

Joel 2.21-27

Although intended to be a thanksgiving celebration, Harvest can be a difficult time for those in primary industries if this year's crop has not succeeded. But in this passage, the Lord addresses the natural world and tells it not to fear, because he is bringing nature to new life. As a result, we read, the people too must rejoice, thanking God for the rain. All in all, this reminds us that even when it seems we have nothing to be thankful for, God still sustains life, and in due course he will provide the means for life to come again. We can see and know this in the natural world, but we can also know it in our lives too: when we are faced with a period of aridity in our spiritual life, or we undergo some form of suffering in our bodies, or perhaps a bereavement, we are never left without hope, for God is the giver of new life, and will, in his own good time, accomplish his work.

Elements of the Mass

The Offertory

It is often mistakenly thought that 'the offertory' before the Eucharistic Prayer at mass is about money. True, this may be the point at which offerings of money are collected from the people, and they in some sense represent our desire to offer ourselves to the Father in union with Christ. However, in essence, the offertory is the moment when the bread and wine (and water) to be consecrated are received on the altar. These are really the people's offerings: hence the modern revival of a custom that these elements are brought to the altar by a group of lay people (a custom always retained in the Ambrosian Rite used in Milan). This is a moment which is often missed as the people may be singing an 'offertory hymn', which is a modern replacement for the offertory sentence, traditionally chanted whilst the gifts are being received. However the Offertory is one of the key moments of the mass, the first of the 'Eucharistic actions' following Christ who, as the gospels relate, 'took' bread/a chalice at the Last Supper before giving thanks over it. The actual reception of the elements onto the altar is followed by the ancient instruction (prob. 11th century): 'Pray brethren' and the 'Prayer over the gifts' asking God to accept our offering in union with that of Christ.



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The Society

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Harvest

Now we sing our Harvest song



Harvest Thanksgiving used to be an occasion of relief – relief that all was gathered in, that there was plenty to go round, and that God had once again provided abundance. The world in which we live is more complicated today, as our awareness of global poverty and complex social issues nearer to home impact upon our understanding of what we are to do with this abundance. We are still thankful, of course we are – but can we be truly thankful if we have not first contributed to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate, whose harvests and crops perpetually fail, for whom life is constant struggle? There continues to be real poverty, in many parts of the world, and in many cases on our own doorsteps. Today we mingle our thanksgiving for the harvest with the fervent prayers that God may open our eyes and hearts to his generosity, that we in turn may remember our call to alleviate poverty wherever we may witness its effects.

Prayers to Remember

I thank thee, O God; for the pleasures thou hast given me through my senses: for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. I thank thee for the delights of colour, the awe of the sunset, the wild roses in the hedgerows, the smile of friendship. I thank thee for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of thy riches.

Edward King

The Parish of Hawley

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27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Page 673)

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 10th October

Feria

7.30pm at Holy Trinity

(7pm Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament)

NEXT SUNDAY - 28th 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:

AS: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

HT: O may the Lord give us his blessing all the days of our life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Cantor: Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

(Alleluia is repeated after the Gospel reading.)

INSTITUTION of Canon Fr William Perry - **Tuesday 20th**

November, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity as Vicar of the parishes of Hawley and Minley. Please continue to pray for Fr William as he prepares to move parishes and also for the parish of Holy Trinity, Millbrook, Southampton as they approach an Interregnum. **Please sign up on the sheet in the porch if you are intending to attend, thank you.**

2019 PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - has been booked for 2nd -5th September. To ensure a place please let Pauline Scott have the first non-refundable deposit of £10 **as soon as possible**, please. Thank you.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER - after many years Darren Neve has decided to step down from his role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, a role which he has diligently carried out, thank you Darren. We take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously at Hawley and are looking for a member of our congregation to fill the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you feel you can help us please speak to a Churchwarden, they will be able to provide you with a role description.

SHARING THE WORD - Grange Community Junior School (on Wren Way) are looking for volunteers to hear children read. Any morning or afternoon would be great. If you can commit to volunteering on a weekly basis please contact Darren Neve - d.neve@grange.hants.sch.uk or by phone on 01252 542196 who would love to hear from you.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SITTING - we try to keep Holy Trinity church open each weekday until 12 noon and we need a couple of people each session to give a welcome to visitors. This could be weekly, fortnightly, monthly, occasionally, whatever suits. Please ask Rita Davies for more details of this important service to our parish community.

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER - 10am - 1pm - giant secondhand book sale including Bibles, commentaries etc., Farnham Baptist Church, The Hart, West Street, Farnham, GU9 7HA

MU meet on Monday 15th October, 8pm in Trinity Hall.

WALSINGHAM CELL meet on Saturday 20th October, 6.30pm Mass at Holy Trinity followed by a bring and share supper. Everyone welcome.

HOLLY FAIR - Saturday 17th November, All Saints' Hall 11.30-2pm. Offers to run a stall or to help in any way to Rachel Robertson rachael@rachaelsgardens.co.uk please. Collection boxes for the chocolate tombola and the raffle hampers will be in both church porches nearer the time. Other stalls include - **White Christmas** - Diane Brown will welcome your donations of white gifts for the home and any Christmas items, candles etc. **Pre-loved Jewellery** - Diana Shaul would like you to rummage in your drawers to see if you have unwanted jewellery and accessories hidden there! (No pierced earrings, thank you.) Please put the date in your diary and look out for more information in the coming weeks, thank you.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018 Holy Trinity 10.30am. After the service we will move to the memorial hall for the ceremony there. Our service will be a Mass dedicated to Remembrance Day which also marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War. If you have ideas and would like to help make this a truly memorable event or can **help with the publicity** please tell Fr Glyn.

TEA AT TWO AT ALL SAINTS' - Fridays at All Saints' 2pm-4pm and **A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to make the Macmillan Cancer Support afternoon the most so successful we have had!

MUSICAL "THE HIDING PLACE" - life of Corrie Ten Boom - October 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th October, 7pm St Christopher's Church, Cove. Tickets £10/£7 from 07761 600384 - hidingplace2018@gmail.com

WEEKLY SHEET ITEMS - should be sent by Wednesday morning to dave.powers@outlook.com thank you.

