



Celtic Orthodox Church

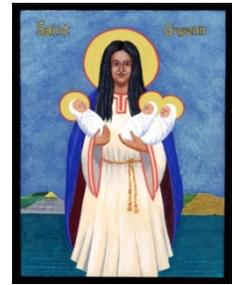
Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex

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St Gwenn's News 58 AUGUST 2017

Services at St Gwenn's

Sun 6 Aug – **TRANSFIGURATION of Our Lord [PENT 9]**



Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Fri 11 Aug – S Tugdual, founder of the Holy Presence Monastery

Divine Liturgy 9.30am



Sun 13 Aug – **PENTECOST 10**

Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Fri 11 Aug – **DORMITION of the Holy Theotokos**



Divine Liturgy 9.30am



Sun 20 Aug – **PENTECOST 11**

Divine Liturgy 10.30am



**Thurs 24 Aug – S Bartholomew
Matins with Communion 9.30am**



**Sun 27 Aug – PENTECOST 12
EPISCOPAL VISITATION**

(see below)

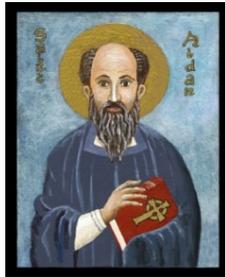
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



**Tues 29 Aug – Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John
Matins with Communion 9.30am**



Thurs 31 Aug – S Aidan of Lindisfarne



**Divine Liturgy 10.30am
[at the Oratory of S Aidan, Broadwindsor]**



Episcopal Visit



We are delighted to announce that, God willing, His Beatitude Metropolitan Marc and Bishop Paul will be coming to visit us at St Gwenn's. They come to the UK on 24 August and return on 28 August, so will be with us for our Liturgy on Sunday 27 August. Their visit will be a great blessing for us.



From your Parish Priest

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

With the visit of our bishops, the major Feasts of the Transfiguration of our Lord and the Dormition of His Blessed Mother, August promises to be an eventful month. Also, 2 August is Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. I shall be present at the ceremony at Kingston Mauward that day in solidarity of my Romani and Traveller friends. August is also a month when many will be on holiday. Wherever you find yourself and whatever you do may God be with you.

I hope that the two 'borrowed' pieces that make up most of this edition of St Gwenn's News will be of interest and benefit.

Blessings abound upon you all.

Fr Leonard+

Abbot Tryphon on the Cloud of Witnesses



Vigil lights are placed before the icons of the saints, according to Saint Symeon the New Theologian, as a way of showing that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines on them that they become alive and resplendent.

The saints show us what a glorious destiny we have in God, and through the example of their lives, point the way to our becoming "partakers of divine nature." The saints, as the cloud of witnesses in heaven, are present in the divine services, worshipping the Holy Trinity with us. They, as our friends, intercede before the Throne of God on our behalf, having won the good fight, and we are encouraged by the memory and example of their lives, as we struggle on our own path to God.

It has been said that there are two kinds of people in the world: sinners who think they are saints, and saints who know they are sinners. A saint is a Christian who lets God's light shine through, and who's life has been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We venerate the Saints as we seek their intercession with God, but we adore and worship only God in Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We venerate the Images (Icons) as well as the relics of the saints and martyrs. Yet according to the decisions and Canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, this veneration relates not to the icons as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.

The interior walls of our temples are adorned with the icons and frescoes of the saints as a reminder that we are surrounded by the cloud of witnesses, the saints, and that the Church Militant (here on earth) is not separated from the Church Triumphant (in heaven). In Christ, death does not divide us, for the saints are not dead, but alive in Christ Jesus.

Glory to Jesus Christ, Who is glorified in His saints!

With love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon



Apply your heart to Truth (Knowledge, Prudence)

Extracts, with grateful thanks, from a sermon preached by Dame Mary Therese, OSB, Abbess of Edgware Abbey, at the Benedictine OBLATE DAY at Sarum College in July.

May I speak in the name of + the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I found myself spoilt for a choice of text with but finally settled for a short phrase from Proverbs "Apply your heart to truth" which encapsulates all the wisdom literature ever written.

At every celebration of the Mass for St Benedict we read this beautiful passage from Proverbs; it is akin to the Prologue of the Holy Rule and it must have influenced St Benedict. In the opening words of both we are addressed as "my child" and are called to LISTEN to the sound teaching of 'one who loves us,' and we quickly perceive that it is no ordinary listening – we are to listen with the ears of our heart and apply our heart to truth.

