

HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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LENT

March 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



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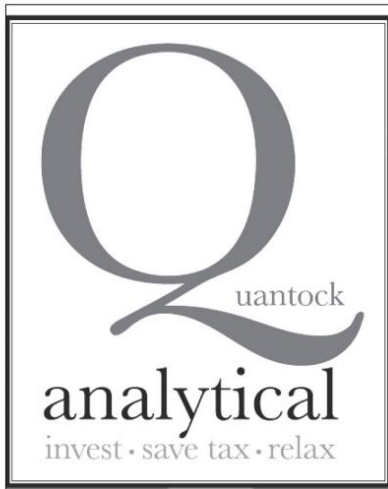
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MARCH



2024

FR JULIAN WRITES...

The sudden death of Alexei Navalny, the prominent critic of Putin's Russia, shocked the free world. It is indeed fortunate that a thorn in the Russian state's side should conveniently be removed. Those of us who live in a democracy, and perhaps take its values for granted, cannot fully comprehend how opposition can cause such fear amongst authoritarian dictators.

It is, sadly, a common human response to disagreement – the desire to silence opposition. This usually is the case in those who actually fear for their own opinions or position. The proverbial grain of truth can grow like a piece of grit in an oyster into something which is prized and valued. History is littered with examples and precedents. St Thomas a' Becket is perhaps the most famous martyr for the Christian faith in England. Emily Pankhurst led the fight for universal suffrage, and suffered as a result. Some may remember Mahatma Gandhi in leading the struggle for Indian independence, but insisting on non-violent protest, and was ironically assassinated. In more recent years, there has always been a small number of determined and principled people who have struggled to oppose injustice in all its forms, but their opposition hasn't always resulted in their death.

It is a cliché almost to cite the saying, 'I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it' attributed to the French philosopher Voltaire but actually penned by Evelyn Beatrice Hall in 1906, summing up Voltaire's outlook. We might agree to some extent, but not go so far as to allow challenge to be given an unhindered passage. Rather, I suspect we would all rather just like it 'to go away'. It is hard to summon up the moral courage actual to defend and justify a position in the face of a determined counter-argument.

What we might find more immediately harder are the challenges of Lent. The 'three pillars' of Lent (examined in an article in this magazine) all go against the grain of how we are supposed to live our lives today – they seem in opposition. Prayer – that's a last resort, and act of desperation when all else fails. Almsgiving – look after number 1, it's mine to do what I want to do with it. Fasting – look at all the food and drink adverts today. It is little wonder that these aspects of Lent challenge what we are led to believe.

We are not likely to be 'removed' by the state for our subversive beliefs. The most we are likely to face in terms of censure is apathy, ridicule or disbelief. Indeed the Christian faith itself challenges the collective norm of our society today, whose response is to try and dominate, denigrate and eradicate. Christians are accepted only because of the social deeds that we do: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, teaching 'good' values. The moral high ground is no longer the Church's or the faith's, but those who are in power and positions of authority.

So, let's get back to basics. Too often our prayer is mechanical and overt. We are bidden to go into our room and pray in secret – truly communing with our Father in heaven. Again, it is actually easier to put money into a Lent box than to give alms, which involves acknowledging 'all things come from you, and of your own do we give you'. The prophet Isaiah outlined what was an acceptable fast to the Lord: loosing the bonds of injustice, undoing the thongs of the yoke, letting the oppressed go free.

We may call people who die for the faith 'martyrs'. Janani Luwum, murdered in Uganda in 1974 for his opposition to the Amin regime. Oscar Romero, murdered for his vocal opposition to government violence and oppression in San Salvador. Jerzy Popieluszko, murdered by the communist regime in Poland in 1984. All these – and more besides – were Christian priests. And to this list we might now add Alexei Navalny. Martyrs are witnesses. Have we the courage enough to witness to our faith and not fear opposition?

