



Celtic Orthodox Church

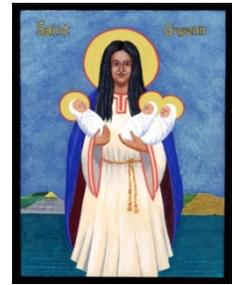
Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex

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St Gwenn's News 61 NOVEMBER 2017

Services at St Gwenn's

Wed 1 Nov – ALL SAINTS
Divine Liturgy 10.00am



Thurs 2 Nov – ALL SOULS
Matins and Panikhida 10.00am



Sun 5 Nov – PENTECOST 22
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Mon 6 Nov – St Leonard
Matins with Communion 10.00am



Sun 12 Nov – LAST Sun after PENTECOST
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Fri 17 Nov – St Hilda
Matins with Communion 10.00am



Sun 19 Nov – ADVENT 1
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Tues 21 Nov – Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
Matins with Communion 10.00am



Thurs 23 Nov – St Columbanus
Matins with Communion 10.00am



Sun 26 Nov – **ADVENT 2 Our Lady of the Sign** (translated from 27 Nov)

Divine Liturgy 10.30am



From your Parish Priest

Greetings in the Name of our Saviour!

This month sees the beginning of Advent and the start of a new Liturgical year. I can't believe how quickly the years roll by. Let us not blink lest we miss Christmas!! In the Celtic Church we have a six Sunday Advent. Theoretically that gives us ample time to prepare for the Nativity Feast, but will we have swept our spiritual houses clean in that time and be ready to welcome, once again, the Incarnate Christ into our hearts? Let us hope so. If anyone feels moved to make a sacramental confession in preparation for welcoming Christ on His earthly birthday then I shall be pleased to oblige.

Loving blessings in Christ!

Fr Leonard+

Celtic Spirituality and Evelyn Underhill

Evelyn Underhill is one of the foremost theological minds of the Twentieth Century

I must confess that I do not readily take to Evelyn Underhill's writings. The fault is, I'm sure, mine, but I find her too abstruse and intellectual for my simple brain, and I prefer reading things which are more directly spiritually beneficial to me. Esther de Waal, whose words I quoted last month, is a case in point.

However, I found my Celtic heart warming to something Underhill wrote in the context of the contemplative life. She was pointing out that the contemplative and spiritual way of seeing all that is around us is to be open to the "immediate senses – the messages [that] creation pours in on us, instead of receiving life where everything is classified and labelled." She explains further with an example: "We should receive from every flower, not merely a beautiful image to which the label 'flower' has been affixed, but the full impact of its unimaginable beauty and wonder, the direct sensation of life having communion with life."

A few days after reading that passage, Bishop Paul sent me a quotation from Fyodor Dostoevsky who adds love to the formula. He said, "Love all Creation.....If you love everything you will perceive the Divine Mystery in things."

There we have the way of Celtic spirituality set out for us. We love God in everything; we marvel at His Creation; we look with spiritually open eyes and are filled with awe and wonder.



Fr Leonard

S Francis and the Feast of Creation

Diakonissa Susanna, Deacon Tugdual and Fr Leonard enjoyed a brief visit to the Monastery of the Holy Presence, Saint-Dolay to be at the St Francis and the Feast of Creation celebrations. Our return flight was on the Sunday evening so we were not able to stay to witness:-

Paul-Jack Clothed

At Vespers on Sunday 1st October Deacon Paul-Jack received the monastic habit. He now has the monastic name Thomas. We wish him every blessing.