With the opening word of the Holy Rule, St Benedict stops us in our tracks; calls us to take stock and to be AWAKE to the divine voice speaking in our heart every minute, even every second, of our day. For he, the Divine One dwells in the deep centre of our being, and we need to apply our heart in the simplicity and light of truth to find him and hear him speaking to us out of his Silence into the depth of our heart. That is, we need to learn to live our life in true humility: uncluttered, clear or transparent, motivated by the love of God, in the company of Jesus.

As we live our daily life according to the Holy Rule, monastics and oblates alike, [*and so much of the Rule can and, perhaps should, apply to ALL who follow Christ, ed*] we are shaped by the words of ancient wisdom in the teaching of our Holy Father St Benedict and through the Gospels as we walk closely with Jesus Christ our Lord. We are strengthened to apply our heart to truth and the deep discerning of life's issues facing us today in a world that seems to be ruled by fear, insatiable greed, and depraved activities. There is no doubt that we are in a testing time for Church and State and Social Order. It isn't unique though, history tells its story of other depressing and barbaric times, and the Old Testament itself can be tough reading and tougher still if we saw it played before us in pictures like a film - not to mention the Apocalypse - but we are alive now with the situation that we have to work with - and whether seen or unseen, it affects us all. One difference that we might say is that in our time we should know better and the world should be a better place - but humanity is frail and evil must not be underestimated; we must not be overcome by any temptation to despair. Indeed in the middle of chaos we are given the signs of hope and shown the beautifulness of kindness when strangers bring aid to strangers.

Psalm 85 sings in our ears, "Mercy and Truth have met, Justice and Peace have embraced." We might ask the question: where does that leave us, what can we do? One thing we can do is pray - we must not underestimate the power of prayer. This brings us right into the company of God and brings us hope. We can act honestly with truth, and in the simplicity of our being we can stand with our neighbour in the love of God. We can offer kindness to strangers - even in the giving of a cup of water in the Lord's name. We can welcome the marginalised and rejected. Whatever we do from the right motive of a loving heart will have far reaching effects which we will probably never know about, like the ripples in a pool of water or the light that enlightens the darkness, because this is the Christ-life - God with us. We must never lose sight of this truth!

We must deeply and willingly apply our heart to truth to receive the Divine Word and lovingly cultivate it. This is the pivot of our life, for this is Christ dwelling in the centre of our being: this is where we go in and out, meet him and dwell with him, and build our spiritual relationship with him, and then, through love shared and the generosity of life, we shall, as it says in the Prologue to St Benedict's Rule, "run in the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love."

We all have a heart, a deep centre where Christ the TRUTH dwells, and from which our life flows in an eternal circle of regeneration through his love until we receive our own true fullness and are completed in his wholeness, as summed up by St Paul: "...until KNOWING the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God." [Ephs 3:19]

May you be blessed in the Love and Peace of the Lord. Amen.

For our Prayers

For our Primate Metropolitan Marc and all our monastics, clergy and people, and for the future of the Celtic Orthodox Church, and the Western Orthodox Communion.

For Bishop Paul and the Monastery at Toms Brook. For the growth of the parish there.

For our bishops' visit to the UK.

For the Unity of Christ's Church - the unity He came to give us, and which we continue to shatter.

For speedy and lasting relief for those starving in the severe FAMINE across the world, especially in Yemen. For faithfulness to Christ's injunction to love and serve one another; for generous hearts to impel us to give what we can.

For those who are still suffering as a result of the Holocaust, especially this month remembering the Roma.

For PEACE and stability throughout our troubled world. For an end to the horrors of terrorism, religious extremism and radicalisation. For all persecuted Christians and other religious and ethnic groups. For the refugees forced to flee their troubled homelands and those endeavouring to deal with the refugee crisis.

For all in sickness, sorrow or distress, especially those on our prayer lists and on the hearts of all who read this. For Fr Deacon Cwyfan whose heart surgery has had to be postponed due to an infection.

For the departed – Trevor, Betty, Vicki, Roma Holocaust victims, Roly (priest, fool for Christ), June, Jill, Josie, Cyril, Bob, Peter, Fran, Tony, Ray, and Des whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

