

2 April 2006

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Our new Stations of the Cross and Resurrection are now de-mounted from the gallery, and placed around the church for liturgical use in Lent and Passiontide. Each Sunday three of the Stations will be placed at the front of the nave for devotional use during the Sung Eucharist.

This is a serious and sober Sunday. After the easier mood of Mothering Sunday last week (not that the very demanding three Stations at the Eucharist were in any way easy), we are today put directly on the path that leads to our annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, as the Lenten Preface at the Eucharist has been saying for these last four weeks. So no distinctive features in our worship today, it is simply time now to concentrate on the Passion of Christ. The three Stations at the Eucharist today round off the traditional sequence, but next Sunday Iain McKillop will be leading us in a glimpse of resurrection glory with the three *post-Easter* Stations, before we plunge into the annual commemoration of those events which changed the world in that first Holy Week. They used to put up the Passiontide veiling on this Sunday – not often seen now, and the prevailing mood is clearly a serious one.

So no jolly hymns at the Eucharist today, for even the hymns are fairly demanding. The ancient hymn *'The royal banners forward go'* (with its fine twentieth-century tune, appropriately called 'Gonfalon Royal') proclaims a Johannine Christology of the universal Lord 'who reigns and triumphs from the tree.' It starts off the Sunday Eucharist confidently, for the Eucharist still remains a thanksgiving, no matter what the prevailing devotional mood is, and the unchanging dialogue before the Eucharistic prayer always makes this very plain. However, the Johannine account is only one picture of the Passion of Christ, and the other hymns look largely to the Christ of the Synoptic gospels. The Gradual hymn, an 'old faithful' with a simple tune, concentrates on the mystery of the redeeming blood of Christ. The Offertory hymn by Bishop Walsham How is a powerful dialogue on the person of Christ, in birth, life, death and glory: each verse beginning with the question, 'Who is this?' with the confident Christian answer in the second half of the verse. (The Welsh tune is magnificent.) The hymn at the Invitation is a gentle work by an Anglican monk, Fr Andrew SDC, with a modern Scottish melody, which we have been gradually getting to know in recent years. The last hymn, to the 'old' tune of 'Jesu, lover of my soul' (which suits the words admirably) comes from a very influential book, entitled *'Love's endeavour. Love's expense'*, written in the seventies by Canon W H Vanstone, and telling of the total outpouring of the love of God in Christ, who on Good Friday holds and embraces the whole world in his outstretched arms

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. The bean and the bonhomie. Come and enjoy a friendly cuppa.
1230-1345 **Lent Lunch** in the Church Hall in aid of our Lent Project, 'PHAB', the organization which brings together the physically handicapped and the able-bodied.

Thursday 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

2000 'Churches Together in Ewell': Lenten evening at West Ewell Evangelical Church in Lansdowne Road. The subject is

The Church Housing Trust

There will not be the usual Friday evening open office tonight or during Holy Week and Easter Week. It resumes on 28 April.

The Vicar duly attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference at Swanwick last week. The Biblical expositions by a young lady New Testament specialist were excellent. He knew about forty of the three hundred or so present, and three of the hymns.

The Electoral Roll will be 'frozen' from Friday, 7 April (i.e. this week). The revised Roll has to be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which this year is on Sunday, 30 April (the last possible day, in fact). This is NOT the six-year occasion, when everyone has to sign up again, but some regular members of the congregation are not in fact on the Roll, and they ought to be, because the Roll is meant to a working register of a local congregation. Copies of the somewhat simple form for application to be placed on the Electoral Roll are available in the Welcome Area. A few forms have already been filled in as a result of this reminder in recent weeks. Anyone else should sign up **today**.

Virginia and Ron Johnson, who are sponsoring the Weekly Notes today, would like to thank the Vicar and the many kind friends of St Mary's church, and also their neighbours, for the lovely cards, flowers, visits, goodwill messages and their prayers during Virginia's six-week stay in hospital, due to her fractured hip and wrist. Virginia is now at home, making slow but steady progress.

