

St Paul's Knightsbridge
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SERVICES THIS WEEK:

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

1 October 2017

Family Mass at 09:00
Solemn Eucharist at 11:00
Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Mon 2 October: Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00
Mass at 18:00

Tue 3 October: Feria

Mass at 08:00

Wed 4 October: Francis of Assisi

Morning Prayer at 09:00
Wednesday Evening Service at
19:00

Thu 5 October: Feria

Morning Prayer at 09:00
Mass at 18:00

Fri 6 October: William Tyndale

Morning Prayer at 09:00
Mass at 18:00

Sat 7 October: Mass of Our Lady

Morning Prayer at 09:00
Mass at noon

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

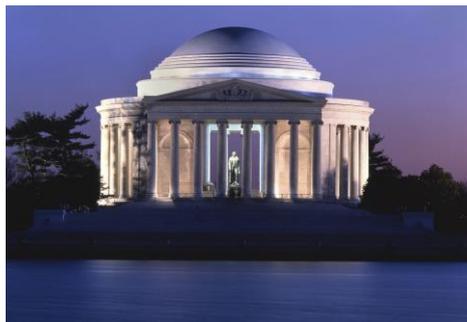
8 October 2017

Family Mass at 09:00
Solemn Eucharist at 11:00
Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Letter from America: Self-evident Truth?

Fr Nick Mercer is preaching at our Sister Parish St Paul's K-Street, this morning, and from Washington DC writes:

For reasons I no longer remember, I first flew into Washington DC from Athens. I was immediately struck by the Capitol, the Washington Monument obelisk and the huge buildings and memorials that dominate the National Mall. Unlike Greece, the temples of this young nation are complete and gleaming, not ruins of an ancient era.



Among these monuments, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial (pictured) sits on the edge of the Tidal Basin of the Potomac River and on the interior there are four panels with inscriptions from his writings, including those famous words from the *Declaration of Independence* (1776) "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..." And then from his *Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom* (1777)

"No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship or ministry or shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief..."

An aspect of the 21st century 'liberal bind' for which Jefferson was partly responsible, is that when other religions, or fundamentalist forms of our own Christian religion for that matter, wish to follow practices and to promulgate beliefs, that are in contradiction to those "self-evident truths" espoused by the western liberal consensus, then we are caught between a rock and a hard place - a phrase which originated in the US at the beginning of the 20th century. Jefferson's partial 'solution' was to make sure the burgeoning US maintained a strict division between state and religion, but of course this only worked while the majority of truths that politicians held to be 'self-evident' nicely coincided with Christian ethics and social practice. Utah only became a State in 1896 after the Mormon leaders had officially eschewed polygamy in 1890.

Sadly, nothing is 'self-evident' and that freedom of religion that you are enjoying at St Paul's Knightsbridge this Sunday and I at St Paul's K Street is a far more difficult and complex concept than it appeared to Thomas Jefferson 340 years ago, and fortunately, than we have time to pursue in this brief missive.

Fr Nick Mercer

This Wednesday Evening: Service and Supper at 7pm

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the posting of Martin Luther's famous 95 Theses, one of the greatest and most decisive acts ever to shape Western Christianity. On Wednesday evening (**at the new and slightly later time of 7pm**) Fr Alan and Fr Louis will be exploring the origins and impact of the European Reformation – and we will be learning and singing one of the great Lutheran hymns! Afterwards, Roalnd, Tom and Iago invite you to a simple supper in the nave.

Fr Alan Gyle



Visit from Fr Alfredo & Ivan from Mozambique

We are looking forward to welcoming our friends Fr Alfredo and Ivan and Ivan (Bishop's ALMA Link Officer) from All Saints' Nhamavila. They will be staying with us from 12th-19th October. There will be more details of the programme given next week.

Today: Parish Lunch

All are welcome to join us for a parish lunch in the hall today at 1pm and for drinks beforehand. Chef du jour: Sarah Tytherleigh

Congratulations



We are delighted to head of the appointment of Dr Stephen Farr, our Director of Music, as Chief Examiner of the Royal College of Organists.

In separate news, we offer our belated congratulations to our Organ Scholar, **Adam Mathias**, for being awarded his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists and on winning the Limpus Prize for the top practical performance of his year.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.spkb.org

AND REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Explorations: discovering London through the eyes of faith

THIS WEEK: Saturday 7th October – The British Museum

Throughout history different cultures are found a variety of ways to cope with the realities of living and dying. During this visit we will be exploring how Christian faith equips us with rituals and practices to deepen our awareness of God's presence.

Saturday 4th November – Tate Britain

Art historian Richard Thomas will lead a private tour on the theme of 'Art and Soul – spiritual perspectives in troubled times'. The cost is £14 per person.

Saturday 2nd December – The Tower of London

Canon Roger Hall will introduce us to the Shrine of St Thomas More and talk about the history of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula at the Tower.

For more information or to indicate your interest please email Fr Louis at louis@spkb.org

Please note the deadline for booking your place on the Tate Britain tour is 19th October,

The politics of forgiveness

6:30pm, 11th October at the Royal Geographical Society

Former Bishop of Edinburgh, writer and broadcaster, Richard Holloway has agreed to deliver the lecture on the topic of *The Politics of Forgiveness* and the evening will be chaired by Shami Chakrabarti. Forgiveness is normally associated with the experience of individuals and the ebb and flow of their personal relationships. But it is arguable that forgiveness at the institutional or political level is even more important for the health of the human community. In his lecture, Richard Holloway will offer a wide-ranging interpretation of the complexity of the human condition and the fundamental importance of forgiveness to the sustaining of its social and political institutions. And he will argue that there has rarely been a time when it is more needed than today. For more details please speak to Fr Louis.



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.



All Souls Day Requiem

Please plan to join us for the Solemn Requiem on All Souls' Day (Thursday 2nd November) at 7pm for our annual commemoration of the faithful departed. A list will soon be available at the back of church to which names may be added.

Ian Powe

There will be a Memorial Service for Ian Powe on Tuesday 17th October at 11am. Ian was a longstanding member and sometime Churchwarden – and it is very much hoped that there will be a strong turnout by members and church officers.

Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

Bishop Pete, Acting Bishop of London; for the life of this parish – and, on their Dedication Festival, for the clergy and people of St Paul's K Street, Washington DC, and for Fr Nick Mercer who is preaching there. We pray for Fr Andrew Norwood as he begins his new ministry at St Mary's Bourne Street.

Among the sick and those in need:

Patricia Dopheide; Sue Ko; Brenda Young; Elizabeth Gordon; Judy Davis; Ingrid Gray; Val Hiscock; Gregory Galitzine.

And we pray for the recently departed: Robert Hardy; Simon Daggart; David Tang; Ian Powe; Charles Gordon

Lennox; Kamal Taki; Olwen McPherson; Ann-Marie Siddall; Julie Bond.

And at their year's mind in October:

Arnold Sunderland – 4th
Nora Caulfield-Stoker – 6th
Sheila Hanwell – 7th
Lena Chidi Sowole – 7th