With my prayers and good wishes

Fr Julian

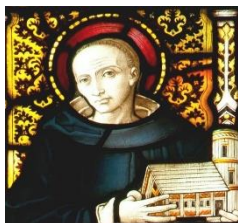
MARCH SAINTS – Fr Julian’s idiosyncratic selection of saints

Being Lent, some saints’ days aren’t kept as they might be otherwise; some more notable saints have already been included in this series, so look back to last year’s Outlook for any you consider to have been missed out!

4th: St Casimir (1458-1454) Casimir, once heir apparent to the Kingdom of Hungary, became known for his piety, devotion to God, and generosity towards the sick and poor. He became ill (most likely with tuberculosis) and died at the age of 25. He was buried in Vilnius Cathedral. His canonization was initiated by his brother King Sigismund I the Old in 1514 and the tradition holds that he was canonized in 1521 and is the patron saint of Lithuania.

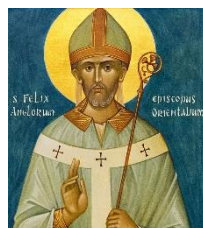


5th: St Piran (d. 480) was a 5th-century Cornish abbot and saint, possibly of Irish origin, and another who crossed the Irish Sea on a millstone. He is the patron saint of tin-miners, and is also generally regarded as the patron saint of Cornwall; his flag, a white cross on a black background is now the Cornish flag. A 6th century oratory originally founded by him still exists near Perranporth.



7th: St Perpetua and St Felicity (both d. c203) They were Christian martyrs of the 3rd century. Vibia Perpetua was a recently married, well-educated noblewoman, said to have been 22 years old at the time of her death, and mother of an infant son she was nursing. Felicity, a slave woman imprisoned with her and pregnant at the time, was martyred with her. They were put to death along with others at Carthage in the Roman province of Africa.

8th: St Felix (d. 647/8) Felix was born in Burgundy, but became known as Felix of Dunwich as he had to flee to Canterbury from which he was sent to establish Christianity in the kingdom of the East Angles; he was their first bishop. He is widely credited as the man who introduced Christianity to the kingdom, and the town of Felixstowe is named after him.



8th: (also) Edward King (1829-1910) Although not a 'saint' he is acknowledged in the Calendar as anglo-catholic academic and principal of the newly-founded Cuddesdon Theological College (for training priests) and went on to found St Stephen's House, also in Oxford. He became Bishop of Lincoln, and was known for his revival of early Christian teaching. He was caught up in scandal concerning ritual in the Church, for such things which are now common-place – carrying candles, not standing at the north end of the altar, mixing water and wine at the eucharist, making the sign of the cross at baptism, using the Agnus Dei... It is due to such as him that much of the richness of Anglican liturgy was restored.



23rd: St Turibius of Mogrovejo (1538-1606) was from Spain who served as a professor and later as the Grand Inquisitor. His piety and learning had reached the ears of the king who appointed him to that position which was considered unusual since he had no previous government or judicial experience. His noted work for the Inquisition earned him praise from the king who nominated him for the vacant Lima archdiocese in 1580.



OSWESTRY CHRISM FESTIVAL

Tuesday 26th March in Exeter Cathedral

11am Chrism Mass 12.30pm Lunch
2pm Catechesis 3pm Benediction

COFFEE ANYONE?

Most of us enjoy a cuppa and a chat after the Parish Mass in the Church Hall. However, the number of people who help to prepare it is gradually dwindling, putting extra demands on those who still can help. If you are willing to give a little time every few weeks to provide this important 'ministry of hospitality', please see Cheryl Grindle or Liz Hathway in person or via the Parish Office. Thank you.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

