



Celtic Orthodox Church

Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex

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St Gwenn's News 41 MARCH 2016

Services at St Gwenn's

Sun 6 Mar – **LENT 4**

Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Sun 13 Mar – **LENT 5**

Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Thurs 17 Mar – **St Patrick and S Joseph of Arimathea**

**Divine Liturgy
9.30am**

Sun 20 Mar – **PALM SUNDAY**

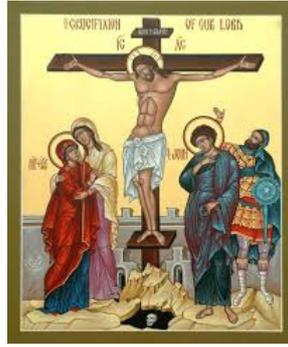
**Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Palms
and Procession 10.30am**

Thurs 24 Mar – **Great and Holy Thursday**



Divine Liturgy with washing of feet 7.00pm

Fri 25 Mar – Great and Holy Friday



Vespers of the Shroud 3.00pm

Sat-Sun 26/27 Mar – PASCHA



Vigil with the New Fire, and the **Divine Liturgy of Easter 8.30pm** (Sat)

Festal Matins 9.30am (Sun)

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

From your Parish Priest

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

As March begins we are almost half way through Lent, and before the month ends we shall have celebrated Pascha (Easter). The year rushes on! As I said in the February St Gwenn's News, Lent is our opportunity to take stock of our spiritual life in preparation for celebrating the joy of Pascha to the full. For some that preparation will include a sacramental confession. If it does not, then we should at least set aside a time to confess our shortcomings directly to God. Either way, this should follow a deep searching of our souls to see where we have failed in serving our Lord, failed toward others, and failed in ourselves. May God give us the grace to use Lent well and to sweep away the spiritual cobwebs that make it more difficult for the light of the risen Christ to penetrate our souls.

Blessings to you all.

Fr Leonard

Memory Eternal

Rose Dupuis, the beloved mother of our dear Bishop Paul reposed on 26 February after ailing for a long while, bless her. She is the Rose who has been on our Prayer List.

May the Lord now receive her into the fullness of Life He promises to all who turn to Him.

In the love of Christ, the people of St Gwenn's offer their condolences to Bishop Paul and his family.

Grant rest eternal in blessed repose, O Lord, to Your handmaid, Rose, who has fallen asleep, and make her memory to be eternal.



Translation

The Celtic Orthodox Church, having its headquarters in Brittany, not surprisingly, has developed its Liturgy and other services in French. As some of you will know, Bishop Paul (who is a multi-linguist) and I (who am *not!*) are working together on translations into English of these various services.

Bishop Paul, so very fluent in French, provides the literal meaning of the original texts and I assist in the composition of an English text which respects the idioms of our language whilst remaining faithful to the *sense* of the French. It is surprising how often a literal translation of a word or phrase is completely inappropriate in English.

This fact reminds me of two (now heard less often, thankfully) pieces of translation which I came across when I first started attending Orthodox Liturgies at the Russian Cathedral at Ennismore Gardens in London – many years ago now. Today there are countless English translations available, but when the Orthodox Churches first started to celebrate the Liturgy in English the Oxford University Press *The Orthodox Liturgy* was the translation they turned to. It was primarily made for use at the Tolleshunt Knights' Monastery in Essex. The Preface to the OUP Liturgy acknowledges that the translators have "looked to" the language of the *Book of Common Prayer*. That certainly applies when it comes to the first of the passages I dislike.

And that first translation is "world without end" as a rendering of what we know as "unto the Age of ages." It is, in my view, decidedly dreadful to think of the heavenly prize being the endlessness of the world! It is also theologically unsound. This world *will* pass away.

The second translation I dislike is, "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us." If you think that's what we sing at every Liturgy then look again. It should be "...Holy Mighty..." (or strong – quite acceptable) NOT "Holy **and** Mighty," and similarly with Immortal. The "and" changes the intended addressing of God by three 'Names,' into a mere string of adjectives. In this great Orthodox prayer, the Trisagion (Thrice holy), we are not describing God, but addressing Him – three times: Holy God! (Father). Holy Mighty! (Son). Holy Immortal! (Spirit). The insertion of the "and" completely destroys that.

