



## WEEKLY NOTES

15 February 2003

### SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

#### SEXAGESIMA

The traditional theme of the Fall at Sexagesima may not be one of the most attractive aspects of the Christian faith, but it will do us no harm to reflect upon 'our fallen condition' as we near the penitential season of Lent. It does not do to have too rosy a view of human nature in a world where cruelty, indifference, deceit and exploitation are the order of the day. Purely human attempts at establishing various forms of Utopia have regularly crumbled into dust. The writer of Genesis used the telling expression, 'The imagination of the heart of man is evil from his youth up'; and God is represented as saying this not just before but also immediately after the Flood story. The much-quoted statement of St Augustine is then needed to give us some encouragement in the face of such gloomy scriptural tidings: 'Grace perfects nature' he says, and in the end that is all the encouragement we need, for that grace is freely available to those who ask for it. The seventeenth century poet Thomas Campion put it this way,

'Though I am but clay and dust,  
Yet thy grace can lift me high.'

We are not to be left miserable because of human sin and frailty. We have the grace of God in Jesus Christ, for Christ is the Second Adam, who 'to the fight and to the rescue came' - as Cardinal Newman's wonderful hymn from *The Dream of Gerontius* proclaims. (We shall sing it at the end of the Sung Eucharist today.) And not only that, the Church gives us Lent. Lent should not be seen as a time when we sing rather gloomy hymns (though it is perhaps a time for more 'serious' hymns), but a positive time for Christians to seek to grow in grace. That is why the Church lays on a variety of extra things in Lent, and also why Christian people should now be making their own Lent Rules so as to use an essentially penitential season as an opportunity for their own spiritual growth and advancement. At St Mary's there are several additional opportunities for sacramental grace, and for other forms of devotional activity, as well as other opportunities for serious discussion and for aspects of 'practical Christianity'. There is always a lot on offer here, and this year is no exception. We have ten days to go before Lent starts, and the Lent Leaflet is out today with full details of our local observance of the Forty Days.

**Our prayers today.** In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in New Zealand. In the diocese we pray for the work of the Mothers Union in the parishes. In our own parish we pray for our Wayfarers, and in our systematic prayer for those who live in the parish we pray today for the people of Cleves Avenue.

Our very fine new **Notice-boards** were in position in time to be admired by last Sunday's congregations. Whilst they may not have the artistry of one of the older boards they are undoubtedly more functional, and less liable to be damaged. However, in the case of the 'general' board, to the left of the lych-gate, it will no longer be possible for people to put up things themselves. All new notices will now need to be brought to the office in *plenty of time*, because we cannot guarantee that they will be put up immediately. The next occasion for putting things up will be the morning of Monday, 23 February, but the earlier the notices arrive the more chance they will have of being put up. There will be quite a few 'in-house' notices going up on that day, with details of our Lenten activities for the benefit of those who are passing by.

**The Office** will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week while some works are in progress to improve the office facilities. As noted above, the Friday evening Open Office will happen as usual.

**Rotas: Sacristy and Altar Servers.** The new one should be out next Sunday.

A flier is now available giving the dates of the **Christian Family Praise** services at 1100. The dates are given for the whole year.

**Volunteers needed!** Something different from the usual run of requests. Our new contract cleaners are now supplying soap, paper towels and toilet rolls, but they cannot wash the tea-towels. The churchwardens would welcome offers to join a rota to wash up to six tea-towels per week. G.E.

**The blue vestments** in memory of Frank Cannon, which were blessed last Sunday, are now in regular use for the pre-Lent season. They will also make an appearance for part of the Trinity season this year. There is a paper on one of the boards in the Welcome Area which explains the liturgical colour usage at St Mary's. Basically we follow the normal 'western' customs (with two minor exceptions), but a separate scheme is followed for Book of Common Prayer services, and this is largely based on English pre-Reformation practice. This explains why sometimes the 1100 Eucharist is celebrated in a different colour from what was used at 0930. Both schemes are on the paper in the Welcome Area; copies of this are available on request.

