

HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**

February 2024

Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 4.00pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am
Friday 12.30pm**

Saturday

10.00am and 6.00pm

**All services will continue to be streamed,
except for Saturday 6pm and Sunday 8am.**

**Service times may occasionally vary – please see
weekly notice sheet for details.**

To access streamed services:



@ Holy Trinity Taunton



Holy Trinity Taunton

Fr Julian can be emailed directly: frjulianssc@gmail.com



Please use this QR code if you would like to make a donation to Holy Trinity

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

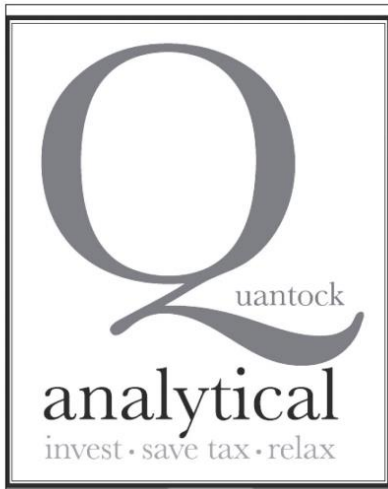
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FEBRUARY



2024

FR JULIAN WRITES...

With Easter being early this year (31st March) it means that Lent is early as well. So although we haven't celebrated Candlemas yet (2nd February, 6.30pm, Sung Mass!) 14th February is Ash Wednesday. So muted Valentine Day's celebrations!

The day before is Shrove Tuesday, from the word 'shrive' which means to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession. In the letter of St James, this practice is commended, and also in the Book of Common Prayer. To say that it is 'un-Anglican' is not true. There is a form of confession in Common Worship, the revised prayer book. 'All may, some should, none must' is the adage which sums up the C of E's attitude towards sacramental confession.

At most acts of worship, there is an opportunity for an act of penitence, sometimes called the 'general confession', followed by the absolution, which can only be pronounced by a priest. The act of penitence may take various forms, and also the 'absolution' which may be a 'conditional' one – beginning the word, 'may'. The usual response after receiving absolution is making the sign of the cross, but not after a conditional absolution which may be said by anyone.

There is clear difference between acts of penitence, and formal, sacramental confession. Absolution can only be granted by a priest, following Jesus' commands to the disciples (John 20. 22-23), and only a priest can hear 'confessions'. These are formal one-to-ones, and under the Seal of the Confessional. This binds the priest to total confidentiality of whatever has been said. I have heard confessions in my study, in the Lady Chapel with the 'penitent' kneeling, or else both of us sitting, as if holding a conversation.

There is a formal structure, beginning with the words, 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned'. Then comes the opportunity for the penitent to unburden themselves of those things which are bothering them, and hindering them in their following of Christ. Absolution is given by the priest, and also any penance. Penance is not intended to be a punishment, but a way of giving thanks to God for this gift of forgiveness, and perhaps a scriptural example of a better way of life. Advice is also given.

Sometimes called the 'Sacrament of Reconciliation', Confession is considered one of the seven sacraments of the church. Two are given specifically by Jesus, 'dominical sacraments' – baptism and the eucharist. The other 5 are derived from Jesus' teaching, and are consonant with the gospels, if not direct commands from Jesus. The sacraments are God's gifts to us to assure us of his love and presence at important points of our lives.

In the 5th century, St Augustine defined a sacrament as 'an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace.' This is also part of the catechism in the 1662 Prayer Book. Yet what do we mean by this phrase? As an answer to a question, it probably raises more questions!

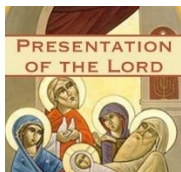
I suggest, simply, that a sacrament is physical sign of God's love. We show our love for one another in different ways and at different times, especially at important moments. So Baptism (the beginning of our Christian lives) – outward sign, water. Eucharist (spiritual food) – bread and wine. Marriage (another start in life) – the enfolding of the couple's hands in the priestly stole. Confirmation (new life within the Church) – laying-on of the bishop's hands and likewise ordination (a special and new ministry). Anointing (at baptism, confirmation, ordination, sickness) – holy oils. And confession (forgiveness of sins and renewed life) – the sign of the cross, the symbol of Christ's defeat of sin.