This was pointed out to me many years ago by Bishop Basil Osborne (resigned his orders in 2013 in order to be able to marry, by the way).

Whilst we should do our best to make translations fit to praise the Lord, it must be said that the most important thing about the words we use – given to us in books or our own words – is the heart with which we say them. Misquoting St Paul, however eloquent our language, unless we are speaking it from the heart, then it is but the clangour of dustbin lids.

Fr Leonard

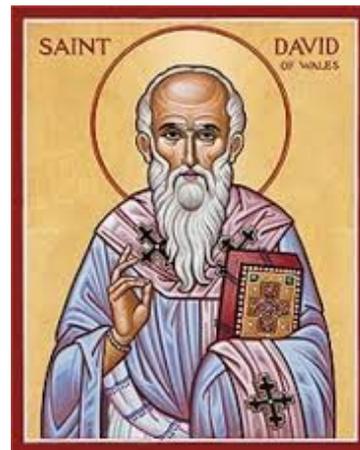
Welcome!

On the last Sunday of February we were delighted to welcome Tim, Marie and Analise to our Liturgy. They had travelled from Crediton – about as far West of us as Tugdual and Susanna are East! We enjoyed getting to know them over coffee after the Liturgy, and we hope, despite the distance, that they will come again. Thank you, St Gwenn, for sending us these kindred Celtic spirits.

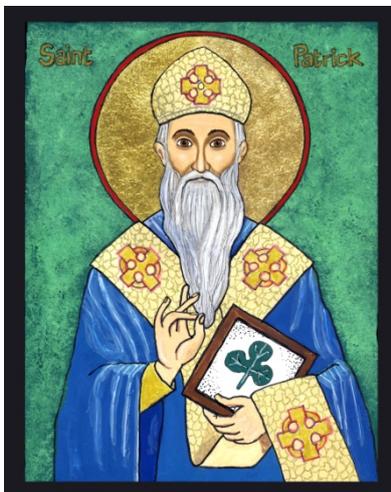
Two Important Celtic Saints in March

1 March: St David of Wales

Born in Wales, David grew up to become a renowned teacher and preacher. He founded monastic communities, and churches, in Wales, the West Country, and Brittany – a nice link with our present Church. David's Monastic Rule was quite tough – his monks had to pull the plough themselves rather than use animals! David lived a simple life and practised asceticism, teaching his followers to refrain from eating meat and drinking beer.



17 March: St Patrick



St Patrick was born in Britain, but, as a youth he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland. He was set to work to tend sheep on the hills. This gave him much time to pray and meditate. He escaped and boarded a boat back to his homeland. Here he studied and became a priest. He then received a call that he should return to Ireland as a missionary. The rest, as they say, is history.

We shall celebrate the Liturgy on St Patrick's day.

For our Personal Prayers

For our Primate Metropolitan Marc, Bishop Paul, and all our monks, nuns, clergy and people, and for the future of the Celtic Orthodox Church. For the growth and renewing energy of Celtic spirituality in the world today.

For Bishop Paul in his bereavement. Also in his founding and establishing the Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Presence, and for the growth of the Celtic community in Virginia.

For our own Parish of St Gwenn, for our commitment and growth, and for the community in which we minister.

For all in sickness, sorrow or distress, especially those on our prayer lists and on the hearts of all who read this.

For PEACE and stability in our troubled world, especially **for an end to the horrors of religious extremism, radicalisation and persecution**. For **the refugees** fleeing from troubled homelands and those endeavouring to deal with the ever growing **refugee crisis**.

For the Unity of Christ's Church.

For the departed – our loved ones and those whose anniversaries fall this month, Bill, Brother Hugh, OSB, Presbytera Elizabeth, Bernard, Ron, Fr Columba, Judy, Betty, Elina, Bob, Fr Ben, George, and Romany June.

