



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Charity No. 252878

All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website



Fourth 'Lætare' Sunday of Lent

Sunday 10th March 2024 Psalter Week 4 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary E Northeast RIP
Sunday 10 Mar 2024	8.30 am	Mary, Felix & Vincent Edwardson RIP
	10.30 am	All Parishioners
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing Elizabeth & Jack Davies
Friday	10.00 am	Special Intention
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 17th March 2024 Psalter Week 1 Cycle B

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Arthur Hughes RIP
Sunday 17 Mar 2024	8.30 am	Josephine Vella RIP
	10.30 am	All Parishioners
Wednesday	10.00 am	Ken Mason RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Dec'd of the Byrne and Noone Families
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary Northeast RIP
Sunday 24 Mar 2024	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Dec'd of the Hayes Family

ANNIVERSARIES: 10TH – 16TH MARCH 2024

Mary McAteer, Elizabeth Dickson, Amy Humm, John Nash.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

Parish Funds - Eunice Onyeonoro Akomah

FEAST DAYS: 17TH – 23RD MARCH 2024

Tuesday: St Joseph, Spouse of the B. Virgin Mary

ANNIVERSARIES: 17TH – 23RD MARH 2024

Dorothy Tivey, Daniel Graham, Daphne Cooper, Paul Morris.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

St Clement's School

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, Sheila Hall, Elpedio Tavares, Nicholas Ward, Marcia Bancroft

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: We have commenced Adoration on the first Friday of each month for 30 minutes after the 10.00am Mass. The next date is Friday 1st March.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday in Lent at 7.30 pm

200 CLUB: Hannah Wildi No.187 £30 Marie Bliss No.16 £20 Congratulations!

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th March – Passover Meal

11th May – Skittles evening

13th April – Quiz Night

30th June – Summer Fair

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT CELEBRATION, 16TH MARCH 2024 – SOLD OUT. We have a waiting list for tickets so if you have purchased tickets but **cannot now attend**, please return them for a **full refund** so that they can be resold. Many thanks

PASSOVER MEAL – 24TH MARCH 2024 4.30 PM: Passover commemorates the escape of the ancient Israelites from Egypt. The last meal that Jesus and his disciples shared together (the Last Supper) was their Passover meal and it was at this meal that Christ instituted the Eucharist. If you wish to attend our own celebration of the Passover meal, please sign the list in the narthex. Tickets will be £10 per person (on sale after all masses 9th/10th March) and you will need to bring your own drinks. If you can supply a dessert to share, please sign the separate list.

THE HOLY BOOKSTALL will be open at all Masses on the weekend 16th/17th March. There will be useful books for Lent and Easter.

DAY TIME LENT GROUP will meet in the Tivey Room 11.15 – Noon (After coffee) for five Wednesdays starting 21st February, to reflect on the coming Sunday's readings. All are welcome.

ONLINE LENT GROUP will meet on Thursday evenings for five Thursdays starting on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm. We will be following the diocesan Invited course, which includes short videos and our own small discussion groups. If you would like to take part please email John Lodge on Johnlodge47@gmail.com so that you can be sent a zoom invite. If you would like more information please look at abdiocese.org.uk/invited. All are welcome.

FINANCE: Copies of the Parish accounts are shown on the noticeboard. Copies are also available. Results show us that we are nearly back to pre-COVID time – 2019. Thankyou to our Treasurer, Robert Emmerson, for preparing these accounts and thankyou for the financial support to your Parish Community

REFLECTION

'Don't try to reach God with your understanding: that is impossible,
Reach Him in love, that is possible.' *Carlo Carretto*

The use of social media by many leads to both pride and insecurity – a pretty toxic mix! It leads to a demand that people affirm and celebrate us in whatever we do – unconditional worship. But it also means that our whole sense of self-worth can be taken from us at the whim of the mob.

How to combat pride? Well, most obviously, with humility. But nobody likes being told to be humble, and it only makes the one doing the telling sound prideful!

I'd suggest thanksgiving. The more you see as a gift, the more you give thanks. The more you give thanks, the more humble you become, recognising that what matters most in life is a gift to us: your life itself, the people you love, your faith. We cannot earn these.

GK Chesterton said grace before many more things than just meals, like before a beer or the theatre. Join him in saying more graces, giving more thanks, and entering evermore into the Eucharist: the thanksgiving at the heart of our Christian life that, along with confession, gives us the strength to walk into the light and love him.

Fr Toby Lees OP is a Dominican friar and priest. He currently works as Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling
breast.**

FIRST READING 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

PSALM Psalm 136

RESPONSE **O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R.**
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
"Sing to us," they said,
"one of Zion's songs." **R.**
3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:4-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave
his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal
life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one
together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes
of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

INTO THE LIGHT

"One of the beautiful features of this house is just how dark and dingy the rooms are. You'll be delighted to see that there is almost no natural light whatsoever," said no estate agent ever.

We love light; we hate being in darkness. Many of you, I imagine, will be breathing a sigh of relief about this time of year as you're no longer leaving for work in darkness and returning in darkness.

All of which makes it rather perplexing that Jesus should speak today of the light coming into the world, but the people preferring the darkness. Why would they do that? Why would we do that?

Jesus tells us that it's because we do not want our evil deeds brought to light. This rings true. Confronting the reality of ourselves can be painful, and we try to deceive ourselves: "I'm not a liar. I tell the truth most of the time. Just maybe not when it might embarrass me or cause me discomfort"; "I'm not a thief; everyone takes stuff from the stationery cupboard at work. I'm sure they know that's what we do!"; or "What does it matter if I use my friend's Netflix password? It's not like it costs them anything. They've got loads of money anyway."

