The second collection is for Ecclesiastical Education
Next week it is for the work of our local SVP

ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE CHURCH

Sometimes you still hear France referred to as ‘the eldest daughter of the Church.’ I am not sure how old the phrase is but it is thought to refer to the fact that Clovis, King of the Franks, accepted Christianity with his followers as early as the 6th century; as the precursor (rather loosely) of the modern French nation, people have seen this as the first conversion of a whole nation to Christ in western Europe. Given the level of Christian practice in modern France the phrase is often used ironically, as the daughter seems to have left home without a forwarding address: I often think that those who are indifferent or even hostile to Catholic schools in the State system in this country should go to Mass in France and count up the number of young families (the Church was completely excluded from maintained education at the beginning of the last century).

The great cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris is shown above, and this Sunday the people of France take part in the second round of their presidential election. Commentators all agree that the ‘run-off’ between Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen is of great importance not only for France but for the whole of Europe. We saw in our recent Lent talks that one of the signs of the activity of Satan in the world is the hatred being stirred up in so many parts of the world against people from outside particular countries - foreigners in general, refugees, asylum seekers.

Sometimes you still hear France referred to as ‘the eldest daughter of the Church.’ I am not sure how old the phrase is but it is thought to refer to the fact that Clovis, King of the Franks, accepted Christianity with his followers as early as the 6th century; as the precursor (rather loosely) of the modern French nation, people have seen this as the first conversion of a whole nation to Christ in western Europe. Given the level of Christian practice in modern France the phrase is often used ironically, as the daughter seems to have left home without a forwarding address: I often think that those who are indifferent or even hostile to Catholic schools in the State system in this country should go to Mass in France and count up the number of young families (the Church was completely excluded from maintained education at the beginning of the last century).

The great cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris is shown above, and this Sunday the people of France take part in the second round of their presidential election. Commentators all agree that the ‘run-off’ between Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen is of great importance not only for France but for the whole of Europe. We saw in our recent Lent talks that one of the signs of the activity of Satan in the world is the hatred being stirred up in so many parts of the world against people from outside particular countries - foreigners in general, refugees, asylum seekers.

The Front National has encapsulated this hatred in France for many years, capitalising on people’s fears after terrorist attacks and showing itself to be the enemy of the Catholic Church—indeed it has attacked the Church over our support for refugees.

The rise of the FN, and similar movements elsewhere in Europe, is a sign of how far people have abandoned the Christian religion, even though it shamelessly uses the cult of St Joan of Arc and other saints for its own purposes. Whatever the result of today’s election we need to be alert, guided by the Holy Spirit, to the signs of the times and pray for deliverance from falsehood and the ‘father of lies.’

Christianity teaches us that perfect love casts out fear - the only proper response to the needs of refugees coming to Europe is love, love in the name of Christ, sadly a language and a narrative which Mme Le Pen and her supporters do not understand. Pope Francis has repeatedly called on Christians and others all over Europe to do this, and what we say and do is part of what sets us apart from other people. There are some powerful examples: Père Jacques Hamel, the priest from Normandy who was stabbed to death while saying Mass in his church last summer, would be one of them. He had in his ministry pioneered good relationships with the local Muslim community (including selling them some Church land) and local Muslims paid tribute to him when he was killed: his martyrdom shows the abiding need for reconciliation and love, over and against hatred and violence (you can, by the way, watch the whole of his funeral Mass from Rouen cathedral on Youtube).

What we can see in France is something discernible all over Europe, including in this country: and it always demands vigilance and clarity about Christian teachings, the teachings which King Clovis adopted for his people back in the 6th Century - and as friends of France we pray for its Church and people this weekend.
PARISH NOTICES

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS (LSS)
at St.Edmund’s in the HALL at 7.30 pm

I would like to express my thanks to all who attended our opening Life in the Spirit Seminar on Tuesday evening. There were 129 of you and your participation helped make it a memorable evening.