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

1 Fri S. David, Bishop of Menevia (401) Patron Saint of Wales

2 Sat S. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield (672)

3 LENT 3 *Theme: Turning the Tables*

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22

4 Mon S. Casimir, Patron of Poland & Lithuania (1484)

7 Thu SS. Perpetua, Felicity & Companions, Martyrs (203)

8 Fri Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln (1910)

9 Sat S. Frances of Rome, Widow, Patron of Motorists (1440)

10 LENT 4 *Theme: Mothering Sunday*

Readings: Exodus 2.1-10; Colossians 1.3-7; Luke 2.33-35

17 LENT 5 PASSION SUNDAY *Theme: Glorifying the Son*

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12. 20-33

18 Mon S. Cyril of Jerusalem, Archbishop (386)

19 Tue S. Joseph of Nazareth, Husband of Our Lady (1st Cent.)

20 Wed S. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary (687)

24 PALM SUNDAY *Theme: The Entry into Jerusalem*

Readings: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark Passion

25 Mon in Holy Week

26 Tue in Holy Week

27 Wed in Holy Week

28 MAUNDY THURSDAY *Theme: The Last Supper*

Readings: Ex. 12.1-4, 11-14; 1 Cor. 11.23-26; John 13.1-17 & 31b-35

29 GOOD FRIDAY *Theme: The Crucifixion*

Readings: Isaiah 52.13-53.12; Hebrews 4.14-16 & 5.7-9; John Passion

30 HOLY SATURDAY *Theme: Light from Darkness*

31 EASTER DAY *Theme: The Resurrection*

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Mark 16.1-8





SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

6.30pm Service of Penitence

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday in Holy Week

7.00pm Holy Eucharist & Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper & Passion Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
(Followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Church Hall)

2.00pm Last Hour Before the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

8.00pm Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

EASTER PARTY

Fr Julian and Jane warmly invite everyone to celebrate Easter with them at a party in the Church Hall following the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday.



BISHOP'S VISIT

The Bishop of Oswestry is paying a pastoral visit to the Good Shepherd, Furnham on Sunday 14th April. It has been our custom for both parishes to worship together on the 5th Sunday of the month, but in March that'll be Easter Day! So the Good Shepherd has kindly invited members of Holy Trinity to join with them on 14th April for a combined Parish Mass, so please note the date; the time of the service is to be confirmed.

A RECIPE FOR MARCH

CAWL CYMREIG

Cawl (pronounced the same as cowl) is one of Wales's best known dishes. A hearty mix of lamb or mutton and vegetables guaranteed to be as welcome in the chill of winter as on a sunny day in early spring. This is a fairly standard recipe from Theodora Fitzibbons' *A Taste Of Wales* first published in 1971. Unfortunately my mother did not like lamb so cawl was not something I ate until my late teens but I have made it regularly over the years since then. This is an ideal dish for the slow cooker. Serves 4.

Ingredients

2-3lb (1-1½kg) best end of neck lamb cutlets or shoulder meat boned, trimmed and cut into large evenly sized pieces
1 large onion, sliced not too thinly
2 or 3 medium to large carrots
1 parsnip
1 small swede or a couple of turnips
5 or 6 medium sized potatoes, cut into large pieces
3 medium leeks, sliced
Plenty of chopped parsley



Method

- In a stockpot or large saucepan cover the lamb with at least four pints (2½ litres) of fresh cold water. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for at least an hour. Allow to cool, preferably overnight, then remove all traces of fat.
- Cut the washed and peeled carrots, parsnip and turnips or swede into nice not too small pieces and add to the pan along with the onion.
- Bring back to the boil and simmer very gently on the lowest possible heat for another hour topping up the liquid as it evaporates. There should be plenty of well flavoured stock. Season with salt and pepper.
- The lamb should be very tender. Now add the potatoes. When they are almost cooked add the cleaned leeks. Once the latter are tender but before they lose their bright green colour stir in plenty of chopped parsley. Check the seasoning before ladling into deep bowls ensuring everyone gets a bit of everything.