All may, some should, none must. Have a think on it as Lent begins.

With my prayers and good wishes

Fr Julian

ADDITIONAL SERVICES THIS MONTH



Candlemass

Friday 2nd February

6.30pm

Mass

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 14th February

7.30pm

Mass and Imposition of Ashes



FEBRUARY SAINTS – Fr Julian's idiosyncratic selection of saints

1st: St Brigid (c451 – c525) Not to be confused with St Bridget of Sweden, Brigid was the founder and abbess of an influential abbey in Ireland. She is one of the three patron saints of Ireland, along with Patrick and Columba.

2nd: St Blaise (d. 316) There are only three Anglican churches dedicated solely to St Blaise, including St Blazey in Cornwall. He is the patron saint of wool-combers and ENT problems. There is a custom that two candles lit at Candlemas services, are held near a person's throat as part of prayers for healing.



5th: St Agatha (231-251) Born in Catania, Sicily, she is the patron of rape victims, breast cancer victims, and invoked as protection from Mount Etna, the volcano up the coast from Catania. The patronages cited suggest the means of her martyrdom which was particularly gruesome, and the result of her vow of virginity, and the amorous approaches of the Roman governor.

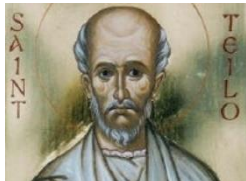


6th: St Paul Miki and Companions (c1562 – 1597)

St Paul Miki was a Jesuit priest in Japan who, with 25 other priests and laity were marched 600 miles to Nagasaki to be martyred, as the Emperor feared the spread Christian teaching. St Paul himself was martyred by a lance in the chest whilst tied to a cross, delivering his last sermon from it.



9th: St Teilo (c500-560) St Teilo was a Welsh bishop who was also connected with Brittany. He may also have been known as Eliau or



Eilliau in Old Welsh, and in Cornish Eliud. He is reputed to be a cousin, friend, and disciple of Saint David. He founded abbeys and churches, including the first church at Llandaff, where he is buried, and is now a cathedral.

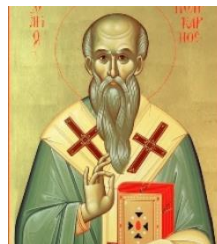
10th: St Scholastica (c480-533) Spending her life in Italy, St Scholastica is traditionally thought to be the twin sister of St Benedict, and considered to be the founder of benedictine nuns.



19th: St Peter Damian (c1007-1072/3) after being ill-treated by one brother, another saw him through education, and by the age of 25, he was already a renowned teacher at Parma and Ravenna. He became a reforming Benedictine monk and is considered a great precursor to St Francis of Assisi.



23rd: St Polycarp (69 - 155) St Polycarp was the Bishop of Smyrna, and is remembered for his Epistle to the Philippians (not in the bible) and also the manner of his martyrdom. Being burned at the stake in his mid-80s, the flames didn't consume him, and so he was stabbed. Along with St Ignatius and St Clement, he is regarded as one of the three chief 'Apostolic Fathers'.



CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days for February are listed below.

