



All Saints' weekly email: Sunday next before Lent

Dear Friends,

As we approach the Lenten Fast (and with it the grim anniversary of the bishops locking clergy out of their churches last year), this Sunday we contemplate the Lord's Transfiguration.

Fr Peter Anthony gave us much to think about in the January Parish Paper in his reflections on the Transfiguration and the mosaic in Sant'Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna about which we shall hear more in the study day he is planning for later this year. I take the liberty of quoting him, slightly out of context, because his point illuminates Sunday's theme:

... the Transfiguration points us forward to the life of heaven that we believe is the focus and ultimate end point of our faith. What Peter, James and John witness on the mountain top tells us something of what we hope for in eternity. And a big part of that is the series of experiences and ideas and metaphors which we describe using the idea of seeing God. ... whenever and however we end up seeing God ... it is never just a matter of a distant witnessing of him. Seeing God prompts us to embrace him, to know him, to touch him, to be overwhelmed by him. Seeing God does not just involve the use of our eyes, but our mind, our soul, our whole being. We can see God because God made us able to know and see him. And yet at the same time, that vision wonderfully overwhelms us, inebriates us, and is more than we could ever hope for. The Transfiguration reveals the vision of God is strangely both possible and impossible at the same time; forbidden, and dangerous - and yet intimate and wonderful; awesome, and terrible; yet loving and personal. It points to a wonderful paradox at the heart of our experience of God. He is more than we could ever imagine, or desire, or see, and yet loves us and saves us as our friend and brother.

Our observance of Lent this year will be curtailed in ways that have become all too familiar. Stations of the Cross will be available online as last year (I hope soon to record a second set for variety), and I have some suggestions for Lenten devotion as follows:

If you like something to contemplate every day, Sister Wendy Becket's *The Art of Lent* (SPCK 2017) is a wonderful resource which I've only just discovered: there's a well-reproduced painting and a reflection for each day, arranged in themed weeks in a small and inexpensive volume.

Reflections for Lent 2021 (Church House Publishing 2020) is a good resource, focusing on a daily reading from the Daily Office. The bishops of our diocese have also once again produced a book of daily reflections: *Rooted in Love: Lent Reflections on Life in Christ* (SPCK 2020).

From Bishop Rowan Williams (who we hope will be with us for Holy Week, pandemic permitting) comes *Candles in the Dark: Faith, Hope and Love in a Time of Pandemic* (SPCK 2020), 26 accessible meditations originally published online for his local parish.

I would also like to point you again to John Behr's *Becoming Human* (SVS 2013): Fr John was to have led a study day for us last Advent which has been deferred to Saturday **27 November** this year. An overarching theme of his book is how true humanity is revealed in the Passion, death



and Resurrection of the Lord, so it provides an excellent meditative reflection for the coming season.

Sheila Upjohn, who has written widely on Julian of Norwich, offers *The Way of Julian of Norwich: A Prayer Journey Through Lent* (SPCK 2020).

If you're looking for a devotional booklet I'd suggest *Our Lady of Silence: The Devotion of Pope Francis*, by Capuchin Fr Emiliano Antenucci (CTS 2020): devotions, including a set of mysteries for the Rosary, based on an icon and course (*Silence, Silence Speaks*).

Lastly, I'd suggest several of Melvyn Bragg's *In Our Time* podcasts which can be found on the *In Our Time* website or wherever you get your podcasts (I've found podcasts very useful in the Year of Lockdown). There's a subset of them devoted to religion and among these are excellent and informative discussions of the Oxford Movement, Jesuits, the Nicene Creed, St Paul, Gnosticism, the Book of Common Prayer, the Trinity, the Talmud, Mary Magdalene, Purgatory, Augustine's Confessions to name just a few of those I've found enlightening. There's a huge amount there in the Culture and History sections as well.

Keep well and have a happy and holy Lent.

Fr Michael

Our monthly Walsingham Devotion is tomorrow - 1130am Rosary with intercessions, followed by Mass of Our Lady.

Our **monthly Requiem** is tomorrow week, **Saturday 20th February**: please let Fr Michael have names of any you'd wish us to pray for at that Mass.

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

[Propers for Sunday next before Lent](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

and for Ash Wednesday on 17th February at Noon:

[Propers for Ash Wednesday](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)



LENT APPEAL 2021

Proceeds from this year's Lent Appeal will be divided between: **American Church Soup Kitchen in Tottenham Court Road** - towards the costs of their mental health worker
Anglican Communion Fund - supports communities throughout the Anglican Communion often in the poorest and most dangerous parts of the world.

Bishop of London 's Lent appeal focussing on Youth Violence - supporting three charities working in different ways. with young people.

There will be no Lent Appeal boxes this year.

Please give generously, donating by cheque or BACS by Sunday 11 April, gifting aiding if possible. Cheques to be made payable to Parochial Church All Saints (Lent Appeal), writing Gift Aid on the back if appropriate.

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 Reference Lent Appeal (adding GIFTAID.
where appropriate)

The flowers this week have been given by **Rosamond Clayton** in memory of her beloved mother, **Constance Enid Hervey**, whose anniversary falls at this time.

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 Klausing, Hilary Porter, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Rosemary Orr, Andrew Rodger, Martin Berka, Bishop Mano Rumlshah, Barbara Schiefer, David Aspenal, 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, Sue Yesnick.

Those known to us recently departed:

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

Anniversaries of death:

14th - Margaret McWilliam, Mary Dick, John Knight *Pr*, Charles Forker
15th - Marion Clark, Constance Rivington, Henry Hewetson, John Bartle, Alec Rodger, Margaret Menzies
16th -
17th - Frederick John Howard, Letty Attlee, Jack Hope
18th - Lill MacKay, Angela Thompson, Joan Bowie
19th - Mavis Symes
20th -



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).***