

St Paul's Knightsbridge
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SERVICES THIS WEEK:

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

20 August 2017

Low Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Louis Darrant

Mon 21 August: Feria

Mass at 18:00

Tue 22 August: Feria

Mass at 08:00

Wed 23 August: Feria

Mass at 18:45

Thu 24 August: Bartholomew

Mass at 18:00

Fri 25 August: Feria

Mass at 18:00

Sat 26 August: Feria

Mass of Our Lady on Saturday

Mass at noon

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

27 August 2017

Low Mass at 09:00

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

'Tis a gift to be simple...



"It's a simple question, yes or no?!", she demanded. The trouble was, that in my view the right answer was neither. "Well, it's complex," I began... Her question was about God, and even after I'd tried to answer it, I was left reflecting. Was it really 'complex', or was it something else?

If the fast-moving age of tweets and soundbites in which we live has increased our expectations that questions will have simple answers, an age of increasing complexity guarantees nothing of the sort. Perhaps, of course, our longing for the former is a defence against the latter, but what do we mean when we say something that evades an immediate simple answer is 'complex'?

Some things in life are difficult to understand. In order to get to grips with them we need to set time aside to let our brains grasp them. But not only our brains. If certain things evade quick answers, it may be less a matter of getting our heads around the problem than our hearts: understanding often has to do with emotion as well as intellect. So, when in this context we say 'it's complex' we may simply mean 'I'm not sure you or I are prepared to set aside the time to get to grips with this.' Sometimes we need to.

Other things in life are 'complex' in the sense of being 'multi-factorial'. In order to get to grips with understanding them, we have to go further than a simple, binary cause-and-effect solution. 'A happens because of B, C, D and E' – and the relationship between them may be dynamic. When we say 'it's complex' in this context, we need to be prepared to set aside our longing for simplicity and to

be able to bear longer answers which embrace causal interdependence. This too make take time.

And by 'complex' in other situations we may mean 'nuanced.' Even if we take time to understand, and in so doing step beyond the binary and simple, we may find that the answers we come to are not absolute or even final. Ethical questions are often like this. Even after the hard work is done, what we are left with is more like an informed opinion than a prescriptive or definitive answer.

And then there is the 'mysterious.' Often the word mystery is wheeled out, lazily, as a synonym for complex and as a way of avoiding rigour of heart or mind. But categorising something as mysterious may be a way of saying that it is what some have called 'numinous' and that as such, it defies logical or categorical analysis. Instead, our human response to it is one of awe or fear. To call such things 'complex' is to misuse the term. Mysteriousness and complexity are different things.

Many of the deep questions we ask about God, the Church and human life are 'complex' in one or more than one of these senses. A Church that satisfies itself with glib, simple answers will probably be doing itself (and the world) a disservice. What is certain is that unless we are prepared to take time, to think hard, to make space for dialogue, to risk engagement and to ruminate slowly, any of the answers we give will be likely to be insufficient.

You probably know the lovely Shaker hymn *'Tis a gift to be simple*. I suspect that for all the popular romanticism attached to Shaker life, what they pursued wasn't reductionist and didn't espouse intellectual lethargy or laxity. Rather they saw simplicity as a state or a condition in which it might just be possible to understand the complexity of life and to respond to its mysterious heart. Perhaps in our rapidly moving, headline assimilating age we are longing for the wrong sort of simplicity!

Fr Alan Gyle

Summertime

During August the pace of parish life slows. Morning Prayer is not said in church and the doors open around 9.15am. The daily mass continues and the parish office is open most days, as staff holidays allow. Normal service from 1st September!

Farewell...

It was announced on the 30th July that in September 2017, Fr Andrew Norwood is to join the staff of St Mary's Bourne Street as a resident Honorary Assistant Priest. He will move there at the end of August.



Fr Andrew has been a much loved and greatly valued Associate here – and there will be a chance to express our thanks to him properly on Sunday 24th September after the 11 o'clock mass here at St Paul's. Before then, Fr Andrew will be one of the leaders of the parish Pilgrimage to the Llŷn Peninsula in Wales.

If you would like to make a donation to a farewell gift for Fr Andrew, please speak to John Tweddle, Churchwarden.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Get ready for the Garden Party

The **Parish Garden Party** will be held on **Thursday 14th September, from 6:30pm in the Vicarage Garden**. Please save the date!

It's a wonderful opportunity to come together again after the summer break and to welcome our friends and neighbours from the local community. Please speak to Caroline Docker if you have suggestions for raffle prizes.



Save the date for an exclusive evening of music

On **Thursday 5th October at 6:30pm** you are invited to the home of the Order of St John in Camberwell to an exclusive concert and champagne reception in support of the Order and St Paul's Knightsbridge. Tickets will be £100. Information from The Parish Office.



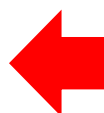
Wagner at St Paul's

The Tait Trust is delighted to present Australian tenor, Grammy nominee and 2014 International Opera Awards Male Singer of the Year, Stuart Skelton at a **gala concert** to celebrate their 25th Anniversary at St Paul's Church Knightsbridge, on **Wednesday the 13th September at 7pm**.

Tickets for this amazing concert are available online at:

www.taitmemorialtrust.org

Please enter the code SPKB1309 when prompted to obtain a St Paul's Knightsbridge members' discount.



Special discount available for members of St Paul's Knightsbridge

Edwardtide Pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey

On Saturday 14th October 2017 there is the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Edward the Confessor at Westminster Abbey. The Abbey opens at 09:30 to pilgrims who will be greeted with a rite of footwashing. There is a Festival Eucharist at 11:30 (at which the preacher this year is Bishop John Inge of Worcester), and the day ends with Choral Evensong and Procession at 15:00. During the day, pilgrims will be welcome to pray at the Shrine, and there will be opportunities for the laying on of hands with prayer for healing and the renewal of baptismal promises. Please speak to Fr Louis Darrant for further information.



Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

All who are on holiday and travelling at this time;
The Diocese of London in this time of transition, and for +Pete Broadbent, the Acting Bishop;
For healing and restoration in the wake of distress;
For our sister and partner parishes in Washington DC and Mozambique.

Among the sick and those in need:

Patricia Dopheide; Sue Ko; Ian Powe; Brenda Young; Ann-Marie Siddall; Elizabeth Gordon; Judy Davis; Carlos Gereda y de Borbón

And we pray for the recently departed: Andy Coleman; Robert Hardy; Rowan Shimada-Mead; Simon Doggart

And at their year's mind:

David D'Albis	20 August
Frank Palmer	28 August
Tom Delaney	28 August