



Celtic Orthodox Church

Parish of St Gwenn, Wessex
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St Gwenn's News 69 JULY 2018

Services at St Gwenn's

Sun 1 July – PENTECOST 6
Sorry - NO Liturgy today



Thurs 5 July – St Gwenn Teirbron of Dumnonia
Divine Liturgy 9.00am



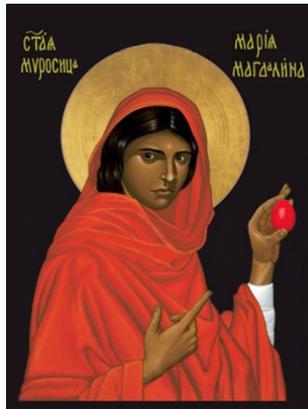
Sun 8 July – PENTECOST 7
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Sun 15 July – PENTECOST 8
Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Sun 22 July – PENT 9/Mary of Magdala



Divine Liturgy 10.30am



Sun 29 July – PENTECOST 10
Sorry - NO Liturgy today



Tues 31 July – St Joseph of Arimathea
Typika with Communion 9.00am



From your Parish Priest

Greetings and many blessings to you all!

It is with great sadness that we announce the reposing of our dear Father Deacon Cwyfan on 17 June. However much our Faith impels us to see this as an event of great rejoicing – the passing through the gateway that leads to the fullness of LIFE – we none the less grieve deeply at the loss to us of a faithful friend and fellow servant of God. I shall be taking the funeral in Anglesey on 29 June. May his memory be eternal.

Fr Leonard+

Father Deacon Cwyfan (Paul) Gosling: 20 August 1944 – 17 June 2018

Monk of the Celtic Orthodox Church



At St Gwenn's

It is difficult to grasp that a man so vibrantly 'alive,' so full of fun, so full of life, is no longer with us. Our loss is heaven's gain. I hope the angels can cope with his multitude of funny voices!

We often joked that he was in the ancient Orthodox tradition of 'Fool for Christ!' But he was no fool. Funny, yes; cheeky, yes; superb mimic, yes; raconteur, yes. Foolish? Certainly not. He was knowledgeable on an amazingly wide variety of topics, and would throw out bits of information like a walking encyclopaedia. More importantly, he was a caring and compassionate person with a deep faith. He possessed generosity of spirit.

Paul Albert Anthony was born to Charles and Hannah Bridget Gosling on 20 August 1944. Throughout his adult life he had a multitude of occupations, but the dominant one was Military service. Since the time of the Crimean War it has been a Gosling tradition for each generation to serve in the Military, a tradition followed also by Danny, Paul's son. Danny said of his father, "He was a man of many skills and had huge life experience and wisdom."

Among the non-military and non-medical occupations he was a mechanic on the buses, a taxi driver, a TV installation engineer, an Ice Cream vendor, a Sweet Shop proprietor (next to Fulham FC Football ground), and for a while he worked on the Railways at New Cross and Deptford in South London.

During the course of some of these occupations he trained to become a nurse, and his most significant work was as a Medic with the Honourable Artillery Company, and then with the RAF.

As a Medic within the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was deployed to Muskat in Oman in the 1970's to fight alongside the Sultan's troops. He rose through the ranks and received a Battlefield Commission. He attained the rank of Major. He returned to the Middle East in 1991 as a Medic in the Gulf War. He returned with Gulf War syndrome.

Later, being a trained chiropodist, he set up his own chiropody practice, also working as a District Nurse. He also served as a nurse at HMP Belmarsh.

Before returning to single status Paul was three times married. It was with his second wife, Jean, that he had his three children, Jennifer (after 'Jenny Wren' because she was so tiny!) in 1971, Celia in 1972, and Danny in 1973. In 1991 he married Sue to whom he had been friend and soulmate since she was 19, and of course remained so to the end.

It was in 2009 that he received a serious head injury having been hit by a drunk-driver whilst he was on his way to spend Christmas with his daughter Jennifer. He was in a coma for months. It was whilst in hospital that he first met Fr Luke Penkett, who at that time was a priest in the Celtic Orthodox Church. This led to his meeting with me at around the time I too had discovered and joined the Celtic Orthodox Church. We then progressed together in our new and final spiritual home, Cwyfan – his name from now on – as a monk, I as parish priest. As Cwyfan progressed through ordinations to the Subdiaconate and then Diaconate he was assigned to our Parish of St Gwenn's and to my pastoral care. The distance between us limited the number of times he could be with us at St Gwenn's, but thoroughly enjoyed the times we *could* be together. We both valued the spiritual union and we kept in regular contact by telephone and Skype. And we enjoyed many a visit together to our Monastery at Saint-Dolay in Brittany. I have lost a lovely spiritual son.



At the Monastery

When he stayed with us in Dorset, in addition to the opportunity to pray together, he became one of the family and had us both (especially Trish!) in fits of laughter with his endless fund of stories and vast repertoire of 'voices.' I think my favourite has to be his rendition of the Hunchback of Notre Dame! I have received numerous examples of his stories from family members.



*With his beloved Nellie**

Jennifer told me: "Dad made a lot of toilet jokes; guess that was the medic in him. Nurses tend to be obsessed about that. Whatever he said he had a way of making it seem the most important bit of information, like your life depended on it. I loved him, and his stories, and especially the way he spoke. Dad's words showed that he understood, and were affirming, encouraging, and sincere."

Cwyfan did not enjoy perfect health. His diabetes led to problems with foot infections, and his heart was not strong. In fact he was to have received heart surgery later this year. We were not surprised, therefore, that it was his heart which caused his sudden death. We are gratified that his reposing was quick and painless.

Let light perpetual shine upon him, O Lord; and may he be forever in the radiance of Your Light.

Memory eternal.

Fr Leonard

[Grateful thanks to the family for filling in the blanks]

**Nellie is now with Sue*

Ordination

As we go to press we believe Fr Deacon Filip Lommaert, a friend from a village near St Gwenn's, will be ordained to the priesthood in the Antiochian Orthodox Church on Sunday 29 July. Our Liturgy is cancelled on that day to enable us to go to Poole to be with him. We offer him our prayers and blessings.

For our Prayers

For the immortal soul of our dear brother in Christ the Monk Deacon Cwyfan.

That the joy we find in serving Christ may fill our hearts with joy....and that we may share that joy with others.

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 throughout the world; for a greater willingness for Christians to rejoice in what they hold in common.

For an end to the escalating tensions and hatreds associated with differing factions Religions. For harmony among people of all Faiths and none.

For PEACE in our troubled world; that the love of God may touch the hearts of all.

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 – Roy, Maureen, Ron, Jean, John, Bryce, Jenny, Beryl, Fr Tony, Neil, Alfreda, and Betty, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month. Memory Eternal.

