

Voice from the Vicarage 18th August 2022

Dear All,

Back at the workshop...

It was so wonderful to back at the 'workshop' last Sunday morning!

That's a word St Benedict uses to describe the monastery in his Rule, and it's as applicable to a parish church and community. Another saint, (I think it's St Basil), speaks of Mary as the 'workshop' in which Our heavenly Father does his great work... Well, in our masses last Sunday — with simplicity at 8 and then with a little 'more' at 10 — we kept the Feast of the Assumption, recalling when the Lord, 'in a miraculous and mysterious manner', did his work and took the Holy Mother to be with him in Glory.

After the 10am Mass, we went outside to bless and dedicate the new statue in the garden.

The idea for the statue was not mine, but came from a group of parishioners who simply wanted to give it. That makes it all the more lovely to my mind. It's interesting — since Sunday, every time I have walked passed the statue (and, not least with coming and going to The Lamb, it's not an infrequent pastime!) I have just paused for a moment to greet Mary with a prayer, and then instinctively, turned to the statue of Jesus just a few feet away, pausing for a brief moment of adoration. I have to admit that very often these past six years, I have just passed by the statue of the Lord without a glance or thought. Somehow the presence of the Mary statue has rekindled my awareness of Jesus. I don't suppose that should surprise me. Her words to the steward at the feast (John 2), "Do what *He* tells you", resound through the ages....

Of course it was very good to welcome **Deacon Jack** back from his adventures at the Lambeth Conference of bishops where he was a member of the team of stewards. **ON SUNDAY EVENING** at 'Lamb B & B' he will not only be at the keyboard, but will share with us some reflections about his experiences. I reckon it will be worth hearing. We will follow our usual format of a time of praise at 6 followed by the teaching ministry and relaxed discussion over a beer or hot chocolate and bread and cheese...

Talking of keyboards, it will be very good to welcome **Stephen** our organist back to the organ console and to our community this Sunday, He has had a well deserved break for a couple of weeks. Meanwhile **Fr Chris and Barbara** have flown off for a time of holiday, and will be away until mid September. And our **Jesse Lattarulo** — who has well and truly added thurifer skills to his website talents — is off to Europe for a month. Travel mercies!

A lot can happen..

While one is away, it takes a little time to catch up with everything! For example, the birth of Hector on 7th July, providing a brother to Arthur and Nathanael. Congratulations to Jean Gador-White and Tom, proud parents. I know I speak from the ignorance and comparative safety of the celibate life, but three young boys seems a lot to be getting on with. Prayers and love!



Brothers in arms....

...more than cute!

And welcome, by the way, to a number of folk who have arrived at Christ Church over the past couple of months. Comings and goings are such a healthy thing in any Christian community alongside our long stayers!



Mary...open hearted and open handed...a model of faithfulness...a place in our garden for pausing and pondering...

Seeing double.....

Talking of new arrivals, it's going to be a real delight to have a double baptism at Christ Church on Sunday, 4th September.

Dominik Drobik, son of Lukas and Liviane, and **Anna-Maria Smith**, daughter of Lucas and Anita will receive the gift of new life in Christ at the font at the 10am Mass. It is a lovely thought that three of the four parents all received the same gift of baptism here at Christ Church in recent memory! (Liviane had long since been baptised in her homeland Brazil!)

Of course some things don't happen to schedule... If you've looked at the old vicarage garden recently you may have noticed a stalling of activity in the building of the extension to what will be the parish house. You will know the building industry has its challenges at present and work was delayed as we waited in line for some building certificates. (Something to do with holes being big enough! A matter too high for me). But word is that permissions are now granted and we have a meeting this week to discuss recommencement of the work. Taking the long term view keeps the blood pressure on an even keel... A few delays will not rob me, nor should it rob anyone else, of joy!

And finally. **The Lamb café reopened this week** and it was great and gratifying to welcome a good number of our 'old' customers back, glad to see us open again! I was especially gratified when one young guy walked in with his hands in the air saying, "I thought you were opening last week. Where were you?" His anxious face changed to serenity as he sunk his teeth into a long awaited bacon butty ... with 'The Lot'....

Much love and prayers,

+Lindsay

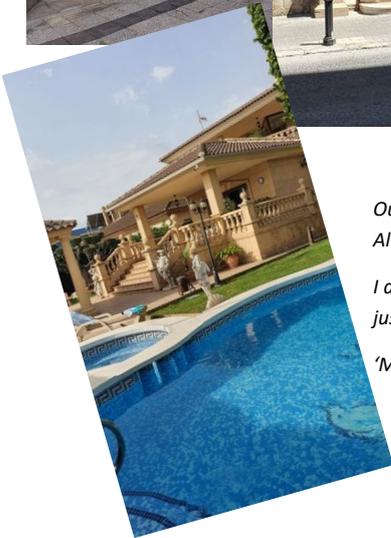
SERVICES on SUNDAY 8, 10 & 6 (at the Lamb) - invite a friend!

A few scenes from Espana

Doorways from old Spain.... They know how to make an entrance!



..and lovely side streets and blue skies..



Our Air B&B in Almoradi

I didn't choose it... just saying...

'Modest comfort'...



The Spanish do not go in for understatement when designing their churches...The Cathedral at Murcia



The Holy Mother features a great deal in Spanish piety, which of course I much enjoy! Here the image is of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, and well she might be. The painting above is of some poor unfortunates in hellfire, though I'm not sure who they are...



The Roman theatre at Cartagena on the coast, with the church of St James (destroyed during the war) in the background. They say there was a bishop here in the 1st century, though the cathedral is now in Murcia..



Ran into this guy in the Holy Week museum in the beautiful town of Orihuela. Not so much a museum but a storehouse of the great floats that are carried through the streets of this and so many other towns in Spain during Semana Santa. (Holy Week)



A simple wayside shrine on the main shopping street in Cartagena between a fashion shop and a café....

On a boiling hot afternoon, I pushed open a door to find a bit of shade only to find folk at prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Had a lovely ice cream afterwards....



.....Maybe a bit of Blighty next week....