

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

The Presentation of Christ 30th January 2016

'Forty days and forty nights'

'Forty days and forty nights?' Some mistake, surely. That's Lent, isn't it? And though Ash Wednesday and Easter are early this year that *can't* be for a few weeks yet?

Well, next Sunday is the 'Sunday next before Lent' (what we used to call *Quinquagesima*) and so you're right, the austerity of Lent isn't upon us quite yet. But the forty days I'm thinking about aren't in the future, they're in the immediate past. It is (or *will* be on Tuesday, 2nd February when we *ought* to be keeping the feast of Candlemas) forty days since the feast of the Incarnation, Christmas Day, the 25th December. Today marks the *end* of a forty day season of celebration of the Incarnation of Christ. In some churches some vestiges of Christmas and Epiphany decorations will still be in place to make the point; here we simply mark the continuity with white vestments which will, after today's mass, be folded away until Maundy Thursday and the bright joys of Easter which follow.

Forty days of Christmas. This is boldly counter-cultural, of course – at least in terms of when it's kept and its focus. In the secular world Christmas begins early, nowadays even before Remembrance Sunday in November. The irony of the retail cycle is that by Christmas eve (when our keeping of Christmas *starts*) you can't buy anything Christmassy because everything is already set up for the January sales; and as *they*

end, shops are already anticipating Easter with Easter eggs already on sale. Are Christians missing something?

Gradually, I expect, something will give – and either we'll return to our senses as a nation and realise that our extravagant obsession with materiality at Christmas instead of its simpler, truer focus, is as bad for us as it is frenetic, *or* (more likely) the Church will cave in, gradually at first, and abandon any pretence of keeping Advent as a season of preparation. But whichever way the readjustment happens, one thing is certain: that whether it starts in November and runs to December 24th or begins on the 25th December and runs to February, we need a long time to allow the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ to work its way deeply into our hearts, minds and souls. Forty days is a start – but in truth, pondering the child of Bethlehem and the love of God made manifest is a lifetime's work. Slowly. Steadily.

Have *you* made the investment this year? Have you kept your focus? What do you know now, at Candlemas, that you didn't know before Christmastide began? 'Not sure?' Don't worry: there'll be another Christmastide here before you know it. Even better, there's another rewarding forty days and nights, with a slightly different focus, just around the corner!

Fr Alan Gyle



News & Events

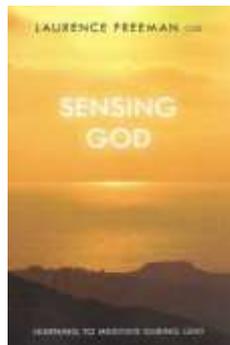
THE MUSIC DINNER

Tickets for this year's MUSIC DINNER in the Ballroom of the Berkeley Hotel on Monday 22nd February are available from Felicity Cranfield in the Parish Office on 020 7201 9994. Once again the event is likely to be a sell-out – so please book quickly. Champagne reception at 19:00 followed by a black tie dinner, with music in between the courses performed by the musicians of St Paul's.



MEDITATION IN LENT

Those who wish to explore Meditation this Lent are encouraged to obtain a copy of 'Sensing God' by Laurence Freeman – which contains a general introduction and an exercise for each day of the 40 days of Lent.



PARISH LUNCH

Please join us for the February Parish lunch in the hall in Kinnerton Street at 1pm after mass on **Sunday 7th February** – chef du jour, Tom Tull. The parish lunch is open to all and is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation. Someone cooks – everyone chips in to cover the cost. Please sign the Blue Book at the back of church as a guide to numbers.

SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY

You're warmly invited to the Vicarage on the evening of **Tuesday 9th February at 6:30pm** after the evening mass. A last blast before the austerities of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Please make sure you mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent either by going to a local church near your home or place of work, or – better still – by joining us here at St Paul's Knightsbridge. At each of the masses you'll be able to receive the sign of the cross on the forehead in ash – at 08:00, at noon or at 19:00 when the choir and servers will join us for a Solemn celebration. At the Solemn Mass the preacher will be the Vicar.

CATHEDRAL STUDY SESSION

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD – THE FOURTH GOSPEL with DAVID FORD

Saturday 20 February 2016 | 2 - 4.30pm

£15. The workshops will be at St Paul's Cathedral and details will be sent with bookings. Bursaries are available for those for whom the charge would make it difficult to attend. **To book visit www.stpauls.co.uk**

John's is the last of the Gospels, written after many decades of meditation. Often talked about as the most spiritual and poetic of the Gospels, it is also the most dramatic: almost all of it is vivid narrative about what Jesus does and says. And amongst all the action, John weaves theological commentary which challenges his first readers – and us – to engage with his revolutionary message about the nature of God: at the heart of his Gospel is the mind-blowing concept that the universe is centred on love.

David Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. He is writing a commentary on the Gospel of John, has given the 2015 Bampton Lectures at the University of Oxford on Daring Spirit: John's Gospel Now and is the author of The Drama of Living: Becoming Wise in the Spirit (Canterbury Press 2014).

The Ordo & Intercessions

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.



COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thy majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord, who didst fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna that they might live to greet the coming of the Messiah: grant that we, who have received these inexpressible gifts, may be prepared to meet Christ Jesus when he shall come to bring us to eternal life; for he liveth and reigneth, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SERVICES TIMES

Sunday 31 January: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

[Proper – Epiphany 4; DEL week 4, year2]

♦ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 1 February: feria

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 296 (year 2)

R: Rise up, O Lord, and deliver me, O my God.

Tuesday 2 February: feria

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 299 (year 2)

R: Teach me your way, O Lord.

Wednesday 3 February: Anskar, archbishop and missionary, 865

♦ Mass at 18:45;

Thursday 4 February: feria

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 304 (year 2)

R: Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever.

Friday 5 February: feria

♦ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 307 (year 2)

R: O God, you are my rock and my refuge.

Saturday 6 February: Accession Day, 1952

♦ Requiem Mass for his late Majesty King George VI at noon; with Accession Day Prayers

We pray daily for:

- For our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street
- our emerging mission link with All Saints, Nhamavila in Mozambique
- the unity of the Church
- Peace and justice in God's world
- All prisoners and refugees

Among the sick and those in need:

Judy Beecroft; Geoffrey Wilcox; Barbara Farrell Wilson; Fabienne Frichot; Jamie Britten; Alan Lintott; Bishop Michael Colclough; Margot Stewart; Jane Elstub; Sal Allen; Clariette Wilmot; Elizabeth Gordon; Carole Taylor; Michael Cooke; John King; Alexandra Holesh.

We pray for all the recently departed,

Henry Worsley;
Stephen Bantoft;
Shauna Gosling.

and for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Kathleen Mary Cooke	31 January
James Ball	5 February
James Moorwood	5 February
Mark Baring	6 February
John Russell Villiers	6 February

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

WHO'S WHO

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THE PARISH CLERGY



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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



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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

Veronica Scott
veronicamscott@hotmail.com
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