



ST PAUL'S
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

12 MAY 2013: EASTER 7 – THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

DE PROFUNDIS

On Friday, the discovery on Friday, seventeen days after the collapse of the eight-story building in Dhaka, Bangladesh, of a woman – Reshma – pulled alive from her imprisonment amidst the rubble. An astonishing human feat of endurance which brought a wave of joy and celebration in an otherwise hopeless situation. Over a thousand dead and one remarkable survival. What went through Reshma's mind, initially and then long after she realised help was not immediately coming? How did she cope? What – in a situation that might have driven others mad, kept her sane?

And in America this week, in Cleveland Ohio, the story of ending of a different sort of captivity: the release of Amanda Berry, Georgina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, three women imprisoned in a house for ten years. Their situation different, and their thought-processes too: their acceptance of incarceration of a different nature and quality from that of Reshma, but the joy on their release palpable. This week we should pray especially for *all* who are held captive.

There is something deep in us that finds the idea of being trapped terrifying. The feelings associated with claustrophobia are visceral and powerful – and so stories of release and rescue provoke in us a deep and powerful wave of joy and relief. A few noble spirits manage to turn imprisonment into a positive

experience of transformation: think of Brian Keenan, whose fine book 'An Evil Cradling' reflects on his four and a half year ordeal in Beirut, deprived of freedom and often of any human contact at all. But how would we cope? What would we think if our freedom was taken away? What would we hang onto or hope? Or would the situation quickly become hopeless.

In Christian spirituality, the notion of Christ's 'harrowing of hell' is an ancient part of the tradition – and in iconography to do with Eastertide there are often depictions of Christ descending into the bowels of the earth with a key to the doors that imprison lost souls. It is a powerful image, and as Fr Andrew Sloane said on Ascension Day in his sermon, a reminder that we are to live *always* as those with hope. It is not a story – in fact – about *literal* imprisonment. We are all – in some way or another – imprisoned: held captive, if not literally then figuratively by choices and situations, some of our making, others not of our choosing. And the impact of imprisonment is that it gradually erodes our sense of self

and of hope. The truth we are reminded of in this season is magisterial: that Christ rising destroys *all* that imprisons us – and his ascent to the Father in the story of Ascension Day shows that not only are we to live with hope for good things here in life, but that the ground of our hope is of our humanity dwelling with God eternally.

Fr Alan Gyle



NOTICES

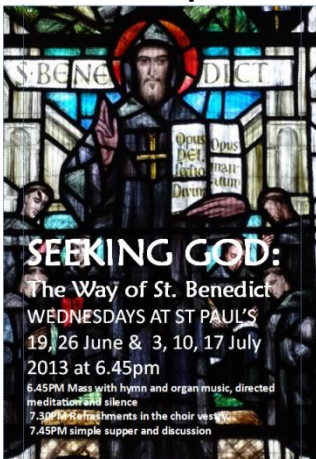
VISITORS & NEWCOMERS TO ST PAUL'S

If you are visiting us this Sunday morning, welcome! If you are here from another church, please let us know. All who are in good standing with their own churches of whatever tradition and who are regular communicants are welcome to receive the sacrament at the altar today. Afterwards, we hope you will join us for refreshments – and if you will, pause to fill in a Visitor's Card: we will be glad to add you to our mailing list and to make contact if that is what you'd like. And if you simply wish to visit and slip away, that is fine too!

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

There will be a brief meeting of the PCC after Mass on Sunday 19th May 2013 at 12.15 in St Luke's Chapel to elect officers and appoint sidesmen. The first full meeting of the PCC will be on Monday 24th June 2013 at 7pm.

WEDNESDAY EVENING EUCHARIST & STUDY 19th & 26th June and 3rd, 10th and 17th July 2013 at 6.45pm.



“The world into which St. Benedict was born was a troubled, torn apart, uncertain world. It knew little of safety or of security, and the church was almost as troubled as the secular powers. It was a world without landmarks. It had this in common

with the twentieth century: life was an urgent struggle to make sense of what was happening.” So Esther de Waal begins her first chapter in her classic book on St Benedict and perhaps thus puts her finger on the extraordinary appeal of the Rule of St Benedict in our own age, not just within the church at large but also in our increasingly secularized society.

Esther de Waal is a noted scholar of the Benedictine life and in this book she elucidates and makes very accessible the Rule

of St. Benedict, as well as applying it to the spiritual lives of the baptized. In so doing she opens to us an opportunity to explore— among other things—the place of silence and stillness in busy lives and the need for a godly ‘mindfulness’ for our health and wellbeing.