Next Sunday. It is Palm Sunday, and Holy Week begins. Full details of Holy Week and Easter are given in *Ewell Parish News*, and do not need to be reproduced here, though there will be a basic summary next week. The Palm Sunday arrangements are different from usual, mainly on account of the way we have been using the Stations of the Cross at the Sung Eucharist throughout Lent. Iain McKillop will be doing the final set of Resurrection Stations next Sunday, and it will therefore be more appropriate for our systematic concentration on the Passion of Christ to begin in the *evening*. So the Palm Procession will take place at Evensong, as will the formal Reading of the Passion. The morning Eucharist will be 'of Palm Sunday', rather than 'of the Passion'. Next year we shall be back to normal. Mattins will be as usual at 1100.

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

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for our fellow-Christians in the Lusitanian Church of Portugal. In the diocese we pray for the Church's ministry to prisoners, especially at the two local prisons, Downsview and High Down at Banstead. In the parish we pray for the Administrator, Lynne Yuille, and all involved in the administrative work of the parish; and in our regular street-by-street prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Chatsfield.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 167. *Common Worship rite*
 Collect of the Day: page 469.
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219. Proper Preface: page 312.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 396
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other Passiontide material: page 312
 Setting of the Eucharist: *White* in E

During Lent the whole section between the Gospel and the Biddings to Prayer before the Peace is replaced by the conducted Stations of the Cross. The time-factor has meant that we have also now reverted to our non-Lenten practice of only having one pre-Gospel reading and no Gradual Psalm.

Introit hymn: 79

[Tune: 128 ii]

Black book, page 167: Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*.

[*Gloria in excelsis* is omitted during Lent.]

Collect of the Day: page 396. *Readings on the coloured paper.*

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Hymn 83

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

[Stations 13-15]

Three Stations of the Cross:

There is a separate leaflet for this part of the service.
A different one will be issued each week during Lent.

The Vicar will be leading the Stations this week.

Thirteenth Station: *Jesus dies on the Cross*

Fourteenth Station: *Jesus is taken down from the Cross*

Fifteenth Station: *Jesus is laid in the tomb*

After the Three Stations, all remain standing for the Biddings to Prayer followed by the Greeting of Peace
 Offertory hymn: 474
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Proper Preface: page 312.
 Collection

Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall after the 0930 service.

1100 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM *Common Worship rite*

The Baptism of: *Kai Luke Finch, Hannah Clare Denington, and Sebastian Antonio Scardarella.*

There is a special leaflet for this service.

1800 Stations of the Cross (in the main church).

In church this week

Monday at 1930.

The Bishop comes to St Mary's

to conduct his Lent Session with the Dorking Archdeaconry.

Bishop Christopher's theme will be:

'With Christ in his Passion and Resurrection in art and Music.'

There is a general invitation to anyone who would like to come; you don't have to belong to any synod or committee, even though the words 'Dorking Archdeaconry' are mentioned. The Bishop is very good at this sort of thing; I heard him a year or so ago doing something similar in Advent for the clergy, and it was exceptionally worthwhile. I am sure this will once again be the case. It is good to find our Bishop leading us in this way, in my view this is a very real part of a Bishop's pastoral role, and it is good that Bishop Christopher seems to consider this approach to be a very important one. **W.R.H.**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
 Thursday 1915 **Holy Communion**
 Friday 1200 **Holy Communion**

[The last of the Friday Lenten services at which the reading of the Passion according to St Matthew has been taking place in serial form.]

Other events and notices.

Monday The Vicar is 'Duty Officer' on Monday morning in the office.
 Tuesday 1330 Meeting to update the Inventory.

Tuesday evening: 1930 for 2000 in the Parish Room.

Coffee from 1930

'Oughts and Crosses' with Dr Patrick Miller
 (See Lent Leaflet)

Environmental Ethics

Preservation and/or 'man's dominion'