

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
(020 8393 2643)
www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

7 September 2008

SUNDAY OF THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL

There is always a freshness in the various festivals of Our Lady, and that is probably due to the fact that her distinctive role in the divine economy took place at a time of life when she was in the springtime of her womanhood. The Patronal Festival at St Mary's is kept on the particular date which traditionally celebrates her birth, though we avail ourselves here of the provision to make it the principal and 'general' festival of the Blessed Virgin. It is an occasion to contemplate the first appearance on earth of the one who was to be the 'vessel of salvation', she who would bring forth the world's salvation, the Christ long-awaited, the Word made flesh. Christian devotion has tended to centre either on the Mary of Christmas or on the Mary of heaven. Yet there was also the Mary who followed Jesus around anxiously, and who was with him in death as well as at birth. This is the middle-aged Mary whom we sometimes forget about, but who remains a pattern of motherhood in its drudgery and disappointments as well as in its privileges and joys. What is more, she carried on: she is found in the Acts of the Apostles in a new role as a Mother to the infant Church – the mystical body of her incarnate Son. She has indeed been accorded great and glorious titles by the Church – Mother of God or Queen of heaven are only two of the very long list* – but she who is also Mother of the Church is still that pure and lowly Mother of Bethlehem and Mother at Nazareth, who is pierced in the soul by the wounding sword of sorrow. Her undoubtedly hard life in Palestine was the daily earthly vocation for the one who by her simple 'Yes' to God became the one who is honoured by all generations as 'blessed among women,' and we should not forget that.

* The Litany of Our Lady contains about fifty such titles. The text can be obtained from the Vicar. There are other such titles, some more official than others. A good one was coined by the former Bishop of Blackburn some years ago at the National Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 'Mother of Risks' he called her.

Our prayers today. We give thanks for our patron saint and for her role in the loving purposes of God. We pray for our church and parish on a day when we renew our vows of baptismal commitment. In the world-wide Church we pray today in the Anglican Communion for the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church. In the diocese of Guildford we pray for the life and witness of the other 26 churches in the diocese dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary (four of them in our own Epsom Deanery). In the parish we pray for our personal and parochial renewal in faith, prayer and mission, and in our regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in The Mount.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167

Eucharistic Prayer **B**: page 188.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 438

Preface on Readings paper.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST with PROCESSION OF OUR LADY.

Common Worship rite

There is a separate leaflet for this service, with additional papers for today. Children's Hour in the Church Hall; Crèche available.

Eucharistic Prayer B with Preface of Our Lady.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Millington*, Missa Alme Pater.

Anthem: Ave Maria. *Rachmaninov*. [See note on the text below at Mattins.]

The hymns are printed on the service-papers.

As last week, there are several distinctive features to the service today, and it would be wise to follow the running-order very carefully. At the end of the

service there is **The Procession of Our Lady**. *Details of this are on a blue leaflet.*

*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 SERMON by *the Vicar*

c.1115 CHORAL MATTINS

Book of Common Prayer rite

Responses: page 8.

Music: *Smith of Durham*.

Venite (shorter version).

Office-Hymn: 180 [tune 85]

Psalms 113: page 274. An Old Testament Magnificat.

The Lord exalts the humble and meek.

First Lesson: Song of Songs 2: 1-7

From a gentle love-poem: the Rose and the Lily.

Te Deum: page 10.

Sumsion in G.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4: 1-5

Through the incarnation, by adoption and grace, we share in Christ's own sonship.

Hymn 181 [Second tune.]

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the

Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 53).

Anthem: Ave Maria.

Rachmaninov

The anthem is printed out below in its familiar Latin form, and with the usual English translation, but it will probably be sung in Russian, as set by Rachmaninov.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tuae, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Prayers Hymn 478; Collection.

During the hymn (before the last verse): Station at the Statue of Our Lady.

(Text overleaf.)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All reply: **And also with you.**

V: The angel of Lord brought tidings to Mary.

R: **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

V: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R: **Be it unto me according to thy word.'**

V: 'The Word was made flesh,

R: **And dwelt among us.'**

It is truly right that we should bless Mary, the God-bearer, the ever blessed and glorious Mother of our Lord, more honourable than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, who for us and for our salvation brought forth our Saviour Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God. May God be praised in her, the first among the saints. **Amen.**

Let us pray: Lord, open our hearts to your grace. Through the angel's message to Mary we have learned to believe in the incarnation of Christ your Son; we pray that by his Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing
Organ: Prelude and Fugue in C major (BWV 527). *J S Bach* JH

1800 Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

In church this week

Tuesday **1000** Holy Communion
Wednesday **1200** Holy Communion
Saturday **1400** Wedding of Nigel Bird and Maria Harradine.

Other events and notices.

Monday Normal office hours resume today.
Holy Communion to the housebound.
Tuesday 1430 Meeting of the External Affairs Committee.
Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for coffee, relaxation, and pleasant *conversazione*.
1200 Meeting of the Epsom Deanery Clergy Chapter at St Mary's. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 1200 at the Nave Altar – anyone can come – and afterwards the clergy will be listening to a talk by Mr David Davies, the Sub-Organist at the Cathedral.
Thursday **Coach Outing to Chichester and Bosham.** (See note below.)
Saturday A very full day at St Mary's. The church will be open throughout the morning as part of the **Heritage Day** programme, and at 1400 there will be the wedding of *Nigel and Maria* (see note below).
Then at **1930** there will be the **Patronal Festival Organ Recital by Jonathan Holmes**. Full details of the varied and exciting programme are on handbills (available with the Notes today), and in *Ewell Parish News*. As usual, admission is £6.00, payable at the door (free for under 16s) or £5.00 in advance from the Parish Office or after the services today. Interval refreshments will be available.