I have received many favourable comments on Charles Whitehead’s moving and insightful talk on God’s love. Please continue praying for the success of the seminars.

Fr Steve

A gentle reminder that this Tuesday 9 May we have the second Seminar (2 of 7) on the subject of SALVATION.

More information is in the Flyer, available at the back of church, please take one home.

Fr. Steve Wymer & Christine Parker
(Co-ordinator) 0208 658 9264 or
Parish Office: 0208 650 0970

YOUTH CLUB (TEENS)
The Youth Club is now running regularly on one Saturday evening a month and we have been delighted with the level of adult support and active participation of children at the two meetings held to date. The next meeting will take place on Saturday the 20 of May, 7-9pm in the Parish Hall. Come along to enjoy a range of activities and meet friends.

Does anyone have any unwanted snooker cues or good quality games that you could donate to us? Call Angela on 07905 617 932.

THE SICK IN HOSPITAL
Our clergy make many visits to the Princess Royal and Orpington Hospitals to anoint the sick and dying. They can only visit those who we have been told are in hospital. Please remember to let the Office know if one of our parishioners is in need of a visit.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND CAMPAIGN
Thank you to all parishioners who supported the Diocesan-wide Campaign to raise support for our sick and retired clergy. Our parish has raised £32,000 for this special cause. During the last few years many parishioners have expressed appreciation for particular priests who have had a positive influence in their lives, and have enquired about the possibility of leaving a gift in their will to the Campaign. If this is a cause that resonates with you and you would like to find a way of thanking our retired priests for their service to our community, please pick up an introductory leaflet from the porch today or take a look at the website.

www.southwarkclergysupportfundcampaign.org

Altar Flowers
The flowers this weekend have been given In Loving Memory of Barbara Oke by her family.

Readers at 9.30 MASS
Ray Williamson is taking over the drawing up of the rota for the 9.30am Mass from Tony Scurfield. Thank you Tony for your work on this. Is there anyone who would like to become a reader at this Mass, or anyone who would like to come off the rota? Please let Ray or the office know.

CAFOD Just one world
There are copies in the porch of a briefing paper put out for supporters of CAFOD and CSAN on the general election next month.

It quotes Pope Francis in Laudato Si’ ‘Love is civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.’
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY MINI MODULE  
SUNDAY 21 May 2pm  
If you are called to youth ministry, have ideas and suggestions that you would like to put into practice for the youth in your parish or simply would like to know more about how to get involved, you are invited to attend the ‘Catholic Youth Ministry Mini-Module’ at St Joseph’s Church (Upper Room), Plaistow Lane, Bromley. Get together with other youth ministers from parishes across Bromley to learn what is on offer for the youth of our deanery, share experiences and best practice and discover the wide range of support available to help shape a dynamic and engaging youth ministry programme in your parish. For more information: http://www.bromleydeanery.org/catholic-youth-ministry-mini-module-21st-may-

CHARITY DINNER PARTY  
Please look at the poster in the porch and think about coming to the charity event being organised by a group of Brazilians, some of whom are parishioners here. It looks like being an exciting evening. All the proceeds go towards charities in Brazil.

WALKING GROUP  
Monday 22 May  
Our next walk…. gentle walk around South Norwood Country Park. Meet at Beckenham Junction tram stop at 10.50 am. Suitable for all. If anyone would like a lift from St. Edmunds to the tram stop after 10. am Mass contact Margaret 020 8650 2175 /07880 793 175 or drmargaretkelleher@hotmail.com

DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK  
Songs of Praise  
St George’s Church  
Sunday May 21  
3.00 pm  
Followed by refreshments

If you would like to nominate a hymn contact Rev Dr Maggie Wilkinson on 020 8650 2312 or revdrwilkinson@doctors.org.uk