1 Thu S. Brigid, Abbess of Kildare (525)

2 CANDLEMASS *Theme: Taking Leave*

Readings: Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

3 Sat S. Anskar, Archbishop, Missionary (865)

4 SECOND BEFORE LENT *Theme: Calling Sinners*

Readings: Proverbs 8.1, 22-31; Colossians 1.15-20; Mark 2.13-22

5 Mon S. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr (251)

6 Tue S. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs in Japan (1597)

8 Thu S. Jerome Emiliani, Priest, Patron of Orphans (1537)

9 Fri S. Teilo, Monk, Bishop (560)

10 Sat S. Scholastica, Abbess (543)

11 SUNDAY BEFORE LENT *Theme: Transfiguration*

Readings: 2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9

12 Mon S. Ethelwold, Monk, Bishop of Lindisfarne (740)

14 ASH WEDNESDAY *Theme: Repentance*

Readings: Joel 2.1-2&12-17; 2 Cor.5.20b–6.10; Matthew 6.1-6&16-21

17 Sat Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr (1977)

18 LENT 1 *Theme: Temptation*

Readings: Genesis 9.8-17; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

21 Wed S. Peter Damian, Benedictine Monk, Reformer (1072)

23 Fri S. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr (155)

25 LENT 2 *Theme: Rejecting Evil*

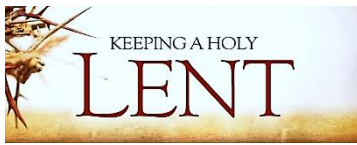
Readings: Genesis 17.1-7 & 15-16; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38

27 Tue George Herbert, Priest, Poet (1633)

28 Wed S. Oswald, Benedictine Monk, Archbishop of York (992)

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give





Holy Trinity's programme for Lent is as follows:

Stations of the Cross:

Fridays, from 16th February, 6.00pm. A simple devotion as we follow the journey of Jesus from his trial to his burial.

Compline:

Tuesdays from 20th February, 8.00pm. The traditional last service of the day, simple and profound.

Discussion Group:

Thursdays from 22nd February, 7.30pm.

Please do what you can to keep a holy Lent and grow in faith and confidence.

EASTER LILIES



There will be an opportunity as usual to remember loved one through Easter lilies this year. Forms will be available shortly. Please return forms by Mothering Sunday, 10th March.

THANK YOU

I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support during my 35-year tenure as PCC Treasurer. During that time there have been many changes, some beneficial and others not, but all have had to be coped with. It has been a privilege to serve the Parish using my professional experience to produce meaningful information for the PCC and the Parish as a whole. I would also like to thank Fr Julian for his generous remarks at the conclusion of the service on New Year's Eve and to you all for the gifts which I shall put to good use (including the bottle). I wish you all a happy New Year.

John Rudge

A RECIPE FOR FEBRUARY

(Simple) KEDGEREE

A good easy dish for lunch or supper. Although smoked haddock is most often used for this Anglo Indian dish other fish can be used, rainbow trout or salmon make good alternatives.

Ingredients

700g smoked haddock or cod
75g butter
1 large onion, finely sliced
Basmati rice, measured to 7 fl oz mark on a jug
1 tbl good quality curry paste or powder
Juice of 1 lemon
Handful of parsley, chopped
3 or 4 hard boiled eggs



Method

- Cover the fish with cold water in a saucepan and bring to simmering point. Cover and cook gently for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Remove the fish to a plate. When cool enough to handle remove skin and break into pieces, keep covered in a warm place.
- Pour the water from the fish into a measuring jug and make up to 16 fl oz with cold water if necessary.
- Using the same saucepan in which you cooked the fish melt the butter and cook the onion in it until soft.
- Stir in the curry paste or powder, add the lemon juice then stir in the rice and the water from cooking the fish.
- Bring to a boil then reduce the heat to its lowest setting, cover the saucepan with a piece of foil and the lid and cook for about fifteen minutes until all the liquid is absorbed.
- Add the flaked fish and stir into the rice gently using a fork.
- Check seasoning and add salt as required plus plenty of freshly ground black pepper. Finally stir in the chopped parsley and serve with quartered hard boiled eggs.

Alys Williams



Saturday 16th March, 10.00 – 12.00

There will be a jumble/book/toy sale in the church hall
(no bric a brac or electrical items)

Help will be needed on the day
and between 2pm and 4pm the day before to sort and set up.

Please let Wendy Burge know if you are able to help in any way.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024



Holy Trinity's annual pilgrimage to Walsingham will
this year be from 24th to 28th June.

A visit to Walsingham is always an enjoyable and
uplifting experience and pilgrims are made very
welcome physically and spiritually.