Copies of **SEEKING GOD: The Way of St. Benedict** can be purchased at Amazon, along with both simple and more elaborate versions of the Rule itself.

In keeping with the Benedictine theme of these five Wednesdays, the Mass at 6.45PM will take on a more meditative quality, with a directed meditation in place of the usual homily, and the opportunity for silence.



FORTHCOMING SERVICES

May 12: Seventh Sunday of Easter

09:00 Family Mass with Hymns – Fr Alan Gyle

11:00 Solemn High Mass

Cantus Missae in Eb – Rheinberger;
Am Himmelfahrtstage Op 79 no 3 – Mendelssohn;

Beati quorum via - Stanford;

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

May 19: Pentecost

09:00 Family Mass with Hymns – Fr Alan Gyle

11:00 Solemn High Mass & Baptism

Missa Dum Complentur - Victoria

Loquebantur variis linguis - Tallis

Dum complentur – Palestrina

Preacher: Fr Andrew Sloane

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today we pray especially for:

Prisoners and those held captive, in whose hearts the lamp of hope burns low.

We pray daily for:

- The renewal of the Church in Ascensiontide
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- those on active service overseas, especially Robin Lindsay and the men he commands in Afghanistan
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the unity and health of the Anglican Communion (*the daily cycle of prayer for the Anglican Communion is to be found at: www.anglicancommunion.org/acp*)
- our sisters and brothers of the Roman Catholic Church and for Pope Francis I, and for the Eastern Orthodox churches and Bartholomew the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Among the sick and those in need:

Christiane Dupond-Nangle; Chantal Patel; Tessa Murphy; Matthew; Tim Dally; Annelise Bowser; Kelsey Brockbank; Sal Allen; Peter Adcock; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; Kenneth James; John King; Daphne Nugent; Jean Steers; Katherine Davis; John Willmington; Andrew Westwood; Malcolm Welsh; Alexandra Holesh; Teresa Noone; Caitriona Quinn.

We pray for the bereaved and all the faithful departed, among them especially those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Helen Newton	14 May
Sophie Hodgson	15 May
Cecilia Lawson	17 May
Eileen Goode	18 May

MASSES & PSALM RESPONSES

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.

Diagram illustrating the service card for Tuesday 5 February – feria. The card contains 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:

- Date and observance: Tuesday 5 February – feria
- Colour of vestments: ●
- Response to the psalm: I will proclaim your name among the people
- Page where the lections are to be found: DEL p.80, year 1;

Sunday 12 May – 7th Sunday of Easter

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 13 May – feria of Eastertide

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 238 (year 1);

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to his name.

Tuesday 14 May – Matthias

● Mass at 18:00; EH p. 145;

Lord, you know the hearts of all.

Wednesday 15 May – feria of Eastertide

● Mass at 18:45; DEL p. 241 (year 1);

Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Thursday 16 May – feria of Eastertide

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 242 (year 1);

**Preserve me, O God,
for in you have I taken refuge.**

Friday 17 May – feria of Eastertide

● Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 244 (year 1);

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Saturday 18 May – feria of Eastertide

● Mass at noon; DEL p. 245

The upright shall behold the face of the Lord.

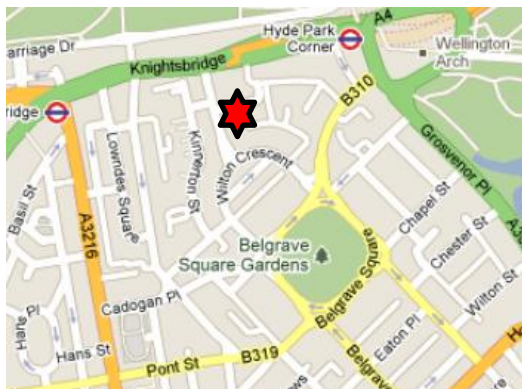
Sunday 19 May – Pentecost

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Anyone who is interested in or who may have any questions about being baptized and/or confirmed in the coming months is asked to please contact Fr. Andrew Sloane (AndrewSloane@spkb.org - or by phone: **0207201 9999**) at your earliest convenience so we can organize some appropriate and enjoyable preparation! Many thanks.

PARISH CONTACTS



THE PARISH OFFICE

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THE PARISH CLERGY



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Associate Vicar

Fr Andrew Sloane
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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 Mondays and Fr Andrew Sloane on Fridays.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



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