LONDON EVENINGS OF FAITH  
Spring/Summer 2017  
All are welcome to a series of talks on ‘Developing the thought of St. John Paul II’ which will take place at 7:00pm (N.B. new time) on alternate Tuesdays from 9 May 2017 (subsequent talks are on Tuesday 23 May, 6 June, 20 June and 4 July). Talks are held in the Challoner Room, Basement, 24 Golden Square, London W1F 9JR (Tube: Piccadilly Circus). Full dates, titles and details are available at www.faith.org.uk/events/evenings-of-faith.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION  
The 2017 Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission Spring Assembly, entitled ‘A Journey to Justice through Peace and non-violence, will be at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 13 May 10.30 - 4pm. Registration from 10. Speakers Pat Gaffney for Pax Christi and Michael and Patricia Pulman of Christian CND. The event is free and everyone is welcome to come along. Please bring a packed lunch.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 - 20 MAY  
Beckenham Baptist Church  
Elm Road BR3 4JB  
Saturday May 20  
8.30 - 12 noon  
All welcome to come for a delicious breakfast that will raise money to help refugees.
MASSES AND INTENTIONS
7 May - 13 May

Sunday 7 May
8.00 am Church Pedro and Carlota Fernandes RIP
9.30 am Church Margaret Baker RIP
11.00 am Church Pro populo
5.30 pm Church Cathy MacNamara RIP
7.00 pm Church John Murnane and all orphans living and dec'd.

Monday 8 May
8.15 am 27 V Way The forgotten Holy Souls
10.00 am Church Juan Carlos Restrepo RIP
7.00 pm 27 V Way Adoration Hour

Tuesday 9 May
8.15 am Claver Ints of Sr Aine Lynch
10.00 am Church Eric Brown RIP
12.45 pm Challoner Welfare of Juan Panglose

Wednesday 10 May
8.15 am Claver Martin Farquhar wellbeing
10.00 am Church Canon Jack Madden RIP
12.00 pm Church Requiem Mass for Margaret Cassar
7.30 pm Church Gerald Baker RIP

Thursday 11 May
8.15 am Claver Mother and Gregory families
10.00 am Church Welfare of Silvia Nicole
1.40 pm Challoner Private Intention

Friday 12 May
8.15 am Claver Felix Feeny
9.00am Challoner Wladyslaw ‘George’ Rokita (anniv) RIP
9.10 am St Mary’s Antonio Allegretti RIP
10.00 am Church Henry King RIP

Saturday 13 May
8.15 am Claver John Murnane, his orphans and benefactors living and dec’d.
10.00 am Church Edith Ransford RIP
6.00 pm Church Bessie Boudville RIP (vigil)

Confessions after 10.30 Mass and from 5.30 - 6.00 pm

Sunday 14 May
8.00 am Church Banfield and Dowling families
9.30 am Church Canon Jack Madden RIP
11.00 am Church Ike and Ok Okezie and Mary and Stephen Anyim RIP
5.30 pm Church Pro populo
7.00 pm Church Alice Simmons RIP

Please pray for the housebound, and the sick, at home, in hospital or in residential care:
Dorothy Appleyard, Peter Appleyard, Mary Atsu, James Bekoe, Kim Benardis, Christopher Browne, Edith Campos,
Baby Vienna-Marie Carpenter, John Colling, Tony Cox, Ruby Desmond, Giacomo Dillon, Kate Dillon, Rita Dixon,
Arthur Donnelly, Jeanette Duffy, Elizabeth, Ann Elmer, Martin Farquhar, Margaret Fennessy, Luigi Ferrara, Suzette Fox,
Barry Gardiner, Benny Green, Philomena Guard, Eileen Hayes, Pat Hibberd, Norman Holland, Frank Holmes, Dave Hushwayte,
Kathy Jobson, Alabooso Joe-Jim, Baby Victoria Jovanov, Fr Peter Kelly, Grace Knight, Peggy Lake, Anita Leslau, Sarah Lister, Mim Lodge,
Kathy Maleczek, Dominic McGrath, Jim McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Mickey McGuigan, Neelam Malik, Patrick Mettiers, Baby Eddie Mitchell,
Gaynor Mullane, Dominic Nash, Sean O’Connor, Josephaeine O’Hagan, Valerie Parr, Dorothy Pask, Diane Pick, Leonard Pope,
John Quaife, Baby Isaac Ratinckx, Gabriella Rolls, Sandra Sekulic, Claire Shelton-Jones, Marie-Therese Sinon, Mike & Eileen Slemen,
Eleni Symeou, John Sylvester, Sarah Thornton, Barry Thorp, Katie Toone, Barbara Tucker, Annette Virdee, Louise Walters, Ian Watson, Patricia Weal,
Terry Weal, Emma Winch, Freda Wukolz, George Wukolz, Maureen Young, and Fred Wye.