**Next Sunday.** There will be the quarterly Book of Common Prayer Eucharist at 0800. This is unlike the monthly BCP Sung Eucharist (as today), because it leaves nothing out except for the 'long exhortations.' We have now started to use regularly at this quarterly service the eighteenth century paten, our oldest item of Communion silver. At the Sung Eucharist next Sunday there will be another chance to welcome some more of our children into the communicant life of the Church as they make their First Communion. Choral Mattins is the last 'hearty' service before Easter (except to some extent on Mothering Sunday); Lent is just around the corner, so we shall be having *Te Deum* for the last time until Easter, and there will be the 'Closure of the Alleluia' at the end of the service. Evening Worship will be at Ewell United Reformed Church.

*Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 390  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198 (see note below)

### Common Worship rite

### 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

### Common Worship rite

Half-term for the Choir Juniors. Collect of the Day: page 390.  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198. (The Prayer has clear allusions to our fallen condition, the traditional devotional theme for this Sunday. The subject is also brought out in today's hymnody.)

Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat

Introit hymn: 358 (ii)

Introduction (page 167) and the Prayers of Penitence.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* setting)  
Collect of the Day: page 390 *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament reading from the Revelation to St John  
Gradual hymn: 146

The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Nicene Creed (*sung today*): traditional language text on page 213 (*Shaw*)

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory hymn: 404. Collection

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198;

then turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.

During the Communion: Hymn 277

Anthem: Mine eyes for beauty pine. *Howells*

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace,

No other help is mine, to heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:

'Tis named when God's name is said, 'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,

Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

Post-Communion hymn: 439 (tune 257)

Post-Communion Prayer. The Blessing and Dismissal.

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

### 1100 SUNG EUCHARIST

### Book of Common Prayer rite

Setting of the Eucharist: *Leighton* in D.

Creed and Gloria: *Merbecke* (the congregational setting printed on the lilac-coloured paper).

Hymns from the small red hymn-books today.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Introit hymn: 83

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33

Then green Prayer Book: page 31

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11: 19-31

Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm: 43

All stand for the Holy Gospel: St Luke 8: 4-15

Nicene Creed: page 34, followed by Prayer Biddings and Offertory Sentence.

Offertory Hymn: 217 (t.297) Collection

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the

Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration

Hymn at the Consecration: 384 part 2

During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)

Anthem: Ave, verum Corpus. *Elgar*

[English translation at Hymn 407]

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44

Gloria in excelsis

The Blessing Hymn 367 (ii)

### 1830 Evening Prayer

### In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

### Other events and notices

Monday 1200 Epsom Deanery Clergy Chapter meeting

2000 Website Group Meeting

Tuesday 2000 House Group at 68 Castle Avenue

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. (Actually, there is tea available as well.) Time to relax with friends.

Saturday 0930-1130 First Communion preparation.

**Shrove Regday.** Tickets for the Shrove Tuesday Party are available in church today from the churchwardens. They cost £5. Mr Reginald Saunders has already been given Ticket No.1. Early application for tickets is advised. There are lists at the back of the church for those needing or offering lifts. There is the chance to sign a print (*in lieu* of a card) at the back of the church, and contributions towards a gift for *Reg the Ruby Reader* may be made to the churchwardens.

**The hymnathon** on Saturday 10 February. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the hymnathon last week. There was a steady number of singers coming and going from 1000 to 1630, and several people kindly sang longer than they had signed up for. In fact, Julia Scott and Promilla Mullen sang all day - well done, ladies. We would also like to thank the Vicar for playing enthusiastically for the majority of the time, and also Julie Ainscough, who took over in the afternoon. I think those who took part would agree that it turned into a very enjoyable day, and 250 hymns (two verses of each) were sung. Many thanks to all who sponsored our singers. Sponsorship forms and money can be given to Rosemarie or handed in at the office. The next **Village Fair Meeting** will be on Monday, 8 March at 2000 in the Parish Room, when we look forward to seeing all helpers and any new volunteers. *Rosemarie and Mike Henson.*

**The Lent Leaflet** is out today, and will also be available next Sunday.

**The Vicar** will not be available between Tuesday morning (after the Eucharist) and Friday evening, when he will be in the office.