As usual we have reserved a number of places. To secure your place
please let me have your £30 (non-refundable) deposit. Or, if you would
like to know more please see me.

Jane Laurence

SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY

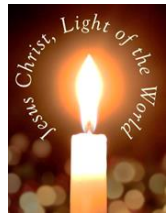
Tuesday 13th February, 7pm, in the church hall

*There will be a
Fish & Chip Supper followed by Pancakes*

Cost to be confirmed and tickets available soon.

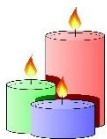
CANDLES

The feast of Candlemass on 2nd February, also called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrates Simeon's declaration that Christ would be a light to all the world. From as early as the 5th century it became the custom for candles to be lit during this celebration hence it became known as Candlemass, with candles symbolising Christ as the light of the world. A custom which we continue today when we are all given a candle during the Candlemass service. With this in mind I thought I would take a look at candles, their history, use and symbolism.



Before the invention of electric lighting, candles were commonly used for illumination. A brief history of candles shows that they have been used as a source of light and to illuminate celebrations for more than 5,000 years. The earliest use of candles is often attributed to the Ancient Egyptians, who made rushlights or torches, however, these had no wick like a true candle. Ancient Romans then developed the wicked candle by dipping rolled papyrus repeatedly in melted tallow or beeswax. The resulting candles were used to light their homes, to aid travellers at night, to be a sign of welcome and in religious ceremonies. Over the centuries different products have been developed and used to make candles, from tallow (animal fat) and beeswax to paraffin and stearic acid but with the introduction of the light bulb in 1879, candle making began to decline.

Today, candles have come a long way since their initial use. While they are no longer used as a major source of light, they are still popular and are used mainly for their aesthetic value and scent, particularly to set a soft, warm, or romantic ambiance, for emergency lighting during electrical power failures, and for religious or ritual purposes.



Candles have long been widely used for church ceremonies. In Christianity, from the very first, fire and light are conceived as symbols, of the divine nature and the divine presence. Christ is the true Light. A Christian academic in the 2nd century described candles as a representation of 'Christ, the Uncreated, and Eternal Light'.

By the close of the 4th century the ceremonial use of lights had become firmly established in the Church. The actual candle is considered to be symbolic with the wax representing the flesh of Christ, the wick signifying the soul of Christ, and the flame representing His divinity.

We use candles widely at Holy Trinity. Two candles are always lit on the altar for services which symbolise the light of Christ among us. An additional six are lit on the gradine (below the reredos) on Sundays and festivals and two candles are carried by acolytes (servers) as well. The acolytes candles are carried to where the action in the service is happening eg during the first part of Mass, the Ministry of the Word, they are placed by the Gospel book in the Chancel, they are then moved to where the Gospel is read and then at the offertory they are moved up to the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.

In addition to these candles we light candles before icons and statues (a practice done since early Christian times). We also have two votive candle stands where a candle may be lit as an accompaniment to prayer. Votive candles may be used to pray for those who have died or to petition a saint (eg Our Lady at the candle stand by the Lady Chapel). The light signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God.



At Easter we light the Paschal candle which specifically represents the Resurrected Christ. It is lit at all services during Eastertide and also at funerals and baptisms. The newly baptised receive a candle, lit from the Paschal candle, and given with the words: ‘...You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life’.

Moreover we may use candles at home in a religious context, eg an Advent wreath. We have also been asked to put a candle in our windows during Covid and more recently during the war in Gaza to express our prayers for those affected.



All candles help to enhance our worship and prayer and to remind us of Christ's presence and that Christ is the true Light, and we are particularly reminded of this at Candlemass.

