, 'the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' This blindness weakens Saul, and he takes no food until he has received his sight again and is baptized, at which point, St. Luke tells us, he regains his strength. This debilitating moment of realization, of being crushed underneath the mercy of Jesus, becomes for Paul a moment of true sharing in the death of Jesus, in whom Paul understands himself to have been 'crucified to the world' also. There are many persecutors, like Saul, of Christians today, and more often we are crucified by antipathy and indifference. While desirous that the be brought to account, or brought to full knowledge, how comfortable would we be with one who formerly persecuted but now evangelized? Not only Paul, but our own raising from blindness is necessary if walking by faith, and not by sight, is even a remote possibility.



FORWARDINFAITH

The Society pew sheets are published by **Forward in Faith**,
2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG
(www.forwardinfaith.com)
and printed by the **Additional Creates Society**.

20th January
2019

Second Sunday of
Epiphany
Second Sunday of
the Year

No wine?



At the Wedding in Cana of Galilee Jesus resists his Mother's intervention: 'your concern is not mine.' Mary's intercession will not be prevented, she knows that his 'hour' cannot – must not – be delayed. Jesus has pointed out 'his hour has not yet come.' This is the hour when later in the Gospel darkness reigns, at that sixth hour on the Friday. The wine that has run out is the wine of the Old Testament; the New Wine will be made from the water of Baptism and water out of the side of the crucified Lord. In accepting that the time has come, Jesus reveals his glory and the hope that brims over in joy at the promise of eternal life. Here we see the first sign that there will be one huge wedding banquet to which all the faithful are invited. At that banquet nothing will ever run out and it will just go on and on!

From the Fathers

By this sign he made manifest that he was the King of glory, and so the Church's bridegroom. He came to the marriage as a common human being, but as the Lord of heaven and earth he could convert the elements as he wished. How beautifully appropriate it is that when he began the signs that he would show to mortals while he was still mortal, he turned water into wine. When he became immortal through his resurrection he began the signs that he would show only to those pursuing the goal of immortal life... Therefore let us love with our whole mind, dearly beloved, the marriage of Christ and the Church, which was prefigured then in one city and is now celebrated over the whole earth.

From 'Homilies on the Gospels' 1.14 by St Bede (c. 673-735, monk, theologian)

The Parish of Hawley

Registered Charity No. 1130589

www.parishofhawley.org.uk

Vicar: The Rev'd Canon William Perry, SSC

Mobile 07375 814447

email: vicar@parishofhawley.org.uk

Churchwardens: Keith Blanchard tel: 01276 472359 mob: 07946 608708 e-mail keith.blanchard2@btinternet.com

Jim Rapley tel: 01276 600222 mob: 07710 173512 e-mail: jim.rapley@centurylink.com

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Page 794 in the Missal)

Welcome to our services today

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Benediction at Holy Trinity

WEEKDAY MASS

Wednesday 23rd

Feria

7.30pm at Holy Trinity

(7pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

NEXT SUNDAY - 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints'

11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity

6pm Evensong and Benediction at Holy Trinity

Psalm Response:

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Cantor: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

(Alleluia is repeated after the Gospel reading.)

COMMON FUND SHARE - this year the Diocese has requested an amount of £6,212 per month from the parish as our share of the quota, an increase of £140 per month over last year. This needs to be funded from our offerings through envelopes or standing orders. It's a new year and an ideal time for us to review our individual giving. Please speak with our Honorary Treasurer John Chapman if you wish to amend your giving or your Churchwardens if you need further information on the Common Fund.

THANK YOU to Marion, Marian and Peter and everyone else who helped in making the brunch last Sunday in Trinity Hall such a splendid occasion, a good time was had by all and it was a great success. We look forward to the next date!

201 CLUB is again supporting Step by Step, an ecumenical project to support young homeless persons in the area. Cost is £12.00 a year, where half of the money raised goes to Step by Step and the other half in prize money. See Sue Evans (01276 32816) for any further information required.

MU meet tomorrow, **Monday 21st January**, 8pm in Trinity Hall. We will be welcoming Emma Davies as our guest speaker.

GUILDFORD FORWARD IN FAITH AGM - Saturday 9th February at Holy Trinity. Mass 12noon followed by lunch in Trinity Hall and AGM. Our key-note speaker at the AGM will be our National Director, Dr Colin Podmore, who will ensure that we are up-to-date with all that is going on nationally in his own inimitable way. This is an opportunity not to be missed. FiF members and others who are intending to come should let Rita Davies know as soon as possible if lunch is required. (A donation of £5 per head is suggested.) Thank you.

KEBLE COLLEGE CORPORATE COMMUNION - Wednesday 13th February. Sung Eucharist at 7pm. 8.15pm Dinner in Hall followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Warden. Cost £15 per person. Please let Pauline Scott have your payment together with any dietary requirements by **Sunday 27th January** at the latest, thank you. As a Keble parish it is an opportunity for us to meet with other Keble parish members.

BLACKWATER BUZZ - thank you to everyone who has so kindly volunteered to help with the monthly delivery, your help is greatly appreciated.

HOLY TRINITY FLOWER ROTA 2019 - please put your name on the new rota in the porch if you would like to arrange the flowers. Help and guidance will be given if needed. Please see Diane Brown for further information.

THE TRIANGLE SALE HAS NOW STARTED - most items in the shop are included in the sale, with some great prices. This is a terrific chance to buy books and gifts and other resources with generous savings. Don't miss this opportunity **SALE MUST** end on Saturday February 9th. 64 Kingsmead, Farnborough. G14 7SL. Online shop <https://trianglechristianshop.org.uk>

TEA AT TWO AT ALL SAINTS' - meets from 2pm - 4pm. Why not come and join us for tea, great cake and conversation. Just turn up and meet friends old and new, we look forward to seeing you.

WEEKLY SHEET ITEMS - should be sent by Wednesday morning to pauline_scott@icloud.com thank you.

