

October 2005 Newsletter

S. CLEMENT'S CHURCH

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From the Rector

My dear People,

This is being written while I am on a train between Birmingham and Edinburgh. I have had two weeks in the UK, visiting old friends. This has given me a welcome break in temperatures closer to the 50's than the 90's. It has also given me a chance to reconnect with the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church. You might be interested in some verbal snapshots.

1. A friend is priest in charge of the Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian near Edinburgh. It is an old Templar Church with an intriguing pillar covered in carvings (unlike the others, which are plain), known as the Prentice Pillar because it was allegedly the work of an apprentice mason, his doctoral thesis, as it were, to qualify him as a master mason. Rosslyn Chapel has recently shot to prominence by being the place where the improbable adventures of the DaVinci Code ended, and the Holy Grail is of course involved. My friend Dr Roulston reports that the Chapel is now a place of pilgrimage for the credulous who actually believe the fictions of the DaVinci Code to be fact. Attendance at his Masses have shot up, especially among Americans on a sort of DaVinci tour. Another small indication of the truth that 'when people believe in nothing, they will believe in anything!'

2. Three hundred miles south in rural Warwickshire (Coventry Diocese) I went to the 9.30 Mass in a 13th century village church. This is one of the four churches in a group with one priest. The permutation of services

between the four churches reads like a railway timetable. Each church had 8 or 9.30 or 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. services, not all Masses, the others, Morning and Evening Prayer presumably taken by lay readers or other laity. The other three churches were in three villages less than a mile in every direction, but there was no suggestion that the faithful might travel the short distance so that there could be one Mass in a different church each Sunday. There were 25 at the Mass I attended, and the priest said this was the average in all of them. No so long ago, each village would have its own Rector and run its own parish affairs. Now, as in so much of England, a priest who has only four churches to run counts himself fortunate. Nor can they be closed, each one often being a mediaeval gem. A headache for the Bishop and very sad for places who have no resident priest. However, many lovely country churches feel pretty neglected and underused, though filled with glorious mediaeval stained glass, finely carved rood screens and choir stalls. I read a short letter from a lady who had learned that an "all faith" chapel was being equipped in some airport, with a crucifix for Catholics, Korans for Muslims, etc. She asked, cynically, if there would be a section smelling of damp hymn books and serving weak tea for the Anglicans!

3. A drive one day through the Scottish Borders, lovely rolling hills vividly green grass alternating with bright purple heather as well as the bright silver bark of birch trees mingled with the deep bronze of copper beeches. Here and there, in places like Melrose, Kelso, Jedburgh and Dryburgh, fine

old abbeys, built by Cistercians, Premonstratensians, Benedictines in the 13th century. Secularised or used as parish churches at the Reformation and then looted and partially ruined by Cromwell's Puritan army in the 17th century. Now they stand as ancient monuments instead of vibrant centres of the Faith. In a sense, they are a comfort to anyone tempted to despair about the present state of the Church. There have been many periods when the whole existence of the Church must have seemed in doubt, not just in Scotland but all over Europe. The invasions of Goths and Huns and Vandals wiped out the Faith in entire countries. The mediaeval papacy at its most corrupt seemed to many to have polluted Catholicism so deeply that it seemed it would never recover. But the heathen invaders were eventually converted to Christ and the Catholic Church was purified by the Reformation, both schismatic like Martin Luther's or internal like Charles Borromeo's.

So it is to-day, I'm sure. Great movements of change are sweeping all the Churches, not just our Anglican Communion. New alignments and schisms (and even a few reunions) are causing alarm. Fundamentalists of all sorts are excommunicating each other. Like the saints of old, what we have to do is stay faithful, follow our loving Saviour in practising charity to all and leave the outcome to God. In many ways, the Church has never been in better health. Much that is good is being done in the name of Our Lord. We have the privilege of sharing in this ongoing life of the Church.

Affectionately, your Rector,

Gordon Reid

News & Notes

Blessing: The S. Francistide Blessing of Animals will take place in the Garden at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, 8th October.

Harvest: The Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated at High Mass on Sunday, 9th October at 11.00 a.m. Gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs will be given to S. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Bainbridge Street.

Vestry: Next meeting, Tuesday, 18th October at 7.00 p.m.

Confirmation: The Rt Rev'd Clarence Coleridge, Assisting Bishop in our Diocese, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 20th November at the 11.00 o'clock High Mass. Anyone wishing to be confirmed, or received from the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Churches should contact the Rector.

