

St Paul's Knightsbridge

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The Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle
020 7201 9999

Honorary Assistant Clergy:

The Rt Reverend Michael Colclough
The Very Reverend Victor Stock
The Venerable Nick Mercer
The Revd Prebendary Bill Scott

SERVICES THIS

WEEK:

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

11 February 2018

Family Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Mon 12 February: Feria

Low Mass at 18:00 (+M)

Tues 13 February: Feria

Shrove Tuesday

Low Mass at 8:00 (AG)

Solemn Evensong at 19:00 (NM)

Wed 14 February: ASH WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass with imposition of Ashes
at noon (WS)

Solemn Mass with Imposition of
Ashes at 19:00 (AG), preacher
Bishop Michael Colclough

Thu 15 February: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (AG)

Fri 16 February: Feria of Lent

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Low Mass at 18:00 (AG)

Sat 17 February: Janani Luwum,

Morning Prayer at 09:00

PARISH QUIET DAY FOR LENT

10:30 – 15:30 in church

Mass at 12:00 (AG)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 February 2018

Family Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

Carnival

Two of my ambitions in life are constantly thwarted by active parish ministry. One is to visit Spain during *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) to watch the processions through the streets of the *pasos*, the life-sized statues of the Virgin Mary, accompanied by the brotherhoods wearing their distinctive pointed hoods. The other is to revisit Venice, but this time not in high summer but during *Carnival*, to see the colour and join in the fun of the pre-Lenten celebrations, masked balls and all. Sadly, a priest usually needs to be in his own parish at these key moments in the Church's year, and so these visits will probably have to wait for retirement!

The word Carnival is often thought to be derived from the Latin '*carne vale*' – 'farewell to meat' – assumed to be a reference to the Lenten fast that stretches forward for 40 days from Ash Wednesday. But anthropologists tell us that the origins of carnival predate Christianity and are another example of pagan festivals repurposed and 'Christianized.' A late-winter festival as the first signs of the light and warmth of spring were seen by people whose winter food stocks had been as low as their spirits is, they say, as ancient as human civilization itself. The hallmarks of this late-winter festival are the reversal of the ordinary and the upturning of norms: hence the frenzied excess and sometimes riotous behaviour that accompanies carnival – excessive consumption of alcohol, fat, sugar and meat, of course, but sometimes also mock battles such as food fights, social satire and mockery of authorities, the wearing of masks and disguises, sometimes beautiful but often with grotesquely exaggerated features, especially large noses, bellies, mouths, and even phalli!

Perhaps for this reason, the Church has always had an ambivalent relationship with carnival. In the 6th century, Caesarius of Arles protested against the festival's pagan practices, and his sermons informed the *Indiculus superstitionum et paganiarum* (small index of superstitious and pagan practices), which was drafted

by the Synod of Leptines in 742. It condemned the *Spurcalibus* (literally 'debauchery') *en februaryo*! But debauchery is hard to suppress among human beings and a need for fun in bleak mid-winter is a resilient instinct in the human heart. Today carnival is as alive as ever.

I guess we need both to be fully alive, don't we: the fun (if not, perhaps, the unguarded debauchery!) of carnival, and the discipline, sobriety and focus of Lent. We'll try to conjure opportunities for both this coming week on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Please join us.

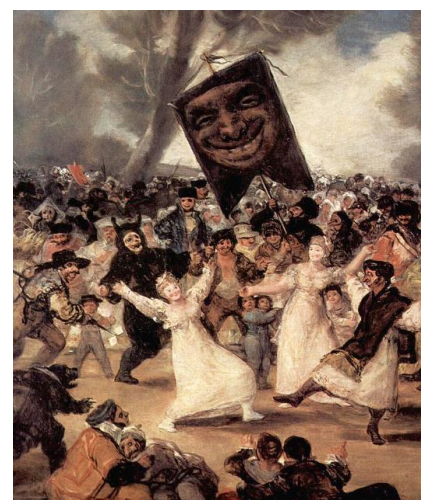
Fr Alan Gyle

Shrove Tuesday

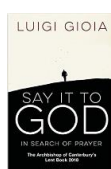
On Tuesday 13th February at 19:00, there will be Choral Evensong with the choir and musicians of St Paul's Knightsbridge followed by the Vicarage Pancake Party – all are welcome.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 14th February at noon and at 19:00, there will be Masses with the Imposition of Ashes.



Goya's 'Burial of the Sardine' captures the fun and silliness of Carnival in Spain in the early 19th century.



