

Advent 4 and Christmastide 20th December 2015 – 2nd January 2016 JANUS

If being 'two-faced' is usually seen as a character flaw, it was an essential quality of the Ancient Roman god Janus. Janus was god of the New Year, and of gates, doors, hinges and all points of turning or crossing. Janus was depicted looking both ways – back to the past and forward to the future.

At this time of year we sense the turning point. We feel an instinct to review what has happened in the year now gone. My friends send me those must-read, newsy letters inside Christmas cards telling me about their career triumphs, their exotic holidays in far-away places and about how successful their children have been – and if my own quiet life sometimes pales beside these epic accounts of massive achievement, nonetheless I too find myself glancing back over my own past twelve months. This is a time for planning too, and for resolutions. No 'maybes'; no 'ifs'. How different the next twelve months are going to be! I too will fly to far-away places; I too will achieve!

Recently I have been involved with a nearby Diocese of the Church of England, helping them to think about a review and re-launch of their ministerial review-scheme for clergy. From the huge complexity of the former system, they have produced something lean and hopefully highly effective – with a very simple preface for both reviewers and reviewees. "The review," says the document, "acts as a hinge: an opportunity to

acknowledge the past, to notice the present and to look to the future."

It is that middle bit that we often skip-over. "Notice the present." So busy and helter-skelter have our lives become, so ready to rush on to the next accomplishment or target, that we find our appreciation of the here and now shrinks. But there is huge blessing to be found in awareness of the present moment, even if the place we are in feels less than perfect.

Why not, as a spiritual exercise in these holy days of Christmastide, set aside some time just to notice where you are. Don't immediately rush to spot the imperfections; rather, be appreciative and notice the good. And notice what and who has brought you to this place – and who shares in it. And be thankful. And dare to stay there, in your thankfulness, until it has made its mark on your soul, and only then move on into what lies ahead in 2016.

The mystery of the Incarnation celebrates that God comes to us in Jesus Christ in the here and now – born among us, today. It is not merely about events two thousand years ago – nor about a bright promise for an imagined future. It is about God with us, Emmanuel.

A blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year from all of us at St Paul's.

Fr Alan Gyle



Parish News & Events

NATIVITY PLAY

The children will present their annual Nativity Play on Sunday 20th December at 09:00. Please join us.

THE CRIB SERVICE

Please come to our Family Christmas eve service at 17:00 on the 24th December – a simple, family-friendly crib-blessing service by candle-light: with chocolate angels for children and something slightly stronger for adults!

COLIN TYTHERLEIGH RIP

With sadness we learned of the death, on Thursday 10th December, of Colin Tytherleigh. Colin's funeral will take place in St Paul's on Tuesday 22nd December at noon. On Monday 21st at noon, Fr Louis will offer a low mass of Requiem for Colin. We extend our deep sympathies to Sarah, his widow, to Ed their son and to all the family.

OUR SISTER PARISH & OUR PARTNER IN MISSION

We send our greetings to our sisters and brothers in St Paul's K-Street Washington DC in the USA, and to Fr Alfredo and the people of All Saints' Church, Nhamavila in Mozambique.

In 2016 we look forward to the first visit to our parish of Fr Richard Wall, the new Rector of K-Street who will be our visiting preacher on Sunday 10th April at 11:00.

And Fr Louis, our new Associate Vicar, looks forward to picking up the reins of the emerging mission link with the church in Mozambique and to arranging a trip there sometime – hopefully – in the spring/early summer of 2016.

If you would like to know more about either of these links (or to become involved), please speak to one of the clergy.