The sermon. There is no formal sermon during the course of the Sung Eucharist today; the two features of the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and the Procession of Our Lady should more than adequately serve that purpose. However, the mid-morning sermon which normally occurs at the start of Mattins is separately billed today, as it was last week, and in that sense it will be the sermon for both services. Anyone from the 0930 service who does not wish to miss out on the Sunday sermon should just return to church after coffee, and then disappear again when the sermon has finished. This will happen at least once again this term, on 'Bible Sunday', 26 October.

The Votive Candle stand is placed today, for the benefit of those who wish to use it, by the statue of Our Lady, as a reminder that our prayers are one with those of our patron saint and with the whole company of heaven. The statue arrives there at the end of the Sung Eucharist, after having been carried around in the Procession. A candle lit at a statue or a shrine is a visible witness to the ongoing nature of prayer, for after the prayer has left our heart or lips, it still remains 'alive' in the reality of the eternal prayer of Christ, through whom all our earthly prayers – as well as those of Our Lady and of all the saints – are taken into the very heart of God. A burning light is a symbol of the risen life of Christ, as the Easter Vigil rite brings out so clearly, and so the votive candles are a constant reminder of where our prayer has gone.

Coach outing on Thursday. The coach for Chichester and Bosham on Thursday will depart from outside the Church Hall. Please be there at 0915 to facilitate swift boarding for departure at 0930. We shall be leaving Bosham for the return journey at 1700 for 1715, so we shall be back in Ewell later than usual.

Nigel Bird and Maria Harradine will be getting married at St Mary's on Saturday, 13 September, and – hardly surprisingly – there is a general invitation extended to all members of the regular congregation.

The Children's Society. This year £465 has been collected and sent to the Society. Many thanks to all box-holders. If anyone would like a box in which to collect their small change, please ask Sybil Hale (8393 3507).

The service-list for the term is now available in the Welcome Area, and there are plenty of copies available for those who would like to have them. The details go as far as the end of the calendar year, and they fill two sides of an A3 sheet: there is quite a lot on. Although the lists are mainly concerned with musical matters, they also give straightforward information about what is happening – and when. Some people, for example, may like to know when there is an early morning Book of Common Prayer Eucharist, or what is likely to happening around Advent and Christmas. Our plans are always laid well in advance, and the service-lists give a good indication of the many-faceted worship that takes place in this parish church. All members of the congregation should have one of these lists (or perhaps one per family) for future reference. More copies can be printed if necessary.

‘The Preacher.’ For the benefit of those not in church last week (when we were mightily afflicted by ‘the former and the latter rains’ - and all at once, so it seemed), this is just to say once again that the preacher at the Vicar’s final service at St Mary’s on the evening of 11 January will be the Archbishop of Canterbury. This will probably be the first time for any ‘Primate of All England’ to visit St Mary’s. We look forward to welcoming Dr Williams here.

A related point: application forms for the **Gala Dinner** on 3 January are now available in the Welcome Area. It has to be done this way for security reasons at the T.A., and names and addresses are needed.

Next Sunday is *Holy Cross Day*, an unusual day in the Christian calendar, and which has been up-graded in *Common Worship* to a red-letter day. It gives us a chance to have a devotional concentration on the cross of Christ away from the overwhelming context of Holy Week. Services are at the normal times.

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

Remain standing for THE HOLY GOSPEL

At the announcement:

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel: This is the gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

This section of the service is printed on a separate paper. [Tune for the hymn: OEH 339.]

After the Renewal of Baptismal Vows there are Biddings to Prayer (there is no extended Intercession today), and then the Eucharist resumes at the Greeting of Peace.

THE GREETING OF PEACE.

With Our Lady and all the saints of God we are one in our Lord Jesus Christ. We belong to him through faith; we are heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. *All:* **And also with you.** [*Greeting exchanged.*]

OFFERTORY HYMN: Angels and seraphim, thrones and dominions. Tune: 49 (i), *Wessex.*]

Remain standing for THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER. *Eucharistic Prayer B.*

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them to the Lord**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest: Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us. He opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will, and won for you a holy people. 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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Choir: [Millington, Missa Alme Pater]

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord,</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,	<i>God of power and might,</i>
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.	<i>Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui venit in nomine	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name</i>
Domini.	<i>of the Lord.</i>
Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest</i>

Priest: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness: grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat;

THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you;

THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith.

All sing: O divinest love and mercy, [Tune: NEH 33 *Corde natus*]
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.

Priest: And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world, rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate the memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup, and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people, and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. *All: Amen.*

Priest: Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

During the Communion: Agnus Dei. [Millington, Missa Alme Pater]

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us, grant us peace.

Anthem: Ave Maria. *Rachmaninov*

The words of the anthem are printed on the Weekly Notes – at Mattins.

All stand at the end of the anthem.

The Procession of Our Lady. (The full details are on a separate paper.)

Note: The sanctuary party is followed by the children and then the choir; others may follow the choir, if they wish to do so. The statue of Our Lady will be carried around the church in the Procession, as a symbol of her special place in the midst of a church dedicated in her honour. At the end of the Procession the statue will be placed on its stand, to remain there for the rest of the day; candles are available for those who wish to use them.

Hymn during the Procession: Ye who own the faith of Jesus. [t.188 ii]

Post Communion Prayer at the statue of Our Lady.

The Blessing and Dismissal. (There is no final hymn today.)

Organ Voluntary: Processional.

Mathias

JC