

Dear All,

BAD NEWS!! Clocks go forward on Sunday

GOOD NEWS!! Less time to wait for mass on Sunday

Believing is just not just seeing..

Although there is a common phrase 'seeing is believing' in the Christian life the opposite is true. I think it's St John Chrysostom who wrote, '**Christians are those who don't just believe what they see.**' Yesterday was the Feast of St Michael and All the Angels and among other things it's a reminder that there is more going on in the world of God's creation than we can see. There are, as it were, other dimensions. At every mass we are reminded of this when in the Great Prayer when the celebrant prays..."Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name...." We are not alone. We are surrounded....be not afraid!

As you may know I have been away for 10 days at the triennial Retreat and Chapter of the religious order to which I belong, the