Please remember in your prayers the deceased whose anniversaries occur at this time.
John Cleary, Barbara Webster, Len Bill, Michael Caulfield, Bill Barr, Mary Carthew.

Please pray for those who have recently died.
Teresa Krawczyk, Jack Carr, David Roberts, Mike Day, Ian Thompson, Sabine Doran and Margaret Cassar.

Please pray for the housebound, and the sick, at home, in hospital or in residential care:
Dorothy Appleyard, Peter Appleyard, Mary Atsu, James Bekoe, Kim Benardis, Christopher Browne, Edith Campos,
Baby Vienna-Marie Carpenter, John Colling, Tony Cox, Ruby Desmond, Giacomo Dillon, Kate Dillon, Rita Dixon,
Arthur Donnelly, Jeanette Duffy, Elizabeth, Ann Elmer, Martin Farquhar, Margaret Fennessy, Luigi Ferrara, Suzette Fox,
Barry Gardiner, Benny Green, Philomena Guard, Eileen Hayes, Pat Hibberd, Norman Holland, Frank Holmes, Dave Hushwayte,
Kathy Jobson, Alabooso Joe-Jim, Baby Victoria Jovanov, Fr Peter Kelly, Grace Knight, Peggy Lake, Anita Leslau, Sarah Lister, Mim Lodge,
Kathy Maleczek, Dominic McGrath, Jim McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Mickey McGuigan, Neelam Malik, Patrick Mettiers, Baby Eddie Mitchell,
Gaynor Mullane, Dominic Nash, Sean O’Connor, Josephaeine O’Hagan, Valerie Parr, Dorothy Pask, Diane Pick, Leonard Pope,
John Quaife, Baby Isaac Ratinckx, Gabriella Rolls, Sandra Sekulic, Claire Shelton-Jones, Marie-Therese Sinon, Mike & Eileen Slemen,
Eleni Symeou, John Sylvester, Sarah Thornton, Barry Thorp, Katie Toone, Barbara Tucker, Annette Virdee, Louise Walters, Ian Watson, Patricia Weal,
Terry Weal, Emma Winch, Freda Wukolz, George Wukolz, Maureen Young, and Fred Wye.

Last week’s collection came to £2841.57
The second collection for the maintenance of St George’s Cathedral came to £1000.00

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Every Tuesday in May from 7.30pm in the Hall - Life in the Spirit Seminars

Monday 8 May
8.00 am Church Pedro and Carlota Fernandes RIP
9.30 am Church Margaret Baker RIP
11.00 am Church Pro populo
5.30 pm Church Cathy MacNamara RIP
7.00 pm Church John Murnane and all orphans living and dec'd.

