

Living the Word

Isaiah 6.1-13

The prophet Isaiah's vision is perhaps one of the best-known passages in the Old Testament. The wonderfully rich imagery used to describe heaven, and the worship taking place before the throne, is deeply impressive. This is the sort of thing the psalmist had in mind when he exclaimed, 'O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'. It is something that Christians (both catholic and orthodox) have a fine tradition of seeking to reflect in their worship here on Earth: the exquisite vestments worn by the sacred ministers; the sight and smell of the incense; the candles burning; the elaborate ritual and sometimes strange languages; the beautiful music. These 'externals' of religious worship are not simply adornments. They are not there simply for our enjoyment – indeed, they are not really for us at all! They form part of our offering of praise to God, in which we give of our very best for him in response to his love. And as we can see in this passage, they have deep biblical significance, and inspire awe and reverence in all who are exposed to them. For this vision to have taken place at the end of Uzziah's reign is important: as one of the better kings of Judah the people would have seen his death after some forty years as the end of a golden age. Isaiah reminds the people that although earthly glory is fleeting and transient, God's majesty and glory are eternal and greater than anything we might hope to obtain in this life. May we always strive for greater holiness in our personal lives and public devotions and respond to God's calling as Isaiah did: 'Here I am, send me'.

Saints & Heroes

Ss Cyril and Methodius

Since 1980, the Apostles to the Slavs share, with four others, patronage over the continent of Europe. Each of them has a distinct and substantial impact that they have had on Christianity, and Cyril and Methodius are no exception. These brothers, who made an outstanding contribution to their native Byzantine Christianity significantly influenced the development of Slav culture, devised the Glagolitic alphabet, and gave the gospels to their people in their native tongue. They would become notable in 862, when a request was made by the crown of Moravia that the Emperor and the Patriarch of Constantinople should send missionaries to evangelize the Slavic inhabitants. The matter may have been as political as religious, and followed the expulsion of Latin missionaries whose progress had been generally unimpressive. The Emperor, seeing an opportunity to extend his influence, quickly sent the brother-apostles, who brought liturgy and scripture as an inculturated gift, and not the product of an alien culture. Arguments naturally ensued, concerning the supremacy of the Latin liturgy, before Cyril and Methodius were – bearing the relics of St Clement – warmly received in Rome, Pope Adrian gladly giving authorization to the Slavic liturgy. A great cathedral stands in the Moravian city Velehrad, in the Czech Republic, and Europe is blessed by their intercession.

They left everything and followed him



Maximus of Turin interprets the miraculous catch of fish on the Lake of Genesaret as a sign of St Peter's faith as he casts the net of Christ's teaching into the depth of our human condition. 'We toiled all night, he says, and took nothing. Peter, who beforehand was unable to see in order to make a catch, enduring darkness without Christ, had indeed toiled through the whole night. But when the Saviour's light shone upon him the darkness scattered, and by faith he began to discern in the deep what he could not see with his eyes.' Jesus calls ordinary people with unclean lips and makes them holy. He uses the faith passed on to Peter and the disciples to let his light dispel the darkness of people's lives. When we carefully and actively pass on the faith we have received, we too are able to lift those who sink in the deep waters of loneliness and hopelessness of a life without Christ, and set them on the rock of God's love.

From the Fathers

By nothing else except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ has death been brought low:

The sin of our first parent destroyed,
hell plundered,
resurrection bestowed,
the power given us to despise the things of this world,
even death itself,
the road back to the former blessedness made smooth,
the gates of paradise opened,
our nature seated at the right hand of God,
and we made children and heirs of God.

From 'Orthodox Faith', by St John of Damascus (c. 675-749, theologian)



The Parish of Hawley

Registered Charity No. 1130589

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5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Page 806 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 13th

NO MASS at Holy Trinity

(KEBLE COLLEGE CORPORATE COMMUNION)

Saturday 16th 6.30pm at Holy Trinity *Our Lady on Saturday*
(Walsingham Cell - all welcome)

NEXT SUNDAY - 6th 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:

Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Cantor: Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.

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.

HAWLEY VICARAGE - the contractors have nearly completed extensive decorations and works to the Vicarage and Fr. William hopes to move in shortly. The diocese has asked the congregations to give the house a final clean, including interiors of cupboards, drawers and wardrobes. Can you help this **Wednesday 13th February from 10am?** Even if it just for a short time. Please let Keith know if you are available, thank you.

HAMS AGM - 8pm Prompt (please note the earlier time) **tomorrow Monday 11th February** in Trinity Hall, followed by our speaker, Adrian, Sports Paramedic (private ambulance) 'Safe Extraction from Incidents'.

WALSINGHAM CELL meet **this Saturday 16th February**, 6.30pm Mass at Holy Trinity, followed by a bring and share supper, all welcome.

MU meet on Monday 18th February at **7pm** in Trinity Hall. The AGM will be followed by a fish and chip supper. If you have not yet done so, please see Sue Evans for your menu choice.

INTERCESSIONS - prayer cards older than three months will be removed **TODAY**. Re-dated (or new ones) will be required for continuity of intercession. Please check now.

201 CLUB supports Step by Step, an ecumenical project to support young homeless persons in the area. Cost is £12.00 a year, half of the money goes to Step by Step the other half in prize money. See Sue Evans for any further information.

PHYLLIS TUCKWELL celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Various sponsored events are planned including a Wing Walk on 15th June. Please see the poster in the porch or visit www.pth.org.uk/event-diary for more information.

'REASONS TO BELIEVE' - conference with Amy Orr-Ewing and team - Saturday 15th June 10am-1pm. This is part of the Diocese of Guildford's 2019 education programme TRANSFORMING CHURCH, TRANSFORMING LIVES, and deals with building confidence in our faith and sharing it with others outside the church. It will take place at St Paul's, Howell Hill, Cheam. SM2 7HS. Free places can be booked at www.cofeguildford.org.uk/reasonstobelieve and where further details can be found.

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.

Be-fore the ang-els I will bless you, O Lord