Kalendar

October 2005 – *The Holy Guardian Angels.*

- 1 Sa Of Our Lady. *S Remy, BC.* [The Church in France]
- 2 Su **Solemnity of the Holy Rosary.** Pentecost XX. [Parish]
- 3 M S. Theresa of the Child Jesus, VD. [Community of the Resurrection & the College at Mirfield]
- 4 Tu S Francis of Assisi, C. [All Franciscans]
- 5 W S Placid & his Comp, Mm. [Vocations to the monastic life]
- 6 Th S Bruno, C. [Increase in the contemplative life]
- 7 F HOLY ROSARY BVM. S. Mark I, PC. *Ss Sergius & Comp, Mm. Abs.* [Living Rosary of Our Lady & S. Dominic]
- 8 Sa S Bridget, W. [Diocese of Europe]
- 9 Su **Pentecost XXI. Harvest Thanksgiving.** [Parish]
- 10 M S Francis Borgia, C. [Delayed vocations to the priesthood & religious life]
- 11 Tu MATERNITY BVM. [Society of Mary]
- 12 W S Kenneth, Ab. [The Church in England]
- 13 Th S Edward, KC. [Christian Rulers]
- 14 F S Callistus I, PM. *Abs.* [Pope Benedict XVI]
- 15 Sa S. Theresa of Avila, VD. [For Catholic teaching in our parishes]
- 16 Su **Pentecost XXII. S Hedwig, W.** [Parish]
- 17 M S Margaret Mary Alacoque, V. [Guild of All Souls]
- 18 Tu **S Luke, Ev.M.** [For physicians and their ministry of healing]
- 19 W S Frideswide, V. *S Peter of Alacantha, C.* [Growth of Vocations to the Religious Life]
- 20 Th S John Cantius, C. [The Church in Eastern Europe]
- 21 F S Hilarion, Ab. *SS Ursula & Companions, VvMm. Abs.* [Teachers & Students]
- 22 Sa Of Our Lady. [The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham]
- 23 Su **Pentecost XXIII.** [Parish]
- 24 M S Raphael, Archangel. [Pilgrims & Travellers]
- 25 Tu Ss Chrysanthus & Daria, Mm. [Guild of All Souls]
- 26 W S. Evaristus, PM. [Organists, Choir & Servers]
- 27 Th Vigil. [Increase of the spirit of penitence in the Church]
- 28 F **Ss Simon & Jude, App. Abs.** [The Bishop & Diocese of Pennsylvania]
- 29 Sa Of Our Lady. [Increase of devotion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Clemency]
- 30 Su **Christ the King.** Pentecost XXIV. [Parish]
- 31 M Vigil. *Fast & Abs.* [All Saints Sisters of the Poor]

Agenda:

- 2 October **Most Holy Rosary of the BVM.** Winter Sunday schedule resumes:
Matins, 7.30; Low Mass, 8.00; High Mass, 11.00 a.m. and Solemn
Vespers & Benediction, 4.00 p.m.
- 8 October Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament first meeting for the fall season
with Litany of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction following the 10
o'clock Low Mass. Everyone is invited—this is an opportunity for new
members to join the Confraternity. Refreshments will be served also.
S. Francis' Blessing of Animals, 11.00 a.m. [Parish Garden/Courtyard]
- 9 October **Trinity XIX.** Regular Sunday schedule. Harvest Thanksgiving observed at
High Mass. Please bring in your gifts of non-perishable food items for
the soup kitchen—dessert items are preferred. A Parish Harvest
Luncheon will follow High Mass—please sign the list on the Notice
Board in the Narthex for the food item you will be bringing.
- 18 October Monthly meeting of Vestry: 7.00 p.m. [Anchor Room]
- 29 October Time change—set clocks back one hour this evening.
- 30 October **Christ the King.** Regular Sunday schedule with Procession & High Mass at
11.00 a.m.
- 1 November **All Saints Day.** Low Mass, 7.00 a.m. Procession & High Mass, 7.00 p.m.
Holy Day of Obligation.
- 2 November **All Souls Day.** Requiem Low Mass, 7.00 a.m. Requiem High Mass with
Absolution at the Catafalque, 7.00 p.m.

Please Note:

Enclosed with this copy of the *Newsletter* are offering envelopes for All Souls Day. Please indicate the names of those whom you wish to be remembered at Requiem Masses that day along with your offering and the envelopes and return by Christ the King, 30th October.

Vestry has obtained permission from the owner of a nearby parking lot for parishioners to park free of charge on Sundays when attending services at S. Clement's. The lot is labeled Allright Parking and is located on Arch Street between 19th & 20th Streets, the closest parking lot to 20th Street and may be accessed from either Cherry or Arch Streets. Please ignore the posted sign stating charges for parking after hours and please remember that you are parking at your own risk, as in parking on the street, and you should be attentive to proper security measures. Cars will not be towed from this lot. Any questions may be directed to Wally Welliver who has made this arrangement for us.

Copies of the 3rd Quarter Giving Statements are also enclosed with this Newsletter. Please bring your Pledge up-to-date if you have not already done so.

Music for the Month – October 2005

2nd October, Holy Rosary:

Ordinary: *Tomás Luis de Victoria*, Missa ‘Salve Regina’

Motet: *Victoria*, Ave Maria á 4

Organ: *Fritz Kreisler*, Variations on a Theme of Corelli
Alexandre Guilmant, Grand Choeur in D (alla Handel)

9th October, Pentecost XXI (Harvest Thanksgiving):

Ordinary: *Herbert Howells*, Communion Service (Collegium Regale)

Motet: *Edward Bairstow*, I sat down under his shadow

Organ: *Howells*, Sonata I
Sir Edward Elgar, Empire March

16th October, Pentecost XXII:

Ordinary: *Leonhard Lechner*, Missa Prima

Motet: *Lechner*, Novit Dominus

Organ: *Johann Sebastian Bach*, Prelude & Fugue in b minor

23rd October, Pentecost XXIII:

Ordinary: *Teodoro Casati*, Missa concertata

Motet: *Malcolm Archer*, Bread of the World

Organ: *Percy Whitlock*, Fidelis (from Four Extemporizations)
Whitlock, Paean

30th October, Christ the King:

Ordinary, *Josef Rheinberger*, Missa Sti. Crucis

Motet: *Rheinberger*, Hymne (opus 69)

Organ: *Johannes Brahms*, Variations on a theme of Haydn
Brahms, Finale (from Variations)