

**Palm Sunday
20th March 2016**

'Gaze on him, my soul'

Some years ago now I was sent a Christmas card by a parishioner with a picture of a burning candle. It was a detail from a painting by Gerrit van Honthorst (1592 – 1656) called *Christ before the High Priest* and forms part of the collection in the National Gallery. The connection was intriguing. At Christmas we hear the words from St John's Prologue, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it ... He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him'.

Every year I now visit the National Gallery and spend some time sitting quietly before this painting. The Cistercian monk Thomas Merton wrote that art enables us to lose ourselves and find ourselves at the same time. I think I know something of this experience. Are we interpreting the painting or does the painting interpret us. In truth, a conversation is taking place between the two.

This week we celebrate Holy Week and the great events of our salvation in Christ. The liturgies date back to the earliest rites of the Church and are incomparable for their beauty and drama. Please consider making this week a priority and share in as much as you can. Notice the glances between the characters of the story and ask yourself where you are to be found. This poem by Pennar Davies considers some of the

characters and their relation to Christ. Can we find the courage to hold our own gaze? 'Christ is the Free Man. Look at him, my soul, at his nakedness, his blood, his sweat. The Eternal Prisoner! The soldiers beat him, cursing and laughing drunkenly. They feel that they represent a higher civilisation than his, a richer culture and an infinitely better race. In each blow there is contempt and greed. Are not the Roman soldiers masters of the world? Even in his anguish and shame Christ takes pity on the soldiers in their captivity.

He is the Free Man. Gaze on him, my soul. Does he have wealth, worldly power, an influential position in the organization of the country? No. He has nothing but a body now and the soldiers treat that body as they please. Flesh,

blood, skin, bones, hair – he has only these things now, and the kingdom of Hell wants to take these things back from him.

Look at him, my soul. He is a Free Man; the only free man in Jerusalem.

Pilate's empire is a prison; Caiaphas' religion is a prison; Judas' dream is a prison; Peter's confusion is a prison; Herod's ambition is a prison; having been freed from his cell Barabbas' rebellious movement is a prison. Christ alone is free.

My soul stand with him. There, by his side, under the lash of the soldiers, freedom is to be found'. (Pennar Davies, 1957. *Cudd Fy Meiau*, Gwasg Tŷ John Penry)



News & Events

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Maundy Thursday 24th March at 19:30 (with Watch of the Passion till midnight – please add your name to the sign-up sheet); **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**, 26th March, New Fire, Vigil and First Mass of Easter followed by champagne and canapés; **Easter Morning** (27th March) at 09:00 & 11:00. 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.

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.

VISITING PREACHER

We look forward to the first visit to St Paul's Knightsbridge, on the 10th April, of the new Rector of our Sister Parish, St Paul's K-Street in Washington DC, Fr Richard Wall. Please plan to join us.



LYON – JUNE 2016

Information about the forthcoming Parish trip to Lyon, France (6th-9th June 2016) is now available on the Parish Website, www.spkb.org

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL – JULY 2016

Please make a note of the forthcoming **Cathedral visit to Lincoln** on Saturday 16th 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 13th July at 19:30 by Dr Serenhedd James, columnist for the Church Times and Honorary Research Fellow at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

JUMBLE SALE – hold the date

The next Parish Jumble Sale will be held on **Saturday 2nd 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.

The diagram shows a rectangular box containing the following text:
Tuesday 5 February – feria
● Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1;
I will proclaim your name among the people
Annotations with arrows point to:
- 'Date and observance' pointing to 'Tuesday 5 February – feria'
- 'Colour of vestments' pointing to the green dot
- 'Response to the psalm' pointing to 'I will proclaim your name among the people'
- 'Page where the lections are to be found' pointing to 'DEL p.80, year 1'

COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards the world hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 didst humble thyself by taking the form of a servant and wast obedient even unto the death of the cross for our salvation: grant us the mind to follow thee and to proclaim thee as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

SERVICES TIMES

Sunday 20 March: Palm Sunday

◆ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 21 March: Monday in Holy Week

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 159

R: Lord, with you is the well of life.

Tuesday 22 March: Tuesday in Holy Week

◆ Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 161

R: O Lord, you are my refuge and my strength.

Wednesday 23 March: Wednesday in Holy Week

◆ Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 164

R: O God, make speed to save me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

Thursday 24 March: Maundy Thursday

◆ Solemn Liturgy at 19:30

Friday 25 March: Good Friday

◆ Children's Liturgy at 10:30

Preaching the Cross at noon

Liturgy at 14:00

Saturday 26 March: Easter Eve

◆ New Fire, Vigil and First Mass of Easter begins at 20:30

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; Kathleen Hall.

We pray for all the recently departed

John Strahan;
Peter Scott,
Maureen McNicholl

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

David Davies	20 March
David Llewellyn	21 March
Richard Oskatel Latham	23 March
Eileen Gross	23 March
Raymond Linton-Smith	25 March

ST PAUL'S

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

THE PARISH OFFICE
32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH
Telephone 020 7201 9999
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
pa@spkb.org
020 7201 9999

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Director of Music
Stevie Farr
stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk
07930 542555



Assistant Director of Music
Michael Papadopoulos
michael.pap514@gmail.com



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
veronicamscott@hotmail.com
020 7603 7680