

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
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28 July 2019
17th Sunday

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WE ARE SHINING IN THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT



A FEW WEEKS AGO we celebrated at school our Y6 Leavers' Mass. This is always a poignant and emotional occasion, for parents as much as for children (possibly more so). For many, a 'tear-jerker' is this contemporary hymn, written by Eugene O'Reilly, which has been sung on this occasion for many years:

We are children, children of the Light
We are shining in the darkness of the night
Hope for this world, joy throughout the land.
Touch the hearts of everyone, take everybody's hand.

Come and gather round the flame, share the light in his name
We the children of the light
As the wind blows where it will, spread the news to everyone
There's still plenty of time, for we have just begun.

Join the song of all the earth, we've a dream a dream to share
And a promise of re-birth
Let the earth feel the warmth of his love here in our hearts
We've still many a dream and promises to keep

When there's a lot of gloom in the world and in our own country, words like this which speak of the future in terms of young people are salutary. One of the purposes of Catholic schools is to prepare for the future of the Church and the world through spiritual formation alongside intellectual and other areas; a sinful tendency among those of us who are no longer young, a tendency universal in human history, is to moan about and disparage the young, oblivious of how earlier generations have made a mess of things. There is one phrase in the chorus which is particularly striking at this time: **'we are shining in the darkness of the night, hope for this world...'**

Christian theology and teaching uses language and imagery about darkness and light a great deal. The picture here shows Pope Francis carrying his own candle at the Easter Vigil in St Peter's

Basilica, as he follows with everyone else the great Paschal Candle into the church, as we all do every year. This imagery is particularly important at Easter, but it's relevant all the year round. We're conscious of a lot of darkness in the world at the moment, identified with sin and the reality of evil, the presence of Satan – in our own country, in the rest of Europe, in the rest of the world: made very real in nationalism, racism, hatred, selfishness, corruption, fawning upon the rich and serial untruthfulness. Many of us have probably seldom felt so pessimistic or gloomy about the future of this country as we do now, on the basis of the teachings of the Catholic Church. The reasons for this are legion, but there is one rather neglected issue which I think sums it all up: the moral character of politicians.

It is claimed rather often that the private life of a politician or other public figure is irrelevant to his or her public and political role (I suppose people might think this about bishops, but we had better not go there). It is therefore seen as some sort of bizarre infringement of someone's human rights if allegedly 'private' things about him or her are raised in public debate or during an election.

In Beckenham, of course, if we were living here in 1997, we would know that such a view is false and was false then. Some of you will remember that the Member of Parliament for this constituency was involved in a scandal during the General Election of that year, which rapidly pushed our community into the headlines. Some of us publicly expressed the view that he'd brought scandal on Beckenham, for which we received a lot of written abuse; having hoodwinked his party during the campaign he was exposed as a liar later in the year and had to resign. But the point of the criticism is this: if a public figure is unfaithful to his or her spouse and commits adultery (the subject of the sixth of the Ten Commandments), and if he or she (and to be honest it's usually he) then lies repeatedly about what has happened, *then this is important*. All of us are sinners in need of God's forgiveness, and when we repent and ask for God's forgiveness then he forgives us when we go to Confession; but the way we behave has a message, it says something about the sort of person we are. If you are unfaithful to your wife(s) and lie about your conduct, why should constituents, or voters, trust what you say to them? None of us keeps our lives in separate compartments – how we act in one area of our lives affects what we do in other areas. How on earth can people not see this? Indifference to this is a sign of how far a country can turn its back on God and on basic standards of morality. What is depressing when looking at the years since 1997 is that the debate, the discussion, is not even taking place now. How much lower can a country sink?

It's really down to our children - **'Children of the light...hope for this world**

NOTE FROM FR STEVE

Last Thursday Fr Ashley and I concelebrated at the Installment Mass of John Wilson at St George's Cathedral. Although we all suffered a little in the extreme heat, under our vestments, it was well worth being there. Archbishop John spoke about many things; hope, humble service, working with each other and praying for each other. God, he said, is one who calls us, loves us, and surprises us.

I wish you all a joyful and restful summer.



MASSES DURING AUGUST

During August there will be no 8.15 am Masses either in the church or at the Claver Convent.

THANK YOU

We wish to express our thanks to our friends in the parish for the many messages of sympathy and support sent to us over the recent death of our son Peter. We have been showered with love, through calls, mass cards, messages and plates of food. These have been a great comfort.

Patricia Gorman & family



The Dunford, Bennett and Mullane families wish to thank parishioners for their generous sponsorship as they ran the Race for Life last weekend.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

There are a number of Gift Aid envelopes that have still to be collected. Unless your donation is made in an envelope (or by standing order/Church Suite) we are unable to claim the Gift Aid on that offering. If you have not collected your envelopes please call in to the Parish Office and we will give them to you.

