



8 December 2013: The Second Sunday of Advent

THE GRACE OF MUTABILITY...



To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up...

Timeliness is one of the clues to greatness. You have to be the right person in the right place at the right time. Whatever skills and insights, abilities and talents you may have, if they don't coincide with need and opportunity, you are merely the right person in the wrong place: frustration and waste. And many a right opportunity, many a need in a particular moment, passes unredeemed for want of the right person to step up and serve. But sometimes the two coincide, and in that place of intersection is the potential for transformation and redemption of life for all, and for those individuals at the point of intersection, the proffered mantle of 'greatness'.

It was Aristotle who said, 'Where your talents and the needs of the world cross; there lies your vocation.' Nelson Mandela was a man of vocation, whose remarkable lifetime saw a nation transformed. And he is, in the almost unanimous estimation of commentators this past week, a truly great figure of world history. In our prayers we give thanks for his life, for his contribution, and for the ripples of change for good which flowed from him, far beyond the political situation in South Africa in which he was such a key player. May he rest in peace.

"A great man..." Greatness is a term not to be bandied lightly, of course. In a world of careless utterance, of imprecision of language and, frankly, too many words, the risk in ascribing to any person the accolade of greatness is that it will be debased as a term. How often do we hear people described as 'great' who were – in fact – just 'talented' or 'fortunate' or 'lucky' to have found themselves in a particular moment of time: 'cometh the hour, cometh the man.' And usually it is the verdict of time that is the real test of whether someone has been truly great. But in the case of Nelson Mandela the term seems right, doesn't it? And I wonder why.

Perhaps timeliness is only one of the clues to greatness. Another has to do with the fact of change and the need to be able to respond to it. Looking at Nelson Mandela's life, what is striking is the fact that he was able to be the right person in the right moment *many times over*: he morphed from being an effective activist to being an inspirational freedom fighter; deemed a terrorist, he morphed into the role of political prisoner with huge effectiveness; and never embittered by his incarceration, he morphed again into a national leader and then a world statesman of huge impact. Chance and the intersection of time and person might have produced any one of these vocational opportunities; the ability to seize change and to respond to it so remarkably over such a long lifetime is, I suspect, what makes Mandela a truly great figure.

It was John Henry Newman who said, 'In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.' Mandela would be the very last person to claim anything approaching perfection, of course, but he does exemplify what we might call 'the grace of mutability': the ability to change as a person throughout a long life as need and opportunity dictated. How many of us resist change and find ourselves stuck being what we were, clinging to our past? We live life blind to the fact that God calls us to be renewed and transformed daily in an unfolding universe of opportunity; called to respond to our sense of vocation over and over again...

Fr Alan Gyle

COMING UP: AT A GLANCE...

The funeral of Jean Steers will take place on Saturday 14th December at 11:00. We offer our sympathies to Ian and her family.

Requiescat in pace



DECEMBER 2013

Daily in December, from Monday to Saturday: Morning Prayer at 09:00 and mass at noon

In the afternoon and evening the church is in use for charity events, which with other extra events are noted below.

8 Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
9 Mon	19:00 UNICEF Carol Event
10 Tue	18:30 GOSH Carol Event
11 Wed	19:30 The Haven Carol Event
12 Thu	19:30 Macmillan Carol Event
13 Fri	19:30 BBC Singers Christmas Concert
14 Sat	11:00 The Funeral of Jean Steers 19:30 St Paul's Festival Choir Concert
15 Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
16 Mon	19:30 St George's Kidney Patients Carol Event
17 Tue	15:00 The Wedding of Della Green and Sheridan Swallow
18 Wed	19:00 St Paul's Parish Carol Service
19 Thu	19:00 STOLL Carol Event
20 Fri	Parish Office Closed from lunchtime
21 Sat	
22 Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
23 Mon	
24 Tue	CHRISTMAS EVE Crib Service at 17:00 Midnight Mass at 23:00
25 Wed	CHRISTMAS DAY Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
26 Thu	Mass at noon
27 Fri	Mass at noon
28 Sat	Mass at noon
29 Sun	CHRISTMAS 1 Family Mass at 09:00 Sung Mass with Cantor at 11:00

Masses on the weekdays of Christmastide in December, daily at noon



In December, as part of our commitment to the wider community, we join in partnership with a large number of charities to help to raise money for good causes. It means that life in St Paul's is challenging! Thanks to our team.

However, we also keep a good Advent. The church is open daily from 09:00 till lunchtime for quiet prayer; morning prayer is said daily at 09:00 and there is a Low Mass at noon.

On the Sundays of Advent the themes of the season expounded in Scripture are explored through music and preaching. Join us at 09:00 for the Family Mass or at 11:00 for the Solemn High Mass.

