

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

#### 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015

### "JE SUIS CHARLIE..."

There is only one thing to write about this weekend: Paris, Charlie Hebdo and the terrorist outrage there. *Bien sur!* 

The image on *this* page, though a cartoon, is neither satyrical nor French! It is the work of an anonymous monk in a mediaeval scriptorium. It is not satyrical; on the

contrary, it is probably rather kind and flattering. It depicts one Aelred of Rievaulx. a monk, Cistercian born in Hexham, who became Abbot of Rievaulx abbey in North Yorkshire in 1147. In his day, so attuned to the spirituality of the magisterial St Bernard of Clairvaux was he, that he was known across Europe as 'the Bernard of the North'. This otherwise obscure individual is celebrated in the Church on 12<sup>th</sup> January - the

anniversary of his death in 1167 - as one of the great monastic leaders and as author of one of the great Christian classics: 'On Spiritual Friendship.' In it he writes, for those living in a monastic setting, about the disciplines that make it possible to see close, even intimate friendship as both a way of exploring relationship with God and a way of expressing commitment to being 'with God' as a faithful soul. The way we live with one another is – or can be – 'a holy thing'.

The idea that inter-personal relationship is not just a human construct but can be 'sacramental' is familiar from Scripture. The author of the Johannine epistles writes: *God is love, and those who live in love live in*  God, and God lives in them... (1 John 4: 16). Abbot Aelred builds on this insight, but from the persepctive of deep acquaintance with the challenges of maintaining friendship with those with whom we live cheek-byjowel, and with whom we often disagree. His view of friendship is neither light nor fluffy! It is not easy living in a monastic

community: ask any nun or monk. Aelred brings his readers back, again and again, to the necessity of creating a real and spiritual friendship that embraces difference and lives with its challenges, seeing the work of loving those whom we may not instinctively like as part of the call to sanctification: My friend must be the quardian of our mutual love, or even of my very soul, so that... whatever he sees in it

that is flawed he will correct or endure with all his strength. When I rejoice, he will rejoice; when I grieve, he will grieve with me."

In the hours following the shooting at Charlie Hebdo there was a wave of strong feeling as across the social media and in the streets of Paris people declared 'Je suis Charlie'. To express solidarity is a good thing. But it can also be a fleeting thing, little more than an emotional knee-jerk reaction. By contrast, the invitation to foster real friendships across the divisions of difference (and even faith) with those we may not even particularly like: that is a vocation and a worthy - and godly challenge. **Fr Alan Gyle** 



## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE: SPRING TERM



'HOLY LAND?' - an exploration of the Middle East in history and the present day The Bible tells a story of God's people occupying God's 'Holy Land' - and draws our attention to the most contested and fought-over region of the earth: the Middle By the end of this (short) term East. participants in the programme will have a better sense of the history of the Holy Land (through an exploration of the story of travel, conquest and settlement in the Old Testament) – but perhaps more importantly we will engage with the later story too. What is going on now? What are the disputes between Jews and Arabs about and how do Christians fit into the story? What is happening to Islam in the 21st century? And what does this mean for the future shape of the Middle East?

#### **INTRODUCTORY STUDY SESSIONS:**

Wednesdays 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 after the 18:45 mass

#### **SPECIAL EVENT NO: 1**

Wednesday 28th January 2015 after the 18:45 mass – a special Holy Land Seminar SPECIAL EVENT NO: 2

Saturday 31st January 2015 at 10:00 - a visit to see the Middle Eastern treasures in the British







Museum £20 – limited to 18 places

# CONFIRMATION SERVICE & PATRONAL FESTIVAL

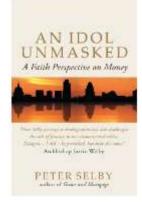
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 11:00am. Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop Michael Colclough. Any wishing to be baptised or confirmed please speak to Fr Andrew Sloane or any of the clergy.

