



THE DOME

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Why do we come to Mass, or why don't we?

by Isabelle Simon-Evans

A Parish Pastoral Forum held a discussion on 8th November to explore Mass attendance.

Our numbers attending Mass are dwindling. This is similar across many churches, though the Evangelical and Islamic religions show growth attendance. We know people are searching for meanings and wonder in their lives, as shown by the success of films such as Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter.



What can we do as a congregation to encourage people to attend Mass? Many of us left the Church for a while, often in our youth, and eventually returned. Quite a few people still turn to the Church for weddings, baptisms and funerals.. We need to create a spiritual and community experience that supports people when they return to the Church looking for Christ's love.

The group suggested ideas which the Parish Pastoral Council will explore such as holding a short lunch with a themed discussion after Mass, ensuring we have more participative roles for children during Mass, creating more wonder with a time of silent reflection before Mass.

Today, we exercise our power of choice and do so much in our lives. There are as many reasons for not attending Mass, as there are non-attendants! Some of these are: dispersed families, conflicting children's activities, Mass is no longer seen as 'compulsory', the responses of the Catholic Church to some of its scandals, too much change in our religious practices, a perceived lack of spirituality in our Liturgy, a Mass that talks at us rather than listens to us; and many more.

We would like to ask all parishioners for their ideas and offer of help to make our Mass a true witness to the love of God that attracts and sustains people. Do contact Monica Taylor (dermon13@talktalk.net), Chair of the Liturgy Committee, with your ideas- Many thanks

Parish Outing to Westminster Cathedral & the British Museum

By Anna Luke

At the beginning of September, members of the parish with both Father Hollins and Canon Hetherington, whom we were delighted to have with us, went on our parish outing organized by Neil and Janetta Dobinson, to London to visit both Westminster Cathedral and to see the Treasures of Heaven Exhibition at The British Museum.



Our first stop was Westminster Cathedral where we first had a guided tour, divided into two groups, by two Cathedral Guides. To begin with, one of the guides told us about the history of the Cathedral which was consecrated in 1910. We were told, in detail, the history of each side chapel, the Cathedral mosaics and Cathedral marbles. We were able to go into the Sanctuary where we saw the Archbishop's throne (Cathedra, right)



Pope Benedict on the Archbishop's throne

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About the Parish

Our first parish priest - Fr Francis Larive

by Margaret Sutton

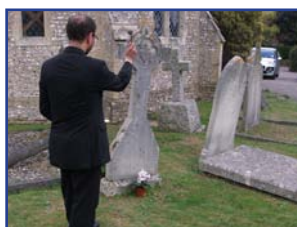
Recently, a group of parishioners from Devizes joined us for Mass at St. Laurence, after which we then visited the cemetery where Father Coulon led a short service, and blessed the grave of Father Larive.

Father Larive was born in France, and became a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales. During his time in India, whilst Camp Chaplain he met Captain Dewell, a recent convert. Captain Dewell's great desire was to see the Faith brought back to his native Wiltshire. He persuaded Fr. Larive to travel home with him and they arrived in Southampton in 1861. For the first time in nearly three hundred years, Mass was celebrated in Devizes in a disused warehouse. Father Larive met with much opposition, including being hit on the head with a stone, whilst at Mass. He continued his work, and in 1875 achieved his ambition

of building a permanent church in Malmesbury.

In 1890, Fr. Larive's superiors were asked to send him to Petersfield/Ditcham to establish a Mass Centre; he was joined by Fr. John Meynet, and Laurence Trent Cave provided transport for them to celebrate Mass in the iron chapel at Ditcham.

It was Mr. Cave who bought the land in Station Road. The iron chapel was moved to the garden, where the garage now stands, and was used until the completion of the Church. Forty-four people attended the opening of the



Fr Coulon sprinkling Fr Larive's grave



The group from Devizes on its visit to St Laurence

Mission. Father Larive died in 1893 aged 74 and is buried in Petersfield Cemetery. He was succeeded by Dom Ildefonsus Cummins.

During the Devizes visit, Fr Coulon also blessed the graves of Dom Francis Hutchison (died 1916) and Dom Francis Hickey (died 1930) priests who also served at St. Laurence. From the time of Father Larive's death until 1945, St. Laurence church was served by the Benedictines of Ampleforth and Beaumont.