THIS COMING SATURDAY

Please plan to join us for a Parish Quiet Day in the church in preparation for Lent on Saturday 17th February from 10:30 till 15:30. The cost of the day is £20, which includes a simple lunch and a copy of the parish's Lent Book, 'Say it to God' by Luigi Gioia. Please ring to secure your place: 020 7201 9999.

Who's who this Sunday

At 09:00

Celebrant: Fr Alan Gyle

At 11:00

Celebrant: Bishop Michael Colclough

Deacon: Fr Alan Gyle

Subdeacon: Phil Davies

Reader: Steven Harrison

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Intercessor: Iago Griffith

St Paul's Cathedral



The new Adult Learning programme from St Paul's Cathedral is now available – copies on the book stand at the back of church.

Highlights of the term ahead include a seminar by Mark Oakley and Paula Gooder on 'Scandal & Glory: The Cross in the Bible and in Poetry' on Tuesday 13th March and another on 'Who am I?: Identity, Faith and Being Human' with Rowan Williams and John Swinton on 16th April. Both a free admission events. In addition to these there are many other events, talks, and spiritual explorations. Please pick up a copy and book your places.

The Music Dinner

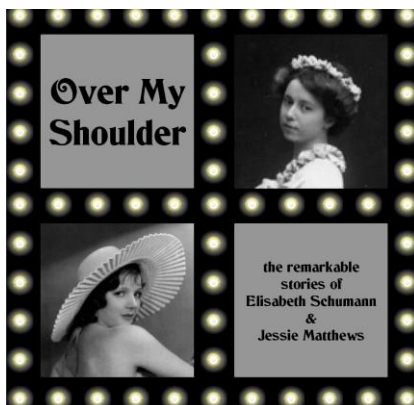
We are delighted to have been offered an evening for this years highly-popular Music Dinner: **Monday 14th May at 7pm for 7:30pm.** Black tie or equivalent – tables of 10, or individual tickets – a ticket cost of £50 with an additional (gift-aidable) donation of £150 means £200pp or £2,000 per table. Please speak to John Tweddle for more information.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Over my Shoulder



Born in a Soho slum, Jessie Matthews rose to become a superstar of stage and screen throughout the 1930s, and was often described as "*the English Ginger Rogers*". Elisabeth Schumann was a German opera and song specialist whose popularity with British audiences remained undimmed even after Germany and England had fought a war. Both women were hugely famous in their day, and yet their names are hardly recognised now by younger generations of music-lovers.

Over My Shoulder sets out to remedy this by weaving together the stories of these two singers around their unexpected intersection here in London. In a strange twist of fate, Jessie and Elisabeth now lie buried in the same churchyard. Could they also have met years earlier in Covent Garden at the height of their fame?

Clare McCaldin (mezzo-soprano) and Paul Turner (piano) combine story-telling and singing to celebrate the lives and work of Jessie and Elisabeth. Tales of romantic scandal, tragedy, falls from grace and triumphant come-backs are inseparable from the remarkable artistic contribution of these two women.

The performance includes music by Felix Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Hugo Wolf, Johannes Brahms, Otto Klemperer, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Noël Coward, Harry Woods and Rodgers & Hart.

15th February 2018, 7.30pm
St Paul's Church, 32a Wilton Place,
London, SW1X 8SH

Tickets £25, £15, £10 in advance or buy a ticket on the door. Interval drinks will be served (donation requested).

Sunday 11th March from
18:00-20:00

A Lenten Evening Seminar

with Fr Alan Gyle

Living with difference: Christian Issues of exclusion and embrace in the Vicarage, supper included: £10 (*limited places available – please book through the Parish Website*)

Forthcoming Trips and Visits

Please visit the parish website for more information:



Rycote Chapel

Saturday 28th April from 09:00-18:00

Parish Trip to The Rycote Chapel in Oxfordshire, An historic fifteenth-century Chapel with exquisitely carved and painted woodwork and many intriguing features, including two early seventeenth-century roofed pews and a musicians' gallery.



Berlin

Thursday 17th May (evening) – Sunday 20th May (after lunch)

The Parish Trip to Berlin

A three day study weekend looking at Berlin's 20th century's experience of division and reunification with Fr Alan Gyle and Roland Brunner

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop-Elect, and for +Pete Broadbent our acting Bishop;
for Lorna Gradden and John Tweddle, our Churchwardens;
for our staff team;
for those who live within the parish; for all the housebound;

Among the sick and those in need:

John King; Ingrid Gray; Gregori Galitzine; Maya Habboush; Nora Shishkovskaya; Federico Fernandes; Alan Bennyworth.

And we pray for the recently departed:

Henry Angell-James

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

Ian Ferguson Sommerville 11th
Brenda Tweddle 16th
Jamie Courtauld 16th