



ST PAUL'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE

02 September 2012 Trinity 13

A Big Apple

What was that huge apple all about? I mean the apple that featured prominently in the opening ceremony of the Paralympic games. Of course it represented the famous apple that sparked Isaac Newton's formulations of the law of gravity, but its further significance was not wasted on some. One Oxbridge don remarked on Radio 4, that she saw the ceremony as 'multi-layered', the apple representing progress in scientific endeavour, *and also* the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. Certainly the Genesis narrative is surprisingly durable as a potent symbol even in our secular culture, yet is it likely that the organisers of the Paralympics intended to contrast Newton's apple with the forbidden fruit of the Genesis story? If they did, then was there a hidden message? The ceremony was entitled 'Enlightenment' with unmistakable reference to the 18th Century rise of rationalism and scientific enquiry. Our current ruling intelligentsia see themselves as the heirs of that movement. Many, though not all, link the belief in 'Progress' with the perceived triumph of Darwin's theory of evolution over the literal understanding of the Genesis creation story.



So was there a science versus religion subtext here? Was this remarkable ceremony a piece of 'progressive' triumphalism, sending a not so subtle message that science has now replaced religion as the way to knowledge and human achievement? Knowledge versus Faith? Or is that reading too much into a straightforward and dramatic tribute to one of the greatest 'achievers' in British history? Whatever the case, the symbolism was sufficiently powerful for me to reflect on the biblical narrative, and the nature of Knowledge. The significant passage is Genesis 3.5 *'God knows that when you eat of it (the fruit of the tree of knowledge) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'* The 'apple' represents moral enlightenment, knowing good from evil, and herein is the misunderstanding that so often lies behind the clash between science and religion.

Many modern day critics of religious belief see Genesis as a narrative that stigmatises human discovery and endeavour. For them religion is a reactionary and repressive force pitched against the enlightened forces of progress. But this is to misrepresent the meaning of the biblical narrative. The Tree of Knowledge is the tree of knowledge *of good and evil*. This is not a story about repression of scientific endeavour. It is about the nature of human choice, moral challenge and spiritual understanding. The fruit (apple) is not forbidden in order to stifle human achievement, but to draw attention to humankind as a moral being. During the opening ceremony of the games the physicist Stephen Hawking did indeed refer to the 'spiritual' aspects of humanity, and the ceremony linked scientific progress with the moral challenges that face the disabled.

Whatever that very big apple was really all about, for me, the real message was simple, all human endeavour is essentially moral, we have a choice to use those achievements for good or ill. That is the challenge every one of us must face.

Fr Stephen Young

GARDEN PARTY

This week we are hosting this year's Garden Party at the Vicarage Garden, which we once again hope that it will be an excellent opportunity to get to know each other over a drink, some BBQ food and good conversation. There will also be a Tombola, **any gifts for which will be gratefully accepted**, as well as any feedback and offers for helping with the event. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have already contributed with gifts for the Tombola. The party is taking place on the evening of **Thursday 6th September** in the Vicarage Garden, Wilton Place, from 6.30pm till 8.30.

We are looking forward to seeing you there...



SEPTEMBER PARISH TRIP TO SIENA

The date for the Parish Trip to Siena is also approaching fast, and it is now urgent you submit your travel plans and forms as soon as possible to the Parish office either in person or via email, in order to finalise transportation details. New participants are still welcome to join some 27 members of the congregation on our Annual Parish Retreat to Siena, Italy, 10-14 September. The days are divided equally between study, prayer, reflection and relaxation; the evenings are spent in good conversation over a simple meal together. Participants are invited to book their own flights and hotels according to budget (details and

advice are available from the Clergy or Churchwardens).

ORDO AND INTERCESSIONS

The ORDO and the Diocesan Cycle of Prayers booklet for September 2012 is now available from our Bookstall (welcomed donation £1).

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

This Sunday is the last Sunday on which we have the pleasure of the presence of Tom Allery as our Organ Scholar. Shortly Tom moves to Magdalen College Oxford as Assistant Organist. We are grateful to him for the full part he has played in the life of the parish over the past year, for his excellent printed commentary week-by-week on the music at the High Mass, and for the pleasure of his company! We are pleased to announce that his successor here is Georgina Sherriff, a second-year student at the RCM, who takes up the role in a fortnight's time.

TODAY, 2 September 2012 – The 13th Sunday after Trinity

09:00 Family Mass

11:00 Solemn Eucharist and Baptism. Preacher:

Fr Alan Gyle: Vicar

Music by Langlais, Parry and Bainton.

Parish Sunday Lunch

THIS WEEK

Low Mass is said daily at 18:00

and on Saturday at noon.

Wednesday:

The **Wednesday Evening Service**

is at 18:45, followed by light refreshments.

On Saturday at 10:00

50th Anniversary of Independence Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Thanksgiving Service

NEXT SUNDAY, 9 September 2012 – The 14th Sunday after Trinity

09:00 Family Mass

11:00 Solemn Eucharist and Baptism Preacher:

Fr Stephen Young, Senior Curate

Music:

Padilla - Missa Ego Flos Campi

Palestrina – Super flumina

Victoria - O sacrum convivium



Masses & Psalm Responses this week

Monday 3 September – St Gregory the Great, bishop and teacher of the faith

Mass at 1800; EH p. 370; White Give thanks to the Lord, the holy one

Tuesday 4 September – feria

Mass at 1800; DEL Week 22 (year 2) p. 612; Green The Lord is righteous in all his ways

Wednesday 5 September – feria

Mass at 1845; DEL Week 22 (year 2) p. 614; Green God alone is my rock and my salvation my stronghold, so I shall not be shaken

Thursday 6 September – feria

Mass at 1800; DEL Week 22 (year 2) p. 617; Green The earth is the Lord's and all who dwell therein

Friday 7 September – feria

Mass at 1800; DEL Week 22 (year 2) p. 619; Green The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord

Saturday 8 September – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass at noon; EH p. 374; White My heart exults in the Lord

Sunday 9 September – 14th Sunday after Trinity Masses at 0900 & 1100; Proper 18B (related readings); Green

In our prayers

- Preparations for the London Paralympics 2012, and for all visitors to this city.
- Our Bishop, Richard
- Our church and neighbourhood
- Our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- Those suffering famine in Africa
- The Middle East, especially the people of Syria, and for Christian minorities.
- Those on active service overseas
- The British and European economies

Among the sick and those in need, We pray for:

Charles Longcroft; Sal Allen; Peter Adcock; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; Robin Higgs; Willy Humbert; Kenneth James; John King; Daphne Nugent; Nancy Seligman; Jean Steers; Richard Thornton; Katherine Davis and John Willmington.

Among the recently departed:

Elizabeth Doig;
Angharad Rees;
David Hardy.

Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Victor Danenza 3 September
Henry Montagu Villiers, Priest 9 September

PARISH CONTACTS



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THE PARISH CLERGY



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Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood;
Fr Graham Palmer

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 Fridays and Fr Stephen is unavailable on Tuesdays.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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