Jane Laurence

A QUIZ FOR FEBRUARY

1. February gets its name from the word 'februa', which comes from which language?
2. The February Revolution was the first of two revolutions which took place in Russia in which year?
3. What happened in Britain on the 15th of February, 1971?
4. Februalia was the Roman festival of ritual what?
5. In leap years, February starts on the same day of the week as which other month?
6. By what two other names is the Feast of Candlemass known as?
7. Which violet variety of quartz, often used in jewellery, is the traditional birthstone for February?
8. In which resort city on the Black Sea was the Crimea Conference held in February, 1945?
9. On the 12 February, 1554, who was beheaded at the tower of London?
10. In the poem called 'The Months' by Sara Coleridge, if 'hot July brings cooling shower' what does February bring?
11. True or false. It is possible to have Easter in late February?
12. Which Italian Renaissance artist who was beatified has his feast day on 18 February?

Answers on last page

DIARY DATES FOR 2024

23rd March	Seder Meal, 7pm
8th June	Summer Fair, 11am – 2pm
13th July	Glastonbury Pilgrimage <i>This year's pilgrimage marks the Centenary of the Glastonbury Pilgrimage</i>
30th November	Christmas Fair, 11am – 2pm

A REFLECTION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, please help us.
We, your children, learn slowly.

So often we say nothing when your name is
mis-used.

Often our lives do not reflect your ways,
Mostly we do what we want on earth,
And this can make heaven unimaginable.



We expect so much more than we actually need each day.
Sometimes we think we don't need forgiveness,
Sometimes we think we are unforgivable,
And we forget that other people make these same errors of thinking.

When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways,
We are confused about what is and is not evil,
We are confused about deliverance,
We are confused...

And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery,
That you know us completely,
Our failings, our secrets,
And still love us forever and ever,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching from the *Parish Pump*

HOLY TRINITY ²⁰⁰ Club WINNERS

December 2023

1st	Jason Stevens	£54.50
2nd	Andrew Puckett	£32.70
3rd	Jason Stevens	£21.80

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 21st February 2024

ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

It was:

- 150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1874 that Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.
- 100 years ago, on 5th Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.
- Also 100 years ago, on 12th Feb 1924 that George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue was performed for the first time, in New York.
- 90 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1934 that Edward Elgar, the British composer, died.
- 70 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1954 that the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh.
- 65 years ago, 3rd Feb 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.
- 60 years ago, on 7th Feb 1964 that the Beatles arrived in New York for their first US tour. They were met by thousands of screaming fans.
- 50 years ago, on 7th Feb 1974 that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.
- 40 years ago, on 14th Feb 1984 that figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.
- 30 years ago, on 25th Feb 1994 that serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.
- 20 years ago, on 4th Feb 2004 that Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.
- 15 years ago, on 7th Feb 2009 that the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. They destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

11 February	The Hankridge Arms
10 March	Oake Manor Golf Club
14 April	The Greyhound, Staple Fitzpaine
12 May	The Maypole, Thurloxtton
9 June	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15. Please let me know if you want to come along, on the previous Sunday. If you have booked a space but are unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible.

Wendy Burge

CHURCH COLLECTIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
Loose plate collections	£229	£374
Stewardship envelopes	£1121	£1103
Stewardship by Bankers Order	£2123	£2158
Donations Gift Aided (net)	£100	£0
Donations – other	£40	£90
Donations – Special (restricted)	£0	£5000
Legacies	£2026	£0
Collections Gift Aided	£40	£100
Hall Rents	£744	£108
Magazine Adverts	£0	£0
Bazaar	£0	£2174
Bazaar – Donations (Gift Aided)	£0	£118
Sunday Raffles	£104	£43

FEBRUARY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Latin
2. 1917
3. Decimalisation
4. Purification
5. August
6. The Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of the Virgin Mary
7. Amethyst
8. Yalta
9. Lady Jane Grey
10. The rain
11. False (March 22 is the earliest Easter can occur)
12. Fra Angelico



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PCC Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Richard Tomlinson	(Church Office) 354800
Data Protection Officer	Mr David Watkins	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mr Peter Deal	01823 278385
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	01823 289519
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvia Paul	01823 279436
Hall Booking Secretary	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Trinity Church School	Trinity School, South Street	01823
284128		
Head of School	Ms Lisa Eadie	

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