

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
15th February 2015

THE DISTANT VIEW

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves ...

If one of the mysteries of the New Testament is the precise identity of the Mountain of Transfiguration (mentioned in today's gospel Mark 9: 2-9), it is usually assumed to be Mount Tabor, at the eastern end of the Jezreel Valley, 11 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. Here it was that, according to the tradition, Our Lord was 'transfigured' before his startled disciples, Peter, James and John; his clothes became dazzling white and his face shone, and in their vision he was seen talking to Moses and Elijah. It is a powerful story, and an arresting vision – in every sense: the disciples would have stayed there, so captivating was the sight: 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here,' says St Peter; 'let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' But this is a moment only of revelation and glory – and the real task lies in the days ahead as Jesus begins his slow journey to Jerusalem and to the events of his Passion and Death. In the story, no sooner has Peter spoken than they hear a voice from heaven – the voice of God: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him!' and St Mark concludes the story with ominous words: Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, *until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.*



In her wisdom, the Church sets this gospel as the central reading for masses on this last Sunday before the beginning of the holy season of Lent. It is as if, annually, we (like those disciples) are led up to a high place from which to glimpse anew some of what we know and remember – and are given a foretaste of light, brightness and heavenly glory – as we shall see when all is brightness at the great liturgy of Holy Saturday when

the new fire is lit and blessed, the paschal candle carried into the darkness of the church and 'the Light of Christ' proclaimed by the deacon – marking the start of our celebration of the resurrection at Easter. But the only way from here to there is down and into the gloom of Lent – Lent, that

season of struggle and engagement. The only way is through... there is no way from brightness to brightness without the darkness in between.

I invite you to the keeping of a good Lent this year. There are masses on Ash Wednesday (this Wednesday – 18th February) at 8am and 7pm at which you can mark (or be marked for) the start of the journey ahead. And you should probably at the same time put Saturday 4th April at 8.30pm in your diary – Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil – our distant destination!

Fr Alan Gyle

WELCOME

You will find in the pews, in addition to the yellow envelopes, blue and gold "Visitor Cards". We invite visitors who would like to keep in touch with us, to complete one of these and to hand it to one of the clergy; also we invite regular members of the congregation to become more aware of visitors around them and to offer a card for completion by way of introduction and welcome.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

TODAY: THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Sunday 15th February 2015

DAILY: MORNING PRAYER at 09:00 and a mass (see the porch notice or p.3 for times)

ON TUESDAY: SILENT MEDITATION - half an hour's guided silent meditation on Tuesday mornings at 08:00

ON TUESDAY: at 18:00 **LOW MASS FOR SHROVE TUESDAY FOLLOWED BY A PANCAKE PARTY IN THE VICARAGE**

ON ASH WEDNESDAY: Masses with ashing to mark the start of the season of Lent, 08:00 (said) and 19:00 (sung)

ON FRIDAY: BBC SINGERS - see below

NEXT SUNDAY: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MUSIC OF CREATION...

Friday evening, 18:45 for 19:30 – be in the audience (by free ticket, available from the [BBC Singers website](#)) or listen LIVE on **RADIO 3**. A concert of choral music celebrating the glories of the natural world - from the Biblical account of the seven days of Creation in Aaron Copland's masterly setting, to the premiere of a brand-new work which looks to Native American Mohawk traditions for inspiration and which its composer, Forrest Pierce, describes as "a discourse on the generous beauties that sustain us on this voyage around the sun". In between, music from the Renaissance and from our own day which praise the wonders of all that surrounds us - sun and stars, sea and sky, flora and fauna.

Stephen Cleobury conductor.



A PARISH VISIT DURING PASSIONTIDE WEEKEND

Fr Alan Gyle warmly invites you to join him in Amsterdam for the weekend marking the beginning of Passiontide 2015. Please plan to arrive by lunchtime on Friday 20th March (flights are plentiful and cheap), and to return on the evening of Sunday 22nd.



And book to stay centrally in any of the many approachably-priced hotels.

The programme for the visit will include time for daily prayer and reflection, a **visit to the Rijksmuseum** to explore the theme of the Passion of Christ in the magnificent collection there,

and on Saturday afternoon a trip to **see and hear the organs of the Laurenskerk at Alkmaar** played by our Director of Music, Stephen Farr.



We will all meet daily to eat and study together – and there will be time for you to explore and to be a tourist too. Please join us.

BOOKS FOR LENT

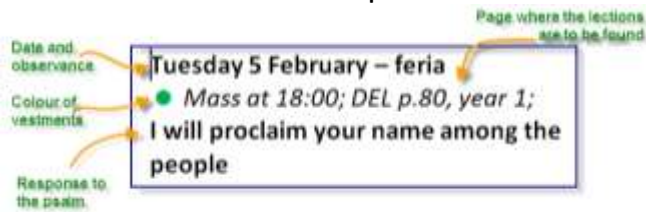
Why not think about reading a spiritual book this Lent? The bookstall in the narthex of the church has been replenished with a variety of books appropriate to the season.



The price of each is marked inside: please leave your payment in the votive box at the back of church.

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.



COLLECT FOR THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

O holy God, we behold thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ: grant that we who are partakers at his table may reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT, ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Sunday 15 Feb – The Sunday before Lent

● Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 16 – feria

● Mass at 18:00; DEL Week 6, year 1 p. 330
I will show my salvation to those who keep my way

Tuesday 17 – feria

● Mass at 18:00; DEL Week 6, year 1 p. 332
The Lord gives strength to his people

Wednesday 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY

● Masses at 08:00 & 19:00

Thursday 19 – feria of Lent

● Mass at 18:00; DEL, p. 89
The Lord teaches us what is good.

Friday 20 – feria of Lent

● Mass at 18:00; DEL, p. 90
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Saturday 21 – feria

● Mass at noon; DEL p. 92

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth.

We pray daily for:

- The keeping of a good Lent.
- The renewal of the Church.
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street
- our emerging mission link with All Saints, Nhamavila in Mozambique
- 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:

Marjorie Isabel Wilcox; Piers Leonard; Mary Sykes-Wright; Ronald Bartle; Clariette Wilmot; Kooky Fallah; 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; Steven Davis.

The departed:

Cecily Saunders.

Those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Joan Watson	8 February
Ian Ferguson Sommerville	11 February
Brenda Twedde	16 February
Jamie Courtauld	16 February
Frances Elizabeth Tully	18 February
Charles Beattie	18 February
Dorota Stankiewicz	18 February
Sr Janet SC	21 February
Josephine Ruschmeyer	21 February

PARISH INFORMATION

THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

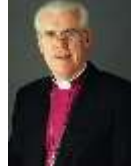
Fr Alan Gyle
alan@spkb.org
020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970



Associate Vicar

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

Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-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
jr.c@live.co.uk
07774517584



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



THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH
Telephone 020 7201 9999
info@spkb.org