Update on New Translation of the Mass

By Fr Hollins

The new translation of the Mass is becoming more familiar. We have



been using one set of options since the beginning of September, and I have prepared an alternative set which will be introduced soon. Sometimes I lapse into the old translation, and sometimes members of the

congregation fall into earlier responses, but on the whole, we have done really well. The most difficult moment is when we stand to introduce the Gospel. The cards have been put down, all are attentive and reply 'And also with you'! The response is unfortunate but the concentration on the Gospel is really good.

Last week two new altar missals arrived at £250 each which are magnificently produced volumes. Parishioners might like to call into the Sacristy and take a few moments to thumb through the pages. To date we have been introducing the new translation of the Mass, but it will be in general use throughout England and Wales from the First Sunday of Advent.

About the parish

St Agnes News

By Margaret Effenberg



In October we held our Parish Harvest

Festival in Liss which was, again, a great success with over 60 parishioners attending this popular event. St Agnes looked lovely brimming with Harvest flowers for the Mass beforehand. Our thanks go to the flower arrangers who made the church look so splendid. Once again the children gave us a performance at the beginning of the evening which everyone enjoyed. Our thanks go to Justine Jenner, and the other mothers, who organised the entertainment. As usual, there was a superb and abundant array of food provided by parishioners and the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to welcome, once again, Father Hollins who spent much of the evening getting round to all the tables to meet up with parishioners. Altogether it was a happy event

with a traditional raffle and auction of the Harvest Loaf (made by Cathy O'Connor). Proceeds from the evening were donated to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre for their work helping to educate Christians and other denominations in the Holy Land.

The LCWT (Liss Churches Working Together) prayer breakfasts continue to take place on the second Saturday of each month at 8.30 am and last no more than 1 hour. It is an excellent opportunity to meet those from other churches, and also to disseminate information about events being held in both the Catholic and other churches. It would be nice to see a few more Catholics coming as well as Ann Penn and Justin Kelly. For those who are unused to, or feel danted by, unfamiliar prayer groups, these sessions don't require more than silent participation, and there is now a clear structure to each meeting which prevents them dragging on.

Volunteers are urgently required at Crossover, especially younger men and women to work with us at the centre, even if it is only for a couple of hours each month.

Christmas Carols in the Nursing Homes

LCWT is arranging Christmas carols in the local nursing homes and would be grateful for those who can to sign up to sing. If you would like to take part please phone Angela Laws on 01730 890073.

Familiar faces

We all miss Ann Peatfield's familiar smiling face at St Agnes and wish her a speedy recovery.



LCWT Prayer Breakfast at St Peter's

Parish outing (continued from front page)



Madonna mosaic in Cathedral side chapel

which is a facsimile of the throne in St. John's Basilica in Rome, and which was a gift to Cardinal Herbert Vaughan who was Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster from 1893 until his death in 1903. This wonderful guided tour, culminated with Mass at which both Father Hollins and Canon Hetherington concelebrated. We then had lunch after which we went to see Treasures of Heaven Exhibition.

This Exhibition was amazing. It featured over 150 objects from various situations worldwide, including the Vatican. To see these ancient treasures that have stood the test of time cannot help but stir one's imagination. It is easy to understand how the use of relics in the devotional practices became so important in the lives of Christians, which were central to the development of Christianity in



Crystal skull at Treasures of Heaven exhibition

the Middle Ages and which lasted into the early part of the Protestant Reformation. Although many of these relics and reliquaries were lost at the time of the Reformation, relics and reliquaries are still very important in the devotional lives of the Catholic and Orthodox Christians of today.



Unknown female saint

Our thanks go to Neil and Janetta who organized a wonderful and memorable day for us which we all enjoyed. I think thanks should also go to our coach driver who got us safely to our destinations, and on time and back home!

Parish committees

New PPC Chair

By Jean Lord
I moved into Pe-
tersfield, with my
husband, almost 10
years ago, renting a
house in Madeline
Road to see if we liked it here!



We quickly settled into the town and bought a house in Station Road six months later. My first impressions were of a very friendly town and, having walked into St Laurence Church on the first Sunday, realised that this parish was full of caring, considerate people.

Having just taken over the role of Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council, it has induced me to reflect on what our Parish has to

offer each other. We all lead very busy lives which leaves little time to socialise with each other and really get to know people with whom we share our Christian life.