Alys Williams

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

Pancake Party

21 of us enjoyed a Fish & Chip supper, followed by pancakes accompanied by wine, juice, tea/coffee on Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to Liz Hathway for selling the tickets, setting up and helping on the night, (it's dreadful how work gets in the way of my social life!), thank you also to Jean Keitch and Margaret Jordan who did a sterling job washing up.



Jumble/Toy/Book Sale

Saturday 16th March, 10.00 - 12.00

Now is the perfect time to refresh your wardrobe, by having a spring clean. Any unwanted clothes that are clean and in good repair are needed for the jumble sale, as are toys and books. No electrical items or bric a brac please.

As well as items to sell help is also needed on the day and the day before to sort and prepare items for sale. Setting up will be on Friday 15th March between 2.00 and 4.00. If you have a clothes rail that we could borrow to display key items that would be really helpful.

Please see me if you have any queries/questions or can offer to help. Refreshments will be provided for helpers on Saturday.

Lunch Club

The 10th March lunch club on Mothering Sunday will be at Pickeridge Golf Club, not the venue as previously advertised. I have booked for 13 so please let me know by Monday 4th at the latest if you cannot join us.

Pinocchio

The Brewhouse are showing an adaptation of Pinocchio between 4 - 29 December, tickets are now available and selling well. I don't know performance times or prices yet, but if anyone is interested, perhaps instead of or as well as the Pantomime please let me know and I'll try and get more information to share.

Finally, if you have any ideas for social events or can help spread the load - please let me know. Many thanks.

Wendy Burge

THREE PILLARS OF LENT



It's funny how when we were children time seemed to go so slowly, it felt like you had to wait ages for your birthday or Christmas to come round but as you grow older time appears to go faster and faster. However, there are times when perhaps we feel time goes more slowly again, maybe because of pain or boredom and, I would suggest, during Lent.

Lent is a period of preparation for the great celebration of Easter and is a time of solemnity and reflection. It lasts for forty days as that was the length of time that Jesus was in the wilderness. However, we often think of Lent in negative terms eg giving things up, having no flowers in church etc. and so those forty days can feel a long time. Sometimes it is easier just to look forward to Easter without taking into account the preparation for it. But as the theologian Jane Williams in her book *Approaching Easter* says 'The forty days of Lent, are not supposed to be full of pain or worry...but they *are* supposed to feel like a long time. Lent is supposed to feel long enough for you really to experience something, and to remember it afterwards.'

So how can we make the most of our Lenten experience so that we can truly celebrate the resurrection of Christ at Easter? To help us the church offers us three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Prayer – prayer in particular, holds a special place in this season of repentance and renewal. While the practice of fasting during Lent is widely known and observed it is important that we should also strengthen our spiritual discipline. If we are truly going to deepen our relationship with God, increasing our time in prayer is exactly where we need to start. This means that unlike fasting and giving something up, you need to take something on. There are a number of opportunities at Holy Trinity for you to do this. There are extra devotional services: Compline (Tuesdays, 8pm) and Stations of the Cross (Fridays, 6pm), you could attend an additional Mass during the week or there is reconciliation through the sacrament of Confession. At home you could extend the time you spend in daily prayer or spend 5 minutes in silence each day

and listen to God speaking to you. Through prayer we can grow closer to God and through it we can find comfort, hope and strength in knowing that God is with us.



Fasting – for many people if they keep Lent it is about giving something up or ‘fasting’. Traditionally Christians make a Lenten sacrifice by giving up a personal pleasure eg chocolate, alcohol etc. The pattern of fasting and praying for forty days in Lent based on Jesus’ time in the wilderness goes back further than that as the Old Testament tells us how both Moses and Elijah went to fast and pray for forty days and nights. Early Christians had the tradition of fasting before Easter with the consumption of bread, vegetables, salt and water only allowed. Historically, fasting has been maintained for the days of Lent except for Sundays which are not days of fasting. We tend to see fasting as a negative thing, a giving up of something but rather than viewing it in this way you could turn it into a positive and look on fasting as a challenge that you take on and a sacrifice that you are making to God.



