



All Saints' weekly email: Epiphany 4

Dear Friends,

The Calendar of the Church works with our seasons: new birth and the coming of the light resonate powerfully in winter gloom and Candlemas, Tuesday's Feast, reinforces the echo. But having preached on this Feast to midsummer Sydney congregations I've had to think about other ways in which it can speak. It seems to me that it also resounds in the glare of postmodernity, in ways that reflect our global connectedness rather than our historical and geographical differences. Our faith is about the real world, in which the light shines, *in the darkness*. But it also sometimes struggles in the blazing sun of competing ideologies, in what the Western baptism rite calls 'the glamour of evil'. That is a good phrase for our age, suggesting the traps of celebrity culture and the cheap fame of social media.

In the prologue to John's Gospel the darkness neither overcomes, nor understands the light. That works for glare as well. John's chosen verb means both 'overcomes' and 'understands' in Greek and this is one of the few places where the Authorised Version has a better translation: 'comprehendeth it not' (but 'comprehend' has almost lost that double meaning now).

We have to understand both those consequences of Jesus coming into our lives. The light will *not*, finally, be overcome. But it will also, quite often, *not* be understood. We begin our seasonal story with the simplicity of Christmas, with the birth of a child whom we believe to be a unique intersection of human and divine. Once we make that statement it is immediately *not* simple. Love, while we may feel we know instinctively what it means, is not simple; it has consequences. As an old hymn for this season puts it:

*In stature grows the heavenly child,
With death before his eyes
A lamb unblemished, meek and mild,
Prepared for sacrifice.*

As we turn *our* eyes towards Lent and Easter we give thanks for the glory that lies beyond Good Friday, the innate glory of the incarnate Son of God whose human nature, shared with us, lifts us up to be with God. This glory is subject neither to glamour nor to darkness. It shines out and calls us both to bask in its light and to share it with others.

Fr Michael

Click on the following links for Sung Mass on SUNDAY at 11am:

[Propers for Epiphany 4](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

And for Sung Mass at Noon on TUESDAY for Candlemas:

[Propers for Candlemas](#)



[YouTube link for live stream](#)

The flowers this week have been given by **Pat Phillips and the Wright family** in memory of Clive Wright who died at Candlemas last year.

If you would like to have flowers in church to mark an anniversary or special occasion, please contact **Shawn Welby-Cooke** on 07988 287 663 or shawnwilbe@outlook.com

Prayer list

Prisoners and captives:

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Sotoudeh, Mussie Eyob, Maira Shabhaz.

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausning, Hilary Porter, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Rosemary Orr, Andrew Rodger, Martin Berka, Bishop Mano Rumlshah, Barbara Schiefer, David Aspenal, Margaret Feaviour, Sybil Priestnall, John Mather, Joan Anna SLG, Tim Little, Elizabeth Dennis, Lorna Sargaison, Phil Gibbs, Poppy Harris, Sam Ellis, Sheila Wood, Jennifer Spreckley, David Craig.

Those known to us recently departed:

Marguerita Moorcroft
Barbara June SLG *Pr*
Brian Wood
George Pulman
Elizabeth Day
Paul Sutherland
Graham Prowse
Ralph Spreckley

Anniversaries of death:

31st - Leonard Forsyth, Reginald Oxley, Jean Phillips
February
1st - Sarah Hutchinson, John Rose, John Pollard



2nd - Florence White, Pamela Powis, Alfred Buhagiar

3rd - Sydney Barradell, Cecilia Gamble

4th - Agnes Theobald, Vera Aspinall, Marjorie Hague

5th - Dorothy Collins, Philip Morrell, George Venn, Sarah Hudson, Iris Harrison, Norman Holden, Rond Pethers

6th - Donald Scott

Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the Parish Giving Scheme is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is not possible at present to register for the scheme online.

There are two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either by phoning 0333 002 1271 and quoting the code or by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes:

To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (*Charity # 1132895*)

Sort Code 60-09-15

A/C 04559452

Parish Legacy Policy

We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (*Charity # 802994*) or

The All Saints Foundation (*Charity # 273390*).