

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

9 March 2008

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

The Passiontide veiling in church is a sombre reminder of the basic solemnity of the season. Although the old title of *Passion Sunday* is no longer used in the Church of England to describe this Sunday (the Roman Catholics use the term to denote *next* Sunday), the season of Passiontide has clearly started. The principal rites of Holy Week bravely try to emphasise the Johannine picture of the Victory of the Cross, with St John's account of the Passion read on Good Friday, and with St Paul's famous passage about the exaltation of the crucified Saviour read as the Epistle on Palm Sunday. However, the reality of the full extent to which 'he came unto his own and his own received him not' has to be spelled out in the other Passion accounts, and they spare nothing. Beginning this week, we have the most stark of those accounts being read at the 11 o'clock service today, when the crisis-theology of St Mark comes to its climax in his almost clinical account of the final conflict of good and evil in his Passion narrative. Next Sunday at the Sung Eucharist it will be the turn of St Matthew to have his say. Each one of the Passion accounts has something distinctive to offer. This year St Luke is not being read: why not read him at home? The unusual and slightly unfamiliar sounds (for St Mary's) of the *Dvořák* anthem at the Sung Eucharist today echo this mood of serious reflective meditation on the reality of the sacrifice of Christ. The words of the anthem are few, but the music keeps us at the foot of the cross by the constant repetition of its simple text. Today is devotionally a time for taking seriously what the cost of our salvation actually was to that divine love, deep within the heart of God. We drew that love out of God, because he knew that his love was the only way that would bring us back to him; the wonder is that God really thought us worth saving no matter what was the cost. This is a day to read hymns like 'When I survey the wondrous cross', or simpler texts like 'There is a green hill', perhaps as Communion devotions. This is the time to say the *Salvator mundi*, perhaps as a daily prayer until Holy Saturday: 'O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.'

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Japan. In the Diocese we pray for the work of the Hospital Chaplains. In our parish prayer we pray for all those who have yet to come to faith in Christ, and in our systematic prayer for those living in the geographical parish we pray today for the people of West Mead.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS

Psalm 88

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Order 1: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 396.

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.

Other seasonal material: page 312.

Lenten meditation by *the Vicar* on lines from Samuel Crossman's seventeenth-century hymn: '*My song is love unknown.*'

Today: '*Why, what hath my Lord done?*'

What makes this rage and spite??

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST.

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed. Order 1 (black book): page 167 . Collect of the Day: page 396 . Eucharistic Prayer C : page 191 . Other seasonal material: page 312 . Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Wood</i> in the Phrygian Mode.

Introit hymn: 94

Black book: page 167. The Invocation, the Mutual Salutation, the Prayers of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*.

The Collect of the Day: page 396.
Use the Readings paper from this point until after the Holy Gospel.
 Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel.
 Gradual Psalm 130 (*sung by the choir*).
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.
 Hymn: 'In the cross of Christ I glory.' **COLLECTION IN THIS HYMN TODAY.** [Tune 379]
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John
 Sermon by **Mr Iain McKillop**
 Nicene Creed: page 173.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
Then all sit for the Offertory Anthem: Blessed Jesu, fount of mercy. Dvořák

Blessed Jesu, fount of mercy, we thy faithful, in thy Passion,
 all thy sorrows share with thee. (*From 'Stabat Mater.'*)

All stand for Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Proper Preface: page 312.
 The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
 After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 73 [First tune]
 During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* and organ music today.
All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 182.
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn: 'Soul of my Saviour' (*on readings paper*). [Tune (*not words*): NEH 305]
 Organ: Passacaglia in C minor (BWV 545). *J S Bach* JH

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 THE READING AND MUSIC OF THE PASSION.

There is a special leaflet for this service. A handbill giving details of the service is also available at the earlier services today. This service gives a unique opportunity to follow the entire Passion story in a reflective way, with hymns and choral music at various stages in the narrative.

1800 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

In church this week

Tuesday **1000 Holy Communion**

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Finance Committee.