My intention over the next year is to try to get the Parish together more, particularly socially. To that end, we have booked the hall each second Friday of every month for events such as quiz nights, murder mystery, cheese and wine or just simply a get together. We should make it a firm date each month, even if we don't know what is happening that particular evening. We want people to turn up regardless. We need young people to help organise these things with us and try to pull together as one family. We should be able to rely on one another as friends. If we were



A huge turn out for the Parish Quiz Night on November 12th - won by Fr Hollins' table

all-encompassing, then we would never have a problem finding volunteers for anything because we would, and should, care about our parish our parish as we would our own family.

Perhaps I am an idealist, but I think that the people in our parish are wonderful human beings. Please make suggestions for future events where we can all relax in each others' company.

Liturgy Committee

By Monica Taylor



Over the last twenty years or so, the size of the parish has increased considerably and what used to be a simple task of designating 'ministries' has gradually become much more complicated. In order that as many people as possible are involved in celebrating the Sunday Liturgies in particular, a list of people willing to participate in this aspect of parish

life is drawn up. The quarterly rota is compiled so that those serving the ministries will know the dates when they are expected to be 'on duty'. This also allows these people time to prepare, especially the 'Readers' as this is such an important ministry.

The aims of the committee are:

- To set goals, direction and standards for the overall liturgical life and activities of the parish.
- To delegate liturgical planning (the actual selection of music, the writing of the bidding prayers, and the orchestration of all the other variables that make up a liturgy) to groups or individuals.
- To evaluate liturgies which have taken place and make note of any recommendations.
- To be responsible for parish formation (training) in liturgical matters.

The Liturgy Group is accountable to the Parish Priest. Ad hoc groups or individuals planning liturgies should liaise with the group.

Membership of the group consists of the Parish Priest and the Parish Liturgy Coordinator (Monica Taylor) plus one representative from each of the following areas: Musicians (Lise Foster), Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Bernard Elkington), Servers (none at present), Readers (Paul Cuss), Sidespersons (Neil Dobinson), Sacristans (Kevin Fry) and a Representative from St Agnes (Irena Morgan-Owen). The group meets about six times annually or when liturgies require a meeting.

Finally, we are looking for someone to take on the task of training and encouragement of the servers. Please contact me or Father Hollins if you are interested.

A Day in the Life of ...The Maintenance Committee Chairman

by **Simon Craig McFeely**

Another High Level meeting had been arranged for 11.30am to inspect a big problem with the Cupola woodwork.

The copper sheeting had been removed and the woodwork was “in need of extensive repair”.

Sitting at home at 11.10 I thought that I had another five to 10 minutes before I would leave; then the phone rang “Oh hello, is that Simon?” It was one of the decorators we were asking to quote to repaint the inside of the dome and Cupola. He continued“Er, have I got the wrong day? Perhaps it is tomorrow?” Yes he was at St Laurence waiting to meet mea day early! Knowing that there was Mass at 11.30 I told him to hang on, because if we were quick, we could just get into the church before the 11.30 Mass. So I rushed down to St Laurence and we managed to get into the church at 11.22; the contractor took a quick look up into the dome, whilst around us about 20 parishioners were quietly preparing themselves for Mass! Then it was on up the scaffold for the 11.30 meeting. Halfway up, with our Historic Buildings Surveyor, we met Chris Wood of English Heritage, who was on his way down. An impromptu 10 minute meeting ensued, and Chris very kindly promised to send me the pictures that he had just taken on high.

We then completed our climb to the top for our very first meeting at the highest point of our church, or “Fly Heaven”, as it has become known, due to the thousands of dead flies up there.



All the copper sheeting had finally been removed and for the first time we could see the timber frame under the cupola

what a mess! The only thing that had been holding the Cross and Finial on, was the copper itself. A hundred years of English weather had taken its toll. Just take a look at the pictures!!



Decayed timber at the top of the Cupola

So there we were, The Surveyor, the Carpenter, the Stonemason, the Copper contractor and I, all of us looking at a crumbling wooden frame that had been hidden under the copper sheeting. Now this was the first meeting I had attended at quite such a height and knowing that I have vertiginous leanings, I always stand against something and more importantly I hold onto a firm pole!