I'm a good person – most of the time. But that is not what Christ calls us to be: He says, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," not "Lie and steal when it suits, and when you judge, it doesn't matter too much."

The Good News Jesus came to preach is that he has come to save us from our sins. But I heard a preacher say that in a world where most people think they're quite good, you have to start by preaching the *Bad News* that they are sinners. Jesus opens his ministry with a call to repentance, yet many still do not listen. The refusal to be repentant is a simultaneous refusal to accept our need for Jesus and to accept the sovereignty of God and his will.

Pride is at the heart of this refusal, it's the root of all sin, but today we celebrate it. Our culture encourages us to seek to be constantly lauded and celebrated by others. The desire to be loved by strangers from afar on social media seems to come close to the desire to be worshipped.

Now I'm not totally against social media, but it's worth looking at what we post and seeing if it's all about ourselves or Christ and the goodness of others. Or alternatively, might somebody look at our social media and think that God didn't send Jesus to condemn the world because we were doing such a good job of it already?

Lenten

Reflections



Fr Toby Lees OP continues this series of reflections for the season of Lent.



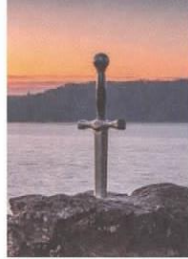
10 MARCH 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV

And then comes the unexpected turn. The “mere squire” Arthur hands Sir Uryens the sword and asks to be knighted. There’s a dramatic pause as Sir Uryens holds the sword aloft, poised as if to kill him and take Excalibur for himself. Only, in this moment, he comes to recognise in Arthur’s unusual display of bravery that Arthur is the one born to wield Excalibur. Rather than bring the sword down to slay him, Uryens knights Arthur “in the name of God, St Michael and St George”, falling at his feet and pledging his allegiance.



The point so powerfully made in the scene is that the knight Arthur has just bested, Sir Uryens, won’t give his allegiance to a man who is more powerful than him, even when his life is threatened, but he will when Arthur makes himself vulnerable before him. At that point, Sir Uryens recognises the real strength of this man and becomes prepared to lose his life serving him, when moments ago he would have rather died than suffer such a fate.

The model of leadership of Jesus, the model which Arthur manifests, is radically different from what we’re used to. It is one of strength shown in service. It says I am worth following because I would die for you. Why would we follow anyone else?

Fr Toby Lees OP is a Dominican friar and priest. He currently works as Priest Director of Radio Maria England.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that
is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM Psalm 50

RESPONSE **A pure heart create for me, O God**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:7-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word
of God!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he
must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word
of God!**

GOSPEL John 12:20-33

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain
of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a
single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or
John 12:12-26
Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Mark 14:1 – 15:47



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STRENGTH SHOWN IN SERVICE

When the Greeks, who are Gentiles, come to Philip and request to see Jesus, part of the destiny of Israel is being fulfilled: the mission to be a light to the Gentiles. And the Greeks sound ever so earnest as they make their request, “Sir, we should like to see Jesus.”

And Jesus knows better than anyone the true mission of Israel: he desires to fulfil it. So, when presented with this earnest Gentile audience, how does he go about impressing them? How does he go about manifesting his power, his divinity, his Lordship over all nations? How does he bring his light to all the nations?

He predicts his death.

And then he says that all his followers will have to do the same.

If he’d had a PR firm working for him, they might have wanted to take him aside and say, “I think we need to work on your branding a bit. I think we need to start with something a little more alluring.” But there’s never any spin with Jesus, no false allure. When Peter suggests changing the message – just moments after Peter has acknowledged him as the Christ and is bathing in Jesus’ words of praise – Jesus, not at all impressed, responds, “Get away from me, Satan!”

Why is the most followed man in the universe’s history one who predicted his own death and that of his followers? Well, because he was also God and because he would rise again from the dead and promised the same to his followers. But, even on a purely human level, there is something profoundly attractive about Jesus and profoundly challenging.

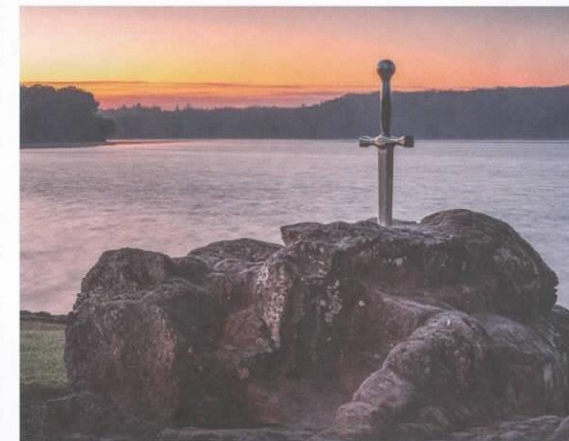
There’s a scene in a favourite film of mine, *Excalibur*, which captures something of it. Arthur has only recently lifted the sword from the stone, and people are divided in their allegiance to him. Arthur’s abode has now come under siege by those who believe a “mere squire” (which might make us think a “mere carpenter”) had no place in becoming king. Arthur’s attackers are led by a strong and brave knight, Sir Uryens. Yet, Arthur manages to fight off the hordes of attackers and then leaps from a battlement dragging Sir Uryens from the back of his horse into the moat. Then, dragging him up, and with Excalibur at his throat, Arthur says to Sir Uryens, “Swear faith to me and you shall have mercy!” To which he replies to Arthur, who is not yet even a knight, “Me a noble knight, swear allegiance to you a squire? Never!”

Lenten

Reflections



Fr Toby Lees OP continues this series of reflections on the readings of this Lenten season.



17 MARCH 2024

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I