

12 September 2004

SUNDAY OF THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The medieval devotion to Our Lady in England and in Wales is now permanently commemorated in a gentle way at St Mary's since the installation of the Millennium-Jubilee window. Thirty-nine flowers of Our Lady are depicted in the window, together with other Marian motifs, some of which will relate to the famous passage from Revelation 12, which is read at the Eucharist this year. Some of the flower names of Welsh origin do not have English equivalents, like Sea Thrift which is *Clustog Mair* (Mary's Pillow) or Meadowsweet which is *Llysiau'r Forwyn* (the Virgin's herbs) or Ground Ivy, which is *Mantell Mair* (Mary's mantle). However, there are plenty of English names, like Our Lady's earrops (fuchsia), Our Lady's keys (cowslip), Lady's glove (Great Mullein), Mary's thimble (foxglove and heathbell), the Virgin's bower (clematis), and many others. The medieval title of 'Mystic Rose' for Our Lady has passed into general currency in the Church of England through its use in the well-known hymn 'Crown him with many crowns.' This simple piety tells us something about the loveliness of the incarnation, of the role of human simplicity in the mystery of the Word made flesh, and of the sheer beauty of the meeting of Love Divine with natural human love. The flowers of the field are taken into all this through the simple devotion of Christian people, who could see in the snowdrop a thing of infinite beauty, and call it the Fair Maid of February or (in Wales) Mary's taper. In a more sophisticated age like ours, this simple devotion from the past should teach us that tender love, simplicity, beauty and goodness, are important parts of our Christian devotional heritage, and that Our Lady in her strange but wonderful role in the divine economy has been a wonderful icon of all this.

We should not forget, however, that whenever we commemorate the Mother of the Lord we commemorate one who had perhaps more than her fair share of earthly sorrow and grief. At a time when there has been great wickedness and great tragedy in Russia, we can remember those Russian mothers, for whom, like Mary, a sword has pierced the soul. The particular piety of the hymn *Stabat Mater dolorosa* (NEH 97) may not be for everyone, but who can doubt that, as one who saw her Son die before her eyes and in the way that he did, Mary has the tragedy of Beslan deep in her heart as part of that 'sword', and that she is in constant prayer 'next to the throne' for all those who have been caught up in those dreadful events?

Prayers. Hymn: 'The Song of Hannah' (HCE 60; LNEH 33).  
Sermon by the Vicar. Hymn 478 Collection  
The Blessing

In church this week

Tuesday *Holy Cross Day* 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Tuesday 2000 (Coffee from 1930). Epsom Deanery Synod at St Martin's, Epsom. There is an open invitation to the Synod, at which the speaker will be the Dean of Guildford, the Very Rev. Victor Stock. He is a splendid speaker and raconteur, and will be well worth hearing, as he shares his vision of the Cathedral and its future role. The Vicar will unfortunately miss this event (canons should support the Dean, so apologies have been sent), because he will be away at a Canon Law gathering at Magdalen College, Oxford; and on the next day,

Wednesday, he is at a priests' reunion at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for coffee, relaxation, and pleasant conversation.

Thursday Coach Outing to Eastbourne, leaving the church at 0930. This is now fully booked. Any enquiries for possible cancellations to Joan Boulden.

**The Men's Cake-Making Competition** at the Village Fair has broken all records by raising the remarkable figure of £730 (2003 was £600). The figure was made up of £626 in sponsorship, and \$104 from the sale of the cakes. Apart from the splendid array of 22 cakes made for the competition, much effort has gone into raising the sponsorship money. A special mention should be made of Mike Henson who raised £150 and David Benke who raised £67. Well done everyone. J.B.

**And a P.S. from the Vicar:** Of course all the credit really goes to Joan Boulden, who thought up the idea in the first place some years ago, and on the strength of it has raised a very considerable sum. She has also done a fair amount of administrative work in connexion with this, even to the extent of supplying all the contestants with a doyley and little flag. We owe her many thanks. W.R.H.

**Vicar's movements this week.** I shall be a bit elusive this week, with a visit to Oxford (see above) taking up much of Tuesday and Wednesday. Also Friday already looks rather busy. The office will be open as usual, but if anyone wants me personally for something, then Monday is the best day this week. I shall also be in the office as usual on Friday evening. W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** The morning service arrangements are as usual, and it being the third Sunday in the month there is the Prayer Book Sung Eucharist at 1100. Evening Prayer will be said at 1830. A nice normal Sunday.