Monday 8 May
8.15 am 27 V Way The forgotten Holy Souls
10.00 am Church Juan Carlos Restrepo RIP
7.00 pm 27 V Way Adoration Hour

Tuesday 9 May
8.15 am Claver Ints of Sr Aine Lynch
10.00 am Church Eric Brown RIP
12.45 pm Challoner Welfare of Juan Panglose

Wednesday 10 May
8.15 am Claver Martin Farquhar wellbeing
10.00 am Church Canon Jack Madden RIP
12.00 pm Church Requiem Mass for Margaret Cassar
7.30 pm Church Gerald Baker RIP

Thursday 11 May
8.15 am Claver Mother and Gregory families
10.00 am Church Welfare of Silvia Nicole
1.40 pm Challoner Private Intention

Friday 12 May
8.15 am Claver Felix Feeny
9.00am Challoner Wladyslaw ‘George’ Rokita (anniv) RIP
9.10 am St Mary’s Antonio Allegretti RIP
10.00 am Church Henry King RIP

Saturday 13 May
8.15 am Claver John Murnane, his orphans and benefactors living and dec’d.
10.00 am Church Edith Ransford RIP
6.00 pm Church Bessie Boudville RIP (vigil)

Confessions after 10.30 Mass and from 5.30 - 6.00 pm

Sunday 14 May
8.00 am Church Banfield and Dowling families
9.30 am Church Canon Jack Madden RIP
11.00 am Church Ike and Ok Okezie and Mary and Stephen Anyim RIP
5.30 pm Church Pro populo
7.00 pm Church Alice Simmons RIP

Please pray for the housebound, and the sick, at home, in hospital or in residential care:
Dorothy Appleyard, Peter Appleyard, Mary Atsu, James Bekoe, Kim Benardis, Christopher Browne, Edith Campos,
Baby Vienna-Marie Carpenter, John Colling, Tony Cox, Ruby Desmond, Giacomo Dillon, Kate Dillon, Rita Dixon,
Arthur Donnelly, Jeanette Duffy, Elizabeth, Ann Elmer, Martin Farquhar, Margaret Fennessy, Luigi Ferrara, Suzette Fox,
Barry Gardiner, Benny Green, Philomena Guard, Eileen Hayes, Pat Hibberd, Norman Holland, Frank Holmes, Dave Hushwayte,
Kathy Jobson, Alabooso Joe-Jim, Baby Victoria Jovanov, Fr Peter Kelly, Grace Knight, Peggy Lake, Anita Leslau, Sarah Lister, Mim Lodge,
Kathy Maleczek, Dominic McGrath, Jim McGrath, Natalie McGrath, Mickey McGuigan, Neelam Malik, Patrick Mettiers, Baby Eddie Mitchell,
Gaynor Mullane, Dominic Nash, Sean O’Connor, Josephaeine O’Hagan, Valerie Parr, Dorothy Pask, Diane Pick, Leonard Pope,
John Quaife, Baby Isaac Ratinckx, Gabriella Rolls, Sandra Sekulic, Claire Shelton-Jones, Marie-Therese Sinon, Mike & Eileen Slemen,
Eleni Symeou, John Sylvester, Sarah Thornton, Barry Thorp, Katie Toone, Barbara Tucker, Annette Virdee, Louise Walters, Ian Watson, Patricia Weal,
Terry Weal, Emma Winch, Freda Wukolz, George Wukolz, Maureen Young, and Fred Wye.

Last week’s collection came to £2841.57
The second collection for the maintenance of St George’s Cathedral came to £1000.00

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Every Tuesday in May from 7.30pm in the Hall - Life in the Spirit Seminars

Meditation in no 11 every Monday from 10.45 - 11.30
12 May - Bible Studies in No. 11
20 May 7pm - Youth Club in the Hall
27 May - Contemplative Saturday 11-12 noon in no11
27 May - Confirmation Mass- noon

JUNE

3 June Fatima Prayer Group
17 June - 7pm Youth Club in Hall

JULY

8 July - Claver Convent Garden Party
29 July - Saturday - keep the day free for the parish

Please remember in your prayers the deceased whose anniversaries occur at this time.
John Cleary, Barbara Webster, Len Bill, Michael Caulfield, Bill Barr, Mary Carthew.

Please pray for those who have recently died.
Teresa Krawczyk, Jack Carr, David Roberts, Mike Day, Ian Thompson, Sabine Doran and Margaret Cassar.

Readings for Sunday 14 May
Acts 6: 1-7
Psalm 32
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12