Tuesday

1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall. Coffee from 1930.
 The fifth of **Dr Patrick Miller's**
DIALOGUES WITH A DIFFERENCE.
 Tonight: **Roman Catholicism**
 with **Father Graham Bamford**,
 Roman Catholic Parish Priest of Ewell and Stoneleigh.

Wednesday 1000 Pupils of Wallace Fields School visit St Mary's.
 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the church hall. Tea-drinkers should not feel excluded: the leaf is provided as well as the bean. A pleasant and relaxing time with familiar and friendly company. It is an open occasion; anyone can come. Today we have a visit from **Mr Alan Anderson** in connexion with our Lent Project. There is a more substantial note below about this.

1215-1345 **LENT LUNCH** in the church hall
 in aid of our Lent Project,
The Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany. **£3.50.**
 This is the last of the four Lent Lunches this year.

Saturday 0930 Junior Confirmation Class.

Lent Project: The Lazarus Home for Girls, Bethany. At the *Coffee Morning* on Wednesday we are expecting a visit from *Alan Anderson*, who is the Vice-Chairman and Building Co-ordinator for the Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls at Bethany, He has just returned from Bethany, and will be giving a presentation with all the latest news and photographs from the Home. The presentation should start at **1100**; coffee and tea will be served from 1030-1100, and Alan will stay on to have lunch with us. The Lent Lunch runs from 1215 to 1345.

This promises to be a very special and exciting event, so come along for 1100 – if not coming earlier for coffee – meet Alan, and stay for lunch. Alan is coming down all the way from Whitley Bay (for non-geographers, this is north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) in order to be with us, so please try to come and support him – especially if you have not been able to attend the previous Lent Lunches, because this year they haven't been quite so well supported as they usually are.

Lent Project: the display in church. A reminder that there is a fair amount of information about our Lent Project on the display-boards in the Welcome Area. There is quite an amount to see and read, so do have a look before or after services today, if you haven't already done so.

Easter Flowers. If anyone would like to make a small donation for Easter flowers in church, please see Sybil Hale or Sue David.

'Broken hosts.' This is probably the last week when we shall actually be using these at the Eucharist, but some will still be around for a little while yet, because they will have been placed in the aumbry as part of the Reserved Sacrament, and they will be used at the Side Chapel. W.R.H.

Message received: 'On Monday 25th Feb at 0903, **Damian and Sarah Merciar** were blessed with the birth of their second son, **Reuben Penn Merciar**, weighing in at a healthy 8lb 8 oz.' We send them our congratulations, and with our warm good wishes, particularly from the 1100 congregation. W.R.H.

'We need to know.' A repeat of a recent announcement. It really is important that all meetings, or indeed *anything* taking place on the premises, are always **notified to the office**, so that they may entered into the church diary. When they are not, it always causes confusion, as people turn up for something, and find that something else is taking place. This is also the case when 'church meetings' are taking place *off* the premises. Occasionally the Vicar has found that he is expected to be in two places at once because the office has not been aware of one of the meetings, and no doubt others have found the same from time to time. A check in the diary last week revealed several items which should have been in, but which were not there. They can only be inserted if notification is given. Please could all concerned tighten up on this drill, so that mistakes and double-bookings are not made. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. Holy Week begins. Palm Sunday services are at the usual times. There will not be a sermon at the Sung Eucharist, because of the length of the rite: the Passion Gospel (St Matthew this year) always takes up quite some time, and there is also the additional feature of the Palm Ceremonies. Full details of the Holy Week services can be found on the service-lists available in the Welcome Area, and also – with commentary – in *Ewell Parish News*. Now is the time to decide on what one is going to do about the Great Week. The chart for the Maundy Thursday Watch of the Passion is up today. It would be good if people made this particular commitment earlier than later. This period of communal silent prayer by members of the congregation is a devotional time without equal in the liturgical year, and I hope that many will hear the call of the Christ of Gethsemane, who says, 'Could you not watch with me one hour?' W.R.H.

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