Today seemed a bit odd, was I just panicking unnecessarily? I was already regretting the coffee that I had drunk at about 10.30 as it was a good five minutes each way to the church hall and back, which would mean missing part of the meeting, but what was more worrying was the Cupola, It appeared to be moving slightly! Was this possible? Should I say something? Lower-

ing my centre of gravity by kneeling down to appear to be getting a closer view of the rotten woodwork seemed to help; could it have been something that I had eaten last night? Perhaps I had drunk a little too much of that red wine? I had not felt like this before and I could swear that the Cupola just moved again! But that could not be possible as that would mean that the church was about to collapse!! After a very uncomfortable and slightly panicky 40 minutes of feeling very wobbly and, as the meeting was moving to a lower level to discuss the new copper gutter on the bottom of the dome, I finally made as casual a comment as I could, about feeling a bit wobbly today being so high up.

Yes everyone agreed, the scaffolding was moving quite a bit today despite the fact that it was not even very windy!! RELIEF. I was not going mad, dying of food poisoning or suffering from a hangover. I thought that scaffolding was always solid as a rock, but apparently not at the top of our church! My fears allayed, we then immediately descended to a lower level, where the movement was barely discernible.

Another long discussion about the new gutter, and I generously offered to go down with everyone's car keys to move cars in case the hall users needed to depart, taking the opportunity of a quick visit to the church hall.

Finally, what a relief ...to be back on solid ground!



Stonemason Andy Hook with the Cross & Finial on their way for refurbishment.

Camino de Santiago – The Way of Saint James

by Terry King

El Camino de Santiago has been one of Europe’s great spiritual, historic and scenic routes to Santiago de Compostela for over a thousand years. Stretching from the Pyrenean border with France to the Atlantic, it is a 500 mile footpath to Santiago and the tomb of the Apostle St. James, and onwards to Finisterre – “the end of the world”.



Terry & Sheila King

described the inhabitants of Navarra as “perverse, perfidious, disloyal, corrupt, voluptuous, expert in every violence, cruel and quarrelsome” and added for good measure that “any one of them would murder a pilgrim for a sou”. Sadly, it is not recorded what those of Navarra thought of Monsieur Picaud!

Nowadays Picaud’s warning should not deter prospective pilgrims. Throughout my journey through northern Spain, from the Basque country, Navarra and on to Galicia, I enjoyed kindness and hospitality from all of those I met.

At the height of its popularity during the Middle Ages, an estimated half million pilgrims travelled on foot and horseback to the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela with many travelling on to Finesterra.

Early pilgrims travelled in great hardship and danger, largely ignoring the warnings of Aimery Picaud, the most authoritative medieval writer on the Camino who

Today those taking the journey do so for many different reasons – religious, spiritual, historic or just for recreation. Whatever their reasons the warm spirit of the Camino is very much alive, the friendships formed, genuine, and the camaraderie the essence of the adventure. Throughout the “Way” one is addressed by everyone, locals and pilgrims alike, with the traditional greeting “Buen Camino”. Pilgrims walking the whole length, uninterrupted, spend up to 5 weeks on the road, but I decided last summer to do only several stages covering 260 miles in two weeks. I enjoyed every step of it, and look forward to completing some further stages in April.

Read about Terry’s journey at www.petersfieldparish.org.uk or ask Ann Saunders for a written copy.



The descent from Foncebadon towards Ponferrada. The village of El Acebo is in the distance.



My company is the only truly local Independent agent who in 2012 will have been providing professional advice to clients and selling and letting property in Petersfield and the surrounding area for 80 years. I and my colleagues look forward to being of help to you in the future and in the meantime I wish all fellow parishioners a very Happy Christmas and New Year.
Adrian M Organ FRICS

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Christmas, the Spanish Way

By Elena Hall



Festivities start on the 22nd

December when the schools break up. The children go to relations' homes singing songs, accompanied by tambourines (zambombas) and rattles, to collect 'Aguinaldo' parcels of nuts, dried fruits and satsumas.



Children playing zambombas

On Christmas Eve, the most important family gathering of the season takes place. Daughters with their husbands and children go to their parents' houses for a meal of shellfish, turkey with vegetables (but no sprouts!) followed by chocolate Christmas log and sweets (Polvorones), marzipans and 'turrones' (nougat bars the size of tablets of chocolate). At midnight all the family will go together to the 'Cockerel's Mass'; I remember as a child being disappointed never



Turrones

to see a cockerel appear at any point of the Mass! Afterwards the priest brings out an image of baby Jesus, and the congregation will line up to kiss Him while the choir sings carols.