Almsgiving – Lent is traditionally a time of almsgiving when we are encouraged to focus more intently on giving to others in need and other acts of charity. The Lenten call to give means making the needs of other people our own. You could donate the value of what you have given up during Lent and there are Lent boxes available at the back of church for you to make regular small donations in. Almsgiving is an important part of our Lenten journey because it actually encompasses all of the three pillars of Lent. As well as giving to those in need, almsgiving is prayer and it involves fasting. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it is giving to God and it is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving.

I started this article writing about time and Lent and I hope that you may now see that if you are willing to embrace the Lenten experience, it is not as boring or negative as it might appear. Instead try to look at it in a positive way, not so much a giving up as a taking on. I know Lent has already started but there is still plenty of time for making the most of your Lenten journey in order to make it as Jane Williams says a time for you to ‘experience something, and remember it afterwards.’

Jane Laurence

LENT *by Robert Herrick (17th century poet and cleric)*

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?
Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?
Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd go,
Or show
A down-cast look and sour?
No: 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.
It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.
To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, at which the Wardens are elected, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where reports are given about 2023's activities will both be held on 19th May at 12.15 in the Church Hall. The reports will be circulated in good time, so that you may have time to peruse them and raise any questions at the APCM.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS FOR LENT

- ✘ The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. – *Anon*
- ✘ The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. – *Anon*
- ✘ Self-emptiness prepares for spiritual fullness. – *Richard Sibbes*
- ✘ Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down. – *Anon*
- ✘ The man who does not like self-examination may be pretty certain that things need examining. – *C H Spurgeon*

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 20th March 2024

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

It was:

- 750 years ago, on 7th March 1274 that St Thomas Aquinas, Italian Dominican friar, Catholic priest, philosopher, and theologian, died.
- 500 years ago, on 19th March 1524 that Florentine explorer Giovanni de Varrazano became the first European to reach the Atlantic coast of North America.
- 250 years ago, on 16th March 1774 that Matthew Flinders, British navigator and cartographer, was born. He led the first inshore navigation of Australia, and gave the country its name.
- 150 years ago, on 30th March 1874 that Charles Lightoller, British naval officer, was born. He was Second Officer on the RMS Titanic, and the most senior member of the crew to survive the sinking in 1912.
- 125 years ago, on 6th March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer patented aspirin.
- 100 years ago, on 25th March 1924 that Greece became a republic. The monarchy was abolished.
- 80 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944, that the Great Escape took place. 76 Allied prisoners of war broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp in Germany after digging three tunnels. 3 escaped, 73 recaptured and 50 were executed.
- 75 years ago, on 10th March 1949 that the 1948 Arab-Israeli War ended. Israeli victory.
- 50 years ago, on 29th March 1974 that the Terracotta Army was discovered in Shaanxi, China by a group of farmers. The 8,000 life-sized warriors, plus chariots and horses were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (247 BC - 221 BC).
- 40 years ago, 5th March 1984 to March 1985 that the 1984 miners' strike took place.
- 30 years ago, on 12th March 1994 that the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.
- 25 years ago, 21st March 1999 that Ernie Wise, British comedian and actor (Morecambe and Wise) died.
- 20 years ago, on 30th March 2004 that Alistair Cooke, British-born American journalist and broadcaster died.
- 10 years ago, on 18th March 2014 that Russia annexed Crimea.

From the Parish Pump



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2nd	David Gill	£32.70
3rd	Sylvie Paul	£21.80

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The road was hard, no turning back
The way ordained by mighty God,
'Your will not mine' was all He said
As humbly down that path He trod.

The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die,
They chose Barabbas in His stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
They put to death the Prince of Life,
One cried for help, the other cursed
The first was promised Paradise.

This promise now is for us all
Christ gave His life to set us free,
The cross divides, it always will –
The question is: what side are we?



By Megan Carter from the *Parish Pump*



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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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