

The First Sunday of Lent
14th February 2016
'Love is...'

In the Kohat District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan this week, local officials moved to ban the observance of St Valentine's Day. Shopkeepers were forbidden to stock the red and pink heart-emblazoned cards and gifts that are almost as popular there as here. Speaking to a student group yesterday, Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain told his audience that it was a Western tradition and conflicted with Muslim culture.

This seems, on the face of it, a statement that is as regrettable as it is misleading. Islamic culture is as rich in its discourse about love as our Western Christian culture. Within the Quran and Sunnah there is a varied and diverse vocabulary of love with some academics estimating that there are as many as sixty different ways of talking about it, ranging from the esoterically spiritual to the basely carnal.

Perhaps what is being railed against is the cheapening of this talk and the replacement of a rich and nuanced discourse of love with something that is shallow, merely smutty. While I'm no prude, a glance at the shelves of card shops this week in London left me feeling regretful that the language of love does seem to be being impoverished. Rather than dragging us down into the smutty, the language of love can help us to ascend to the heights.

So, to redress the balance on this St Valentine's Day, here is one of the most eloquent Christian contributions to the 'language of love', by St Thomas a Kempis:

"Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good; Love alone lightens every burden, and makes the rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. The love of Jesus is noble, and inspires us to great deeds; it moves us always to desire perfection. Love aspires to high things, and is held back by nothing base. Love longs to be free, a stranger to every worldly desire, lest its inner vision become dimmed, and lest worldly self-interest hinder it or ill-fortune cast it down. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God, and can rest only in God above all created things.

Love flies, runs, leaps for joy; it is free and unrestrained. Love gives all for all, resting in One who is highest above all things, from whom every good flows and proceeds. Love does not regard the gifts, but turns to the Giver of all good gifts. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, attempts things beyond its strength; love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. Love therefore does great things; it is strange and effective; while he who lacks love faints and fails."

There now...

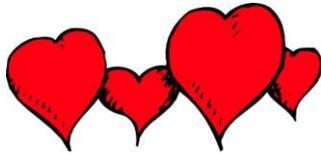
Fr Alan Gyle



News & Events

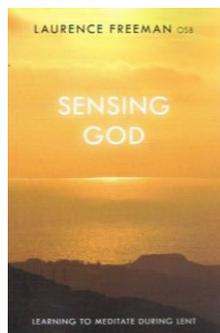
ROMANTIC MUSIC & WORDS FOR ST VALENTINE'S DAY

in St Paul's Knightsbridge, Sunday 14th February 2016 at 3pm. An hour of favourite poems by W.B. Yeats with songs by Schumann & Wagner. With Clare McCaldin (mezzo-success), Libby Burgess (piano) and Di Sherlock (reader). Tickets on the door £10 (£5 concessions).

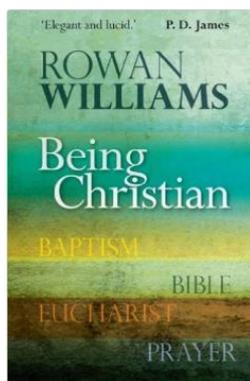


BOOKS FOR LENT

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.



'Being Christian' by Rowan Williams. "Unless we understand our faith," writes Sister Wendy Beckett, "we cannot live it, but it is the living that matters. Knowing and thinking and understanding are all means to draw us into the life of Christ, an active living and loving way of being. Christianity is both simple and profound. Rowan Williams understands these two levels and how we come to the depth of what Jesus is by the simplicities of informed Christian practice. This is a handbook for Christian living." Copies available. £8:00



MEDITATION SPACE

Please join us on Monday evening for the first regular 'Meditation Space' at St Paul's following the Monday evening mass. If you can come to mass, great – the meditation group will start at 6:45pm. No previous experience of meditation is necessary, though all will be welcome; this promises to be a perfect introduction to exploring this way of prayer. The meditation space will conclude at 7:15pm, with a chance then for those who are able to linger afterwards till 7:30pm.



LENT STUDY COURSE

Living Distinctively: a Lent study course based on the book **BEING CHRISTIAN** by Rowan Williams

Where: In the Choir Vestry

When: Wednesdays 17th, 25th February and 2nd, 9th March 2016 at 19:30; preceded by mass at 18:45

Led by: Fr Louis Darrant

Using Rowan Williams' 'Being Christian', Fr Louis Darrant invites you to explore four cardinal points in our distinctive way of living: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer. Each session will last 1h 15m, ending promptly at 20:45 and will contain both input and individual and group reflection with discussion. By the end of this four week course we will have a stronger sense of what is distinctive in our identity and those who follow Jesus Christ in daily life.



THE MUSIC DINNER – last few places remaining

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.

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.

Date and observance
Colour of vestments
Response to the psalm

Tuesday 5 February – feria
● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;
I will proclaim your name among the people

Page where the lections are to be found

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ did fast forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to thy Spirit; and, as thou knowest our weakness, so may we know thy power to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son 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 our God, who hast renewed us with the living bread from heaven, and dost thereby nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: incline our hearts always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and give us grace to live by every word that proceedeth out of thy mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SERVICES TIMES

Sunday 14 February: Lent 1

◆ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 15 February: feria of Lent

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 94, year 2

R: The judgements of the Lord are true: more to be desired than gold.

Tuesday 16 February: feria of Lent

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 96, year 2

R: The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.

Wednesday 17 February: Janani Luwum, archbishop and martyr

◆ Mass at 18:45; EH p. 72

R: Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord.

Thursday 18 February: feria of Lent

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 99, year 2

R: Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.

Friday 19 February: Ember Day

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 101, year 2

R: My soul waits for the Lord.

Saturday 20 February: Ember Day

◆ Mass at noon; DEL p. 102, year 2

R: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

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:

Peter Morris; Michelle Trauman; 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,

Jim Brown; Henry Worsley; Terry Wogan.

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

Brenda Twedde	16 February 2007
Jamie Courtauld	16 February 2012
Frances Elizabeth Tully	18 February 2005
Charles Beattie	18 February 2007
Dorota Stankiewicz	18 February 2008

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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THE PARISH CLERGY



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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



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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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