SILENT MEDITATION ON TUESDAYS: The Tuesday morning silent meditation group will meet for the next two weeks as usual. It will NOT meet on December 24 or 31; it will resume on January 7 at 7.30AM

FR ANDREW SLOANE: Fr. Andrew Sloane will be away Monday to Wednesday this week leading the Advent Retreat for St. Stephen's House in Oxford

ADVANCE NOTICE . We are planning a trip to hear the well known choral group The Sixteen perform at The Chapel at Greenwich as part of their "Choral Pilgrimage" on Wednesday 7 May 2014. The Sixteen are kindly setting aside a block of seats for our purchase ahead of general sales. Please could you let Fr. Andrew Sloane know or sign the sheet at the back of the church if you think you may want to attend this concert so that we can let them know approximately how many we shall be. Tickets are 30 pounds in the rear nave. Further details are in the Christian Formation booklet.



IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

O Lord, raise up we pray thee thy power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.
COLLECT FOR ADVENT 2

We pray daily for:

- The keeping of a good Advent
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- the peoples of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon
- 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*)

Among the bereaved, the sick and those in any kind of need:

Nicky Lindsay; Kathleen Hall; Janet Sturdy; John Soderquist; Jenny Cochrane; Pepper Clarita Pay; Sara Carroll-Parker; William Humbert; Maggie Millbourn; Christiane Dupont Nangle; Sal Allen; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; John King; Daphne Nugent; Jean Steers; Katherine Davis; John Willmington; Andrew Westwood; Alexandra Holesh; John Millbourn; Diana Kemp Welch; Jean Marc Lehut; Marijo Bergé

We pray for the bereaved, and all the faithful departed, among them especially:

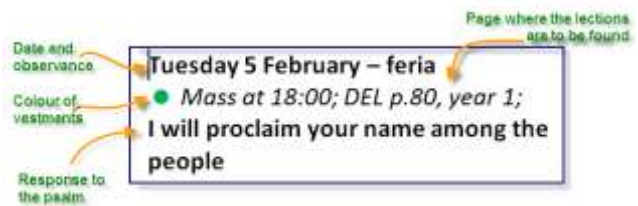
Jean Steers; June Poland; James Taylor.

and those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Letitia McMulan	12 December
Francis Leith Boyd	13 December
Hannah Coke	13 December
William King	13 December
Maud King	14 December
James Newton	15 December

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.



Sunday 8 December– Advent 2

- Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 9 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 32;

The Lord was gracious to his land

Tuesday 10 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 34;

Sing to the Lord a new song

Wednesday 11 December – ember day

- Mass at noon DEL p. 35;

Bless the Lord O my soul

Thursday 12 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 37;

I will exalt you, O God my king

Friday 13 December – St Lucy

- Mass at noon CW p.557

In your light shall we see light

Saturday 14 December – St John of the Cross

- Mass at noon CW p. 561;

Tear open the heavens and come down, O Lord

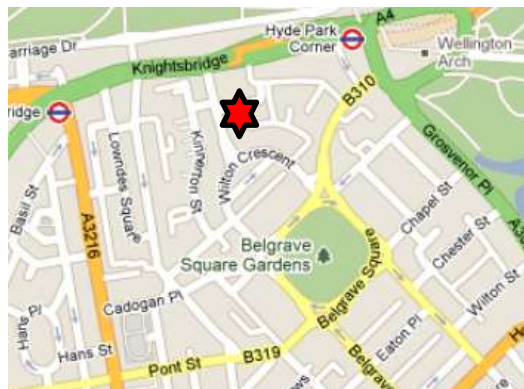
Sunday 15 December– Advent 3

- 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!

PARISH CONTACTS



THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

Telephone 020 7201 9999 • Fax 020 7201 9997

THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle
alan@spkb.org
020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970



Associate Vicar

Fr Andrew Sloane
AndrewSloane@spkb.org
020 7201 9996 • 07429 806173

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



Director of Music

Stevie Farr
stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk
07930 542555



Organ Scholar

Georgina Sherriff

LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



Churchwarden

John Tweddle
john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk
020 77363878



Churchwarden

Caroline Docker
dockercaroline@gmail.com
020 7384 1165

Deputy Churchwardens

2013-14 Noel Craven
Phil Davies
Nicky Lindsay
Susie Thornton

Treasurer

Phil Davies
philip@spkb.org
07989 387198

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

Veronica Scott
veronicamscott@hotmail.com
020 7603 7680

Vicar's PA



Felicity Cranfield
felicitycranfield@spkb.org
020 7201 9999



Parish Administrator

Dimitrios Dalageorgos
pa@spkb.org
020 7201 9999

www.spkb.org
www.facebook.com/stpaulsknightsbridge