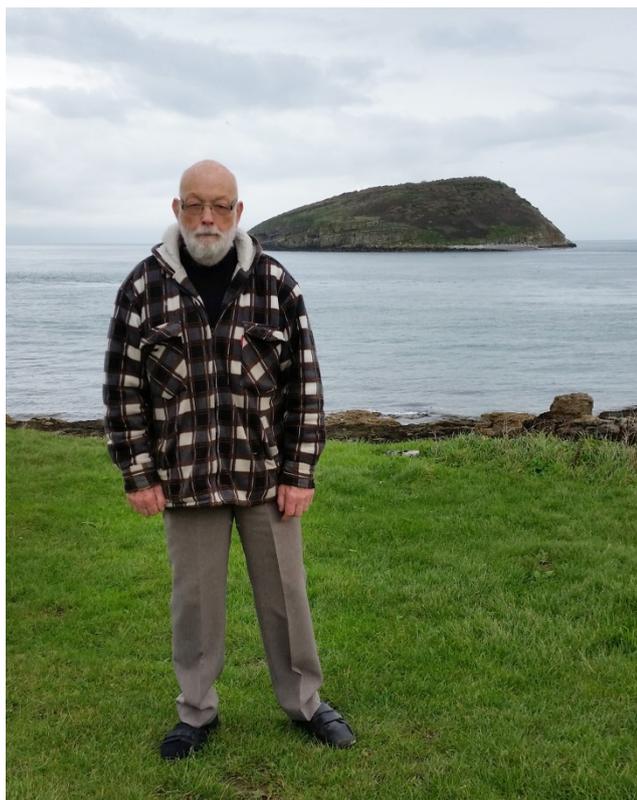


Monk-Deacon Thomas

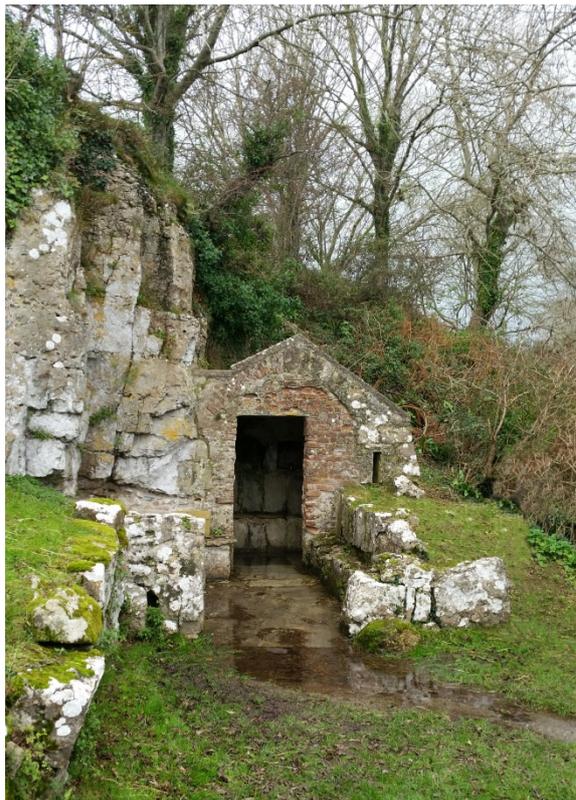
Welsh Visitation

Fr Leonard and Presbytera Trish, whilst holidaying in Wales at the end of October, took the opportunity to visit Fr Deacon Cwyfan for the day in the far reaches of Anglesey. It was good to see him in improved health. Indeed he hopes soon to be able to visit us again at St Gwenn's.

The day included a trip to view, from the shore, St Seiriol's island, or Puffin Island. St Seiriol (sixth century) lived on the island for a while. He also founded a monastic community at nearby Penmon where Fr Deacon Cwyfan showed his 'outlander' visitors the Saint's well.



Fr Deacon Cwyfan and St Seiriol's Island



St Seiriol's Well

As monk-deacon Cwyfan's home in Anglesey is named St Seiriol's Hermitage, this visit had special significance.

All Souls' Commemoration

On Thursday 2nd November we pray for all our departed loved ones. If there is anyone you would like remembered on that day, please let Fr Leonard know as soon as possible.

For our Prayers

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

For the Unity of Christ's Church, and for harmony among people of all religions and none.

For PEACE in our troubled world.

For all in sickness, sorrow or distress; for those devastated by conflict; for the persecuted; for the starving; for refugees; for the homeless; for those affected by storms, flooding, earthquake or fire.

For the departed – Alan, Edith, Doris, John, John, Tom, Bramwell, Charles, Dee, Mabel, Kelly, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