# **OUTSIDE EVENTS**



AN IDOL UNMASKED: A FAITH PERSPECTIVE ON MONEY by Peter Selby. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 (in the Wren Suite, 13:00-14:00, free and unticketed

Our society's attitude to money has become reminiscent of the



ancient religions that worshipped idols. 'It money, mammon - has encouraged us to believe that a sophisticated game of second guessing is the only sensible response to its fearful power, and that having more and more of it is the only wise ambition and the only security against a life of penury and misery. Money doesn't just talk, it rules.' Peter Selby's new book, An Idol Unmasked: Faith Perspective on Money was Α published in 2014. In this talk he will reflect on this modern phenomenon, and ask how we can be freed from the tyranny of money's power over us. Peter Selby has since 2011 been one of the Directing Team at St Paul's Institute, and was until 2007 Bishop of Worcester and Bishop to HM Prisons. His previous book, Grace and Mortgage: The Language of Debt and the Faith of the World, foreshadowed many aspects of the financial crisis of 2007/8.

# WESTMINSTER

A SERVICE TO MARK THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ will be held at Westminster Abbey at 6.30 pm on Sunday 1st February 2015. Those considering taking part in the Parish Pilgrimage to Kraków ('THEOLOGY AFTER AUSCHWITZ' with Fr Alan Gyle, 17 -20 September 2015) may like to consider attending. Tickets are available free online from the Abbey website.

### **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.

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📲 Tuesday 5 February – feria 🖌
Mass at 18:00; DEL p.80, year 1; I will proclaim your name among the
people

#### **COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY**

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus didst reveal him to be thy Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we, being born again by water and the Spirit, may be faithful to our calling as thine adopted children; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

#### Post Communion

O Lord of all time and eternity, who in the baptism of Jesus thy beloved Son didst open the heavens and didst reveal thyself as Father: by the power of thy Spirit make perfect the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

#### **EPIPHANYTIDE**

Sunday 11 – The Baptism of Christ Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 12 – Aelred of Rievaulx Mass at 18:00; EH p. 28 Lord, may we drink the water of wisdom

Tuesday 13 – Hilary of Poitiers Mass at 18:00; EH p. 31 Send us your light and truth, O God

Wednesday 14 – feria Mass at 18:45; DEL Week 1, year 1 p. 253; Sing to the Lord, sing praises

#### Thursday 15 – feria

 Mass at 18:00; DEL Week 1, year 1 p.255
Come, let us sing to the Lord and rejoice in the rock of our salvation

#### Friday 16 – feria

Mass at 18:00; DEL p. 258
We will recount the praises of the Lord

#### Saturday 17 – Antony of Egypt

Mass at noon; EH p. 35
You call upon me, Lord, and I will answer you

#### We pray daily for:

- Peace in the Middle East, an easing of tension between warring groups and the eradication of religious fundamentalism.
- The renewal of the Church.
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street
- those on active service overseas
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the unity and health of the Anglican Communion
- 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:

Clariette Wilmot; Maggie Milbourn; Tim Touhey; Catherine Anne Lally; Fr.Richard Martin; Eric Maidment; Ian McDonald; Ian Frazer; Elizabeth Gordon; Fr.Lane Davenport; Carole Taylor; Sara Carroll-Parker; Peter Brook; Michael Cooke; John King; Alexandra Holesh; Penri Morgan; Jean Marc Lehut.

#### The departed:

Lance Percival; Brian Fuller

#### Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Julia Candlish	8 January
Kurt Hoxter	11 January
Dick Bilborough	11 January
Christopher Courtauld	11 January
James Longcroft	13 January
Marjorie Garrett	13 January

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

#### 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



(I-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood; Fr Graham Palmer; Bishop Michael Colclough

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

**Assistant Director of Music** 



Jeremy Cole



**Organ Scholar** Luke Navin

#### LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF

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



Churchwarden Phil Davies philip@spkb.org 07989 387198

#### **Deputy Churchwardens**

Caroline Docker, Margaret Gadow, Nicoletta Lindsay, Aidan Linton-Smith, Jeremy Orlebar and Susie Thornton. **Treasurer:** Noel Craven

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy Veronica Scott veronicamscott@hotmail.com 020 7603 7680



Vicar's PA Felicity Cranfield felicitycranfield@spkb.org 020 7201 9999



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