On Christmas Day, the families will attend Mass again. It is the turn of the sons with their wives and children to join their parents. The Christmas meal is called 'Cocido de Navidad' - two stews, one of vegetables and one of chicken, lamb and beef. Their broths are put together to make a soup of rice or vermicelli for the starter, followed by the stews, then some gooey gateau and the Christmas sweetmeats mentioned above. Afterwards children will normally be taken to the cinema, the circus or the Christmas fairground with all the family.



Cocido de Navidad

Presents do not arrive in Spain until Epiphany to commemorate the gifts given by the Three Wise Men. On the afternoon of the 5th January the Three Wise Men, accompanied by their courts, pages, horses or camels, or nowadays floats lavishly adorned, parade through the

streets on their way to the Town Hall where they are officially welcomed by the Mayor. Streets are lined by children ready to catch the small presents and sweets thrown as they go along. As we tend to live in flats not houses, balconies will be left open on that night so horses and kings can get in after climbing with tall ladders to deliver the presents. Children will leave their shoes outside the bedrooms so the Kings know they're in. They would have sent a detailed letter to their Majesties expressing their wishes and confirming their good behaviour throughout the year!

The 'Kings' Night Market' remains busy and open till about 6am. Children will leave refreshments for the Kings such as Cava and 'Turronesa' and a special 'King's Cake', a ringed-iced bun with glazed fruits on top. The horses will have lettuces, oranges and pails of water on the balcony.....well it is only right after the huge effort of climbing as high as the 10th floor!

On the 7th January children go back to school, and the Christmas season is officially over for another year.



Tronco (Christmas log)

Words on the Magi

By Neil
Dobinson



The Three Kings of Orient *aren't*. They were not Kings, but Magi, and would not have come from the Orient – oh, and the star which they followed would not have been in ‘the East’.

The term ‘Magi’ refers to Zoroastrian priest-sages, truly ‘wise men’. These priest-sages were extremely well educated for their day - specialists in many disciplines - medicine, religion, astronomy, astrology. We derive our word ‘Magic’ from the Greek – meaning the art of the Magi. As described in the Gospel of Matthew, the only Gospel to mention the Magi, they came from ‘The East’ – variously identified as any country from Arabia to Persia. Hence, coming from the East, the star would have been in the West! Most probably, the “star” was a set of astronomical events which was bound to arouse astrological inter-

pretation. We now know that there were many such events around the time of the birth of Jesus.

Tradition has placed the number of Magi at three, relating to gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but earlier versions has the number between two and thirty. It is one of the most famous legends used by storytellers and artists alike, with Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar becoming universal symbols and representations. Very often the Magi are made to represent the three ‘known’ parts of the world and, also, the ages of man. Balthasar is very commonly cast as a young African or Moor, and old Caspar is given Oriental features or dress, whilst Melchior represents Europe and middle-age.

The Adoration of the Magi is one of the most enduring and

appealing of religious subjects. The earliest representations are from catacomb paintings and sarcophagus reliefs of the 4th century, with endless artistic treasures from the great masters spanning almost a millennium.

It is intriguing to explore heritage and it adds another dimension to a subject, but ‘traditional’ interpretation has a place and has given us a very fine Carol with which to celebrate Christmas.



Adoration of the Magi by Andrea Mantegna

Two little heart-warming stories from Daphne Daniels who celebrated her 85th birthday in October.

On the first anniversary of David Daniels’s death, Daphne’s five-year-old great granddaughter, Bethany, said, ‘If Gramps has been in Heaven for a year, Jesus must be putting a party on for him tonight!’ She added with glee, ‘When we all get there, we’ll have one really big party!’

A few months ago Daphne discovered her engagement ring of over 50 years was missing from her finger when she got home from Mass. She drove straight back to church



June 2008. Daphne Daniels receives the Diocesan Medal from Canon Hetherington

where there were a few coffee stragglers who all went off to search everywhere. St Anthony (Patron Saint of Lost Property) was also enlisted! Stephanie ‘Prayer Bear’ Murray suggested looking carefully through all the contents of Daphne’s bag, just in case! And..rejoice, the ring was found very appropriately in the pages of Daphne’s missal!

If you have any other ‘straight from the mouths of babes’ or ‘lost and found’ stories, please let us know (ann.saunders50@ntlworld.com).