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

**Our prayers today.** We give thanks for our patron saint, and pray that her 'yes' to God may be echoed in our own lives. As the memory of the outrage at Beslan remains with us, we once again renew the Church's constant prayer for the peace of the world, on a day when we honour the Mother of the Prince of Peace. In the worldwide Church we pray in the Anglican Communion for our fellow-Christians in the Province of Brazil; in the diocese for all the many churches dedicated in honour of the Blessed Virgin; in the parish for our own personal renewal in faith and service on a day when we renew our Baptismal Vows; and we pray for those who live in Hessele Grove.

*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.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 438  
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Proper Preface: see below at 0930 service.

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST with RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS and PROCESSION OF OUR LADY** *Common Worship rite*

Children's Hour in the hall; crèche provided in church.  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 438.  
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Proper Preface: see below.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Fauré*, Messe Basse.  
All hymns (except for the Procession) on the pink paper.

Introit hymn: Sing of Mary, pure and lowly. [t.185]

*Kyrie eleison*

Metrical Gloria in excelsis at Hymn 363 [t.338]

Collect of the Day: page 438 *Readings on separate paper.*

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61: 10-11

and New Testament Reading: from Revelation 12

Gradual Hymn: 182 Her virgin eyes saw God incarnate born.

The Holy Gospel: St Luke 1: 46-55

[There is no sermon at the Eucharist today; the Liturgy should speak for itself today.]  
The Intercession

Installation of *Lauren Crick* as Head Chorister, and presentation to the retiring Head Chorister, *Barnaby Hill*.

Then all stand for the **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**. *Text on separate paper.*  
Hymn: With Christ we share a mystic grave. [t.OEH 339]

The Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymns: Angels and seraphim [t.49 i] Collection

and A maiden most gentle (*on the opposite page*)

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface of Our Lady:

And now we give you thanks, because in choosing the blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of your Son you have exalted the humble and meek. Your angel hailed her as most highly favoured; with all generations we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy Name.

Consecration Acclamation: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

[t.33]

*All sing:* O divinest love and mercy,  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
In obedience bore the Saviour,  
Living Bread for human race;  
Here his presence veiled, but Mary  
Dwells with him in highest place  
Evermore and evermore.

At the Invitation: *Agnus Dei*

During the Communion:

Anthem: Maria, Mater gratiae.

*Fauré*

*Maria, Mater gratiae,  
dulcis parens clementiae,  
tu nos ab hoste protege,  
et mortis hora suscipe.  
Jesu, tibi gloria,  
qui natus es de Virgine,  
cum Patre et almo Spiritu,  
in sempiternam saecula. Amen.*

Mary, Mother of grace  
sweet Mother of mercy,  
protect us from the enemy,  
receive us in death's hour.  
Jesus, born of the Virgin,  
to thee be glory,  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
to endless ages. Amen.

Post-Communion Hymn: The ark which God has sanctified. [t.500]

**Procession of Our Lady.** Use the blue leaflet until the end of the service.  
*The sanctuary party is followed by the children and then by the choir, and any others who care to join in.*

[t. 188 (ii)]

Hymn: Ye who own the faith of Jesus.

Post Communion Prayer (*at the statue of our patron saint*): page 439

The Blessing and Dismissal.

**1100**

**MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM**

*Common Worship rite*

*There is a separate leaflet for this service.*

It would be good if once again there was a good representation of St Mary's folk to welcome the newly-baptized. Anybody like to stay on after the Eucharist?

**1400-1700**

**'Heritage Day.'** The church will be open, and we expect lots of visitors.

Once again it would greatly help if some members of the congregation were simply 'around' at various periods during the afternoon. Last year over the heritage weekend we had over a hundred visitors.

**1830**

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

Music: *Ferial*

Responses: Green books, page 18

Office-hymn: 181 (second tune)

Psalm 138. In praise of the Lord who exalts the humble and meek. Page 301

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2: 1-10. The Old Testament Magnificat

Magnificat: page 19 *Hylton-Stewart in C*

Second Lesson: St Luke 11: 27-28

Blessed is the Mother, and blessed are the hearers.

*Hylton-Stewart in C*

Nunc dimittis: page 20

Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.

Anthem: A maiden most gentle. *French carol, arr. Carter*

[Words at No.2 on 'Hymns for St Mary's Day.']