COLLECTION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN LONDON

Our bi-monthly collection for the residents of the Catholic Workers Community House in North London takes place today.

LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR.....

Each chalice that is used for the distribution of the Precious Blood is cleaned between communicants with a linen purificator. With the other linen used during the week this is all laundered and ironed by a volunteer. An increasing problem is the staining of the purificators by lipstick. This is proving very hard to remove from the cloths which as a consequence need individual attention.

Please would those who wear lipstick either try to use an indelible brand or blot their lips before receiving from the chalice.

With many thanks.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Items for the newsletter are scarce during August so for the next few weeks we will be printing a double sided A4 newsletter.

There will not be a **Law Surgery** or a **Bereavement Open Door** this month. They will be back in September.

CALLING ALL CATECHISTS

Diocesan Day for Catechists

Saturday 28 September

All catechists and children's liturgists and those involved with Children's Liturgy of the Word and with the RCIA are invited to this annual day at St George's Cathedral. The day will begin at 10.30 am and conclude with Mass at 4.00 pm celebrated by our new archbishop. Full details of the day will be sent to us in early September, including the choice of workshops. Please put the date in your diary.

ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Monday 29 July

Roger Crockett will be leading a 5 mile linear walk starting at 10.30 am at Hayes Station and finishing at Coombe Lane tram stop. Bring your own drinks/picnic.



ROSARY GROUP

We are so grateful to the Rosary Group which has donated to the parish the money they have raised from the refreshments on a Tuesday morning after the 10.00 am Mass. We have ordered two sets of tables and chairs for the hall garden which will be delivered this week.



JOIN OUR CAFOD TEAM

Could you help to **inspire and support volunteers** in parishes in your local area?

Become a Cafod Parish Volunteer Coordinator

As a Parish Volunteer Coordinator you will work closely with local CAFOD staff to help volunteers engage their parish communities in CAFOD's work. You will have the opportunity to work with and motivate a small group of volunteers in your local area to raise awareness of CAFOD's work, as well as build relationships with one another to share ideas and experience. This is a rewarding opportunity for people with a passion for encouraging others to make a real difference.

Interested in finding out more? Contact the CAFOD Southwark Volunteer Centre on 020 8466 9901 or 02033 491947 or by email southwark@cafod.org.uk

DROP IN CAFE

Please mention to friends with memory problems that they are welcome to attend the Drop In Cafe with their carer or a companion. The Cafe runs every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 4pm and is a friendly and welcoming place to be for a couple of hours. It remains open throughout the summer. The Drop In Cafe meets either in the Hall or no.11 but will be signposted each week. If you want to speak to someone about the Cafe please call **020 8659 1990**.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In the Southwark Diocese it is necessary for couples wanting to get married to contact their priest **six months** ahead of their intended wedding date. This is to allow sufficient time for them to attend the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course and also for the clergy to complete the necessary paperwork. Our priests would prefer to be given a year to complete the paperwork and suggest that couples do not set a date for their wedding until they have had an initial conversation with a priest.

Once you have decided to get married please email the Parish Office with your names and address and a preliminary marriage application form will be sent to you plus an enrolment form for the Marriage Preparation Course.

If you intend to get married at a church other than St Edmund's **our clergy are still responsible for all the paperwork**. As a growing number of our parishioners were born outside the UK we will need to obtain documentation from their previous parishes. This can take some time. There is also extra work to be completed for those who are having their ceremony abroad or for those who have had a previous marriage. So, in short, as soon as you decide to get married, please start the ball rolling by contacting the Parish Office.



We have received some positive comments about Fr Ashley's book list last week, so he has kindly provided us withMORE SUMMER READING

Tina Beattie *The Good Priest Matador* 2019

One of the books I referred to last week was a 'Lent book', a type of book frequently issued to help people's spiritual lives in the season. *The Good Priest* is a novel on the same pattern by Tina Beattie, who is Professor of Catholic Studies at Roehampton University and one of the most original and important Catholic theologians in the country. The novel is about John Patterson, priest in an urban parish in the west of England, in the weeks from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, in which a woman is murdered every Friday. The novel is about the relationship between these horrors and the priest's own battles with evil; he also struggles about his sexual identity.

Jo Nesbo *The Snowman* Vintage 2010 (Norwegian original 2007)

Scandinavian crime series on television have become very popular; the same is true of the celebrated Swedish *Millennium* series of novels (made into films) by Stieg Larsson and David Lagercrantz. *The Snowman* is the fifth of the Norwegian novelist Jo Nesbo's series about the detective Harry Hole. The novel is well written, with lots of suspense and a good characterisation of the central character and his relationships with colleagues.

