

Voice from the Vicarage May 27th 2021

Dear All,

It was St Bede's Day on Tuesday. From the 7th and 8th centuries, he lived most of his life as a monk in the north of England. From his monastic cell he bequeathed the world his great 'Ecclesiastical history of the English people'. It remains one of the most important original references on Anglo Saxon history and played a key role in the forging of an English national identity. It's a reminder of the light that kept burning brightly in the monasteries when much around was dark and fairly brutal.

In one of his sermons, Bede says, **'Unfurl the sails and let God steer us where he will.'**

I really feel that Pentecost Sunday last week was a little occasion when it seems we 'unfurled'. It was a great thing to have the Lord's Prayer offered in so many languages, and then to gather it all together with Sahir's chanting of the prayer in the Lord's own tongue of Aramaic. The silence at the end of the prayer was a deep silence, a spirit filled silence. Love-ly too to have a bit of trumpet to help us along..



Deacon Sahir Murad brought the language of the Lord to our Pentecost liturgy

It seems to me that God gives us blessings in our worship not only to console us in our personal lives and our life as a congregation, but to strengthen us to face the work of witness and evangelism, and in making our contribution to the making of a society that reflects the values of God's Kingdom.

Locked down but still free...

And now we face the challenge of a seven day lockdown. Whatever one's personal opinion about the strategies adopted and laid upon us, it is surely the right thing to comply. In this matter it seems right to follow St Paul's dictum to obey the civil authorities in matters that are not contrary to Gospel. St Paul tells us the Spirit we have received is a Spirit of freedom, so that even in the constraints of his prison cell he can praise and sing...I'll be trying to remember that truth over the coming days as in my situation I face the relatively comfortable constraints of my lockdown vicarage 'cell'...doing so holding in my heart and prayers all those for whom the lockdown poses serious pressure or anxiety...

So today's Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. and the Eucharist at 6.30 p.m. will be last act of public worship in the church for the next seven days. **All things being equal public worship will resume with the 8 a.m. mass on tomorrow week, Friday 4th.**

It you happen to be free tonight at 6.30 do come. We will offer the mass with special intention for our State.

Of course I must add that masks must be worn.



SUNDAY WORSHIP.....

The Eucharist for Trinity Sunday will be online at 10 a.m. on the parish website

Rublev's 15th century icon of the Trinity—in a free lockdown moment, why not google the icon and read up on its message.... Good for mediation!

To help your participation in the online mass Stephen our organist has made available the **music file** for the service, which you can find as an extra attachment to the 'Voice'. **Sing up in your 'cell', or perhaps better put, sing up in your 'small corner'....**



Take Away and Delivery....again....

As became our custom during the long lockdown, it will be possible to collect the Blessed Sacrament to reserve at home in readiness for holy communion on Sunday as you share in the service on line. If you would like the Sacrament delivered to you, that is also possible. Please let me know on 0407 097870.

Collection from the vicarage between 2—7 p.m. on Saturday.



Lunch in what will soon be the 'parish house'...shape of joyous things to come...

In the midst of today's disappointing news, a couple of scenes from last Sunday's shared lunch as a reminder of the goodness of life together...

I decided not to take photos of the unseemly mad scramble to get a portion of my own contribution of an English Shepherd's Pie when it appeared... which was, I cannot tell a lie, worth the unholy fight for a spoonful....



ON SUNDAY EVENING a pretty good ...and godly conversation..

crowd made their way to the Baptist Church on Sydney Road for the annual Ecumenical Pentecost service. It was my first visit, and Mark Payne and the folk there were very welcoming and hospitable..Our contribution included



The tie a little 'Mormonesque' perhaps....

providing our paschal candle from which individual candles were lit during the service. Not wanting to miss an evangelistic opportunity, Jesse and Lucas bravely bore witness to their muscular Christianity the full view of the Sydney Road...

And finally, this rarely seen photo from the past came into my possession this week...father and son, thurifer and boat boy from former days. Beloved Bob Vincent, now living in a greater light, and son John (now churchwarden) sporting a cute sleeveless cotta fashioned by his mother, which apparently caused raised eyebrows at the time!



With love from the 'Vic',

+ Lindsay