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY SERVICES TIMES

LOW MASSES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Monday 21st at noon (Requiem); Tuesday 22nd at 18:00; Wednesday 23rd at noon; Thursday 24th mass of the day at 09:00

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

Thursday 24th December at 17:00

MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Thursday 24th December, beginning at 23:00

Music: Missa Brevis in D K 194 – Mozart

Shepherd's Pipe Carol – Rutter

There is no rose – Joubert

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

CHRISTMAS DAY: Friday 25th December:

09:00 Family Mass

11:00 Solemn Eucharist

Music: Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo – Haydn

Hodie Christus natus est - Sweelinck

Frohloeket ihr Volker auf erden – Mendelssohn

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

LOW MASS AFTER CHRISTMAS

Boxing Day at noon

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 27th December:

09:00 Low Mass in St Luke's Chapel

11:00 Sung Eucharist

Cantor: Edward Saklatvala

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

LOW MASSES IN CHRISTMASTIDE

Monday at 18:00; Tuesday at 18:00; Wednesday

at 18:45; New Year's Day - Thursday at 18:00

Friday at 18:00; Saturday at noon

EPIPHANY SUNDAY: Sunday 3rd January: =

09:00 Family Mass with Presentation of the Epiphany Gifts at the Crib

11:00 Solemn Eucharist

Music: Missa Qual dona – Lassus

See, see, the word is incarnate – Gibbons

Lo! the star – Judith Bingham

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

LOW MASSES IN EPIPHANYTIDE

Monday at 18:00

Tuesday at 18:00

WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY

The Wednesday Evening Service with Epiphany Carols at 18:45, followed by an Epiphanytide Drinks Party.

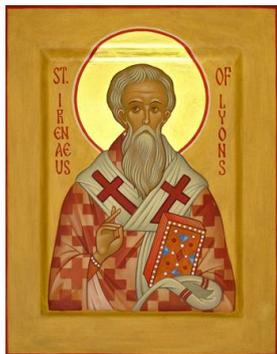
Thursday at 18:00; Friday at 18:00; Saturday at noon

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2016

LYON, FRANCE JUNE 2016

As part of our 'We Are Theologians' Christian Formation Programme, please join us in Lyon, 6-9 June 2016.

Lyon, one of France's most spectacular cities, was the home of St Irenaeus, an early second century bishop and theologian and a champion of Christian Orthodoxy in the face of second century gnosticism. It will be home to a party from St Paul's Knightsbridge during the week beginning Monday 6th June 2016 – and from Monday evening until Thursday lunchtime, Fr Alan Gyle will be leading an exploration of the city (with its spectacular Roman remains and rich cultural history) and of Irenaeus's theology – making connections with concepts of gnosticism in the 21st century.



As usual, trips organised by St Paul's allow you to make the choice of how to travel and where to stay (Eurostar has trains from London St Pancras via Lille – and British Airways fly to Lyon; hotels and other accommodation is plentiful and cheap).



We will meet daily for prayer and study; time will be left free for you to use as you wish – whether as a

tourist or as a pilgrim; and in the evenings we will gather for dinner together in a city judged to be one of the gastronomic centres of France.

To register your interest, please email Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

You are invited to join us for a day trip to Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 16th July 2016



Lincoln Cathedral is one of England's most beautiful places of worship. For almost 300 years it was the tallest building in the world. John Ruskin famously said of it: *'I have always held and proposed against all comers to maintain that the Cathedral of Lincoln is out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles'* On Saturday 16th July you are invited to put his thesis to the test on a day trip that will include a guided tour of the Cathedral, lunch together and time to explore the ancient and picturesque city. We hope you will join us. To register your interest, please email Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org).

SPRING CLEANING!

Saturday 23rd January is the date of the church's great spring clean morning. There are jobs for all who come: polishing, dusting, scrubbing and de-waxing – with refreshments and words of encouragement straggled throughout the day! So whether you have skills, or just energy and enthusiasm, come and join us. A great way to get to know others in the congregation – and to see parts of the church you normally don't reach! A 10am start.

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

WHO'S WHO

THE PARISH OFFICE

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THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

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Associate Vicar

Fr Louis Darrant
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Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood;
Fr Graham Palmer; Bishop Michael Colclough
A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays.

IN THE PARISH OFFICE



Vicar's PA

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THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



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LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



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Deputy Churchwardens (Sidesmen)

Roland Brunner, Caroline Docker, Margaret Gadow, Gardenia Griffith, Nicoletta Lindsay, Aidan Linton-Smith, Jeremy Orlebar, Susie Thornton, Tom Tull.

Treasurer: Noel Craven

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

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