Marganita Laski *Tory Heaven, or Thunder on the Right* Persephone 2018 (original 1948)

This post war classic was reissued for its seventieth anniversary with a new introduction by the social historian David Kynaston. Laski was a major writer and novelist; the book imagines that the British Establishment staged a coup after the 1945 victory by Clement Attlee and set up a rigid hierarchical society based on the class system, regulating how each 'Grade' should live and keeping them strictly separate from each other. As a satire about 1940s Britain this is a very engaging and enjoyable novel.

Carol Goodman *The Lake of Dead Languages* Heinemann 2002

This novel is about a teacher of Latin, Jane Hudson, who returns to her old school overlooking a lake (in the north eastern United States). Whilst a pupil two of her classmates had died; events begin to recur strangely among her pupils years later. The dark subject matter, which explores problems of teenage psychology, is matched well to the extreme climatic conditions – the lake freezes over every winter. Goodman also brings into the story themes from classical literature explored by the teacher (and the woman who taught her at school).

Fr Ashley



Masses this week

Sunday 28 July

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church

11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Seventeenth Sunday

For the people
Rudi Piscina RIP & Giuseppa Azzopardi RIP
All dec'd of Edet & Ekong families
Victor & Jessica Difolco RIP
Anne Donohue (recovery from operation)

Monday 29 July

8.15 am Church
10.00 am Church
7.30 pm 27 VW

St Martha

Tommy Ruddy RIP (anniv)
Hope Rabero RIP
Adoration

Tuesday 30 July

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church

Feria (St Peter Chrysologus)

Mary Fitzgerald RIP
Memorial Mass for Margaret Wymer RIP

Wednesday 31 July

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
7.30 pm Church

St Ignatius of Loyola

Miriam Baker - birthday intentions
Mick Hill RIP.
Anthony Leonard RIP

Thursday 1 August

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
8.00 pm Claver

St Alphonsus Liguori

No Mass
Eileen Cruley RIP (4th anniv)
Adoration

Friday 2 August

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
followed by Adoration & Benediction

Feria (St Eusebius of Vercelli)

No Mass
Ints of Annette

Saturday 3 August

8.15 am Claver
10.00 am Church
11.30 Church

6.00 pm Church

Feria (Our Lady)

No Mass
John McCarthy RIP
Marriage of Caragh Geoghan & Mark Flannery
Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP

Confessions from 10.30 - 11.00 am and from 5.00pm - 5.55pm.

Sunday 4 August

8.00 am Church
9.30 am Church
11.00 am Church
5.30 pm Church
7.00 pm Church

Eighteenth Sunday

Gary O'Reilly RIP
For the people
Richard Graves RIP
The Forgotten Holy Souls
Rosaleen Vesey RIP

The Rosary is said Monday to Saturday from 9.40 am and there is Adoration for an hour after each 10.00 am Mas.

DIARY DATES

Meditation every Monday in no11 from 5.30 - 6.15 pm

Open door for the bereaved on the first Wednesday of every month from 10.30 am to 12 noon in no11 (NOT AUGUST)

Law Surgery every second Monday of the month at 7pm in no11 (NOT AUGUST)

JULY

Tues 30 Memorial Mass for Margaret Wymer 10.00 am

AUGUST

Sat 3 Contemplative Saturday 11.00 am - noon in no 11

SEPTEMBER

Sat 7 Contemplative Saturday 11.00 am - noon in no 11

Sat 28 Fundraising Auction

Readings for 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes 1:2;2:21-23

Psalms 89

Paul to Colossians 3:1-5.9-11

Luke 12:13-21

COLLECTION

The collection last weekend came to £1899.14. A further £1206.99 was given through ChurchSuite and Standing Orders. The collection for the work of our local SVP raised £995.08.



We pray for those who have died recently: Zara Crane-Davies, Fr Seamus Hetheron, Gerald Hall, Stephanie Birjukob. Tomek Lehnert and Daphne Hoyles.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Liam Bernard Hayes, Peter Brabyn, John Xamena, Babies Olivia & Isabelle English, Betty Clark, Anthony Pinkett, John Cameron McShane, Peter Warren, Ivan Farnon, Peter Devine, Cormac Hargreaves, Zolzislaw (Jess) Jaworski, Joy Scully, Joanne Cummins-Hylton, Eileen Curley, Christina Byrne.

We pray for the sick: Aondongu Akuha, Angela, Bernice, Emma-Jane, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Arthur Cromwell, Christine, John Crouch, Fr John Cunningham, Giacomo Dillon, John Dillon, John Dommatt, Colin Dowling, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Cecil Dutton, David Edwards, Ann Elmer, Felicity, Chris Grant, Hans Halpin, Eileen Hayes, Margaret Howe, Jerry Jacob, John, Eddie Mitchell, Orla O'Regan, John Quaife, Peter Sanders, Coleen Shroeder, Siobhan,