

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### 'The Royal Banners forward go'

In the late 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Byzantine Emperor, Justin II, sent as a gift to the Frankish Queen, Radegund, a fragment of the True Cross. It was intended to be a devotional focus for the new Abbey of the Holy Cross which she'd founded at Poitiers. The local Bishop of Poitiers, Venantius Fortunatus, was called upon to write a hymn to mark the occasion – a hymn that has become one of the best-known hymns in the whole corpus of Christian hymnody: *Vexilla regis prodeunt* ('The Royal Banners forward go').

History does not record whether, on the occasion of the presentation of the gift, 'royal banners' were carried in procession (though it is pleasing to imagine the pomp and ceremony there might have been to mark this great occasion); what we *do* know is that over the centuries since, the original *sitz im leben* has been lost sight of and instead the hymn's allusion to royal presence and the carrying of banners has become a metaphor for the kingly presence of Jesus Christ – and the 'banner' either an oblique reference to the sign of baptism or to the cross of Jesus itself. We will sing the hymn, in its English translation by John Mason Neale, as the Gradual hymn at the 11 o'clock mass this morning, Passion Sunday.

Fortunatus would have been astonished, I'm sure, to think that his words are still being sung almost a millenium and a half later!



The last part of the holy season of Lent each year sees a shift in focus as we turn our gaze to the momentous events of Good Friday as Jesus is put to death on the cross. In this tragic end to the story of his earthly life, Christians have found profound meaning and a key that unlocks our understanding of the mystery of God's love. We will be exploring Christ's Passion in the liturgies of Palm Sunday and Holy Week – and before that, this Wednesday evening. Please plan to join us.

**'Lost in the crowd: a reflection for Passiontide** - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 18:45 (free event).

**Palm Sunday** (20<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 and 11:00 – with the blessing and distribution of palm crosses and singing of the Passion); **Maundy Thursday** 24<sup>th</sup> March at 19:30 (with Watch of the Passion till midnight); **Good**

**Friday** at 10:30 ('Wonderful Love – a liturgy for children'), Preaching the Cross from noon till 14:00 & Solemn Liturgy at 14:00; **Holy Saturday**, 26<sup>th</sup> March, New Fire, Vigil and First Mass of Easter followed by champagne and canapés; **Easter Morning** (27<sup>th</sup> March) at 09:00 & 11:00.

Fr Alan Gyle

# News & Events

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## HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Please check the parish website for full details of the Holy Week and Easter programme of services and events at St Paul's. We look forward to having you with us.

## ELECTORAL ROLL

If you have not previously signed an Electoral Roll form (and are a regular worshipper at St Paul's who has been coming for at least six months), forms for admission are available in the blue folder at the back of church. Please sign one and hand it to a member of the clergy or to a Churchwarden.

## PASSIONTIDE EVENING

Please join us on Wednesday evening at 18:45pm for the Wednesday Evening Service which this week will be an extended reflection on the Passion of Jesus Christ with music by choir members Zoe Bonner and Ed Saklatvala and readings by Ben Fleetwood Smyth.

## BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL

**BLUE ENVELOPES** As part of our Lenten observance the Bishop of London commends this year's appeal as he writes: 'It is clear that sadly there is no imminent end to the systematic and harsh persecution of the Christian Church in Iraq and Syria. A tragedy of historic proportions is unfolding in some of the most ancient homelands of our faith...' Further information about the Appeal is available at the back of church – and blue envelopes are available.

## MEDITATION SPACE

Please join us on Monday evening for the 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 6:30pm. 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 7:00pm.

## LYON – JUNE 2016

Information about the forthcoming Parish trip to Lyon, France (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2016) is now available on the Parish Website, [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

## LINCOLN CATHEDRAL – JULY 2016

Please make a note of the forthcoming **Cathedral visit to Lincoln** on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (by coach from St Paul's Knightsbridge, departing at 08:15am, returning by 18:45) – and of a preparatory talk on **'The Glories of Lincoln'** on Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July at 19:30 by Dr Serenhedd James, columnist for the Church Times and Honorary Research Fellow at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

## ST PAUL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR CONCERT

Please join The St Paul's Festival Choir for their Spring Concert in the church on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 19:30. Tickets are available on the door at £18 or in advance from choir members for £15. The Festival Choir and Orchestra will be conducted by Richard Latham. The evening's programme includes Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise and Frank Bridge's 'A Prayer'.

## JUMBLE SALE – hold the date

The next Parish Jumble Sale will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**. If you have items for the sale, please bring them to church (ensuring that you leave them with a responsible person and don't just dump them in the stair wells!). Niki Bartman will be glad to coordinate collection of items – or ring the Parish Office.

# 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 → Tuesday 5 February – feria

Colour of vestments → ● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;

Response to the psalm → I will proclaim your name among the people

Page where the lections are to be found

## COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ hast delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

Lord Jesus Christ, who hast taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for thee: give us the will to be the servant of others as thou wast the servant of all, who gavest up thy life and didst die for us, yet livest and reignest, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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## SERVICES TIMES

### Sunday 13 March: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Passion Sunday

◇ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

### Monday 14 March: feria of Passiontide

◇ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 146, year 2

First reading: option (ii)

**R: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

### Tuesday 15 March: feria of Passiontide

◇ Mass at 08:00; DEL p. 150, year 2

**R: O Lord, hear my prayer and let my crying come before you.**

### Wednesday 16 March: feria of Passiontide

◇ Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 151, year 2

**R: You are worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.**

### Thursday 17 March: St Patrick's Day, c.460

◇ Mass at 18:00; EH p. 92

**R: Declare God's glory among the nations.**

### Friday 18 March: feria of Passiontide

◇ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 154, year 2

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

### Saturday 19 March: **The Feast of St Joseph of Nazareth**

◇ Mass at noon; EH p. 96 (Mass with Gloria)

**R: I will be a father to him, says God.**

## We pray daily for:

- For our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street
- All Saints, Nhamavila in Mozambique
- the unity of the Church
- Peace and justice in God's world
- All prisoners and refugees
- persecuted Christians in Syria and Iraq

## Among the sick and those in need:

Susie Thornton; Stephen Allen; Jean Marc Lehut; Michelle Trauman; Judy Beecroft; Geoffrey Wilcox; 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; Vivienne Mallinson.

## We pray for all the recently departed

John Strahan; Peter Scott.

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

Julian Goldsmid	13 March
Kathleen (Kitty) Baxter	16 March
Margaret Thornton	17 March
Irene Swinford-Edwards	19 March
David Davies	20 March

# ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

## THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH  
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info@spkb.org

## THE PARISH CLERGY



### Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle  
alan@spkb.org  
020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970



### Associate Vicar

Fr Louis Darrant  
louis@spkb.org  
020 7201 9992 • 07779 103826

## 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 and Fr Louis is unavailable on Fridays.*

## IN THE PARISH OFFICE



### Vicar's PA

Felicity Cranfield  
felicity@spkb.org  
020 7201 9999



### Parish Administrator

Kimball Bailey  
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020 7201 9999

## THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



### Director of Music

Stevie Farr  
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07930 542555



### Assistant Director of Music

Michael Papadopoulos  
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### Organ Scholar

Charlie Warren

## LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



### Churchwarden

John Tweddle  
john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk  
020 77363878



### Churchwarden

Phil Davies  
philip@spkb.org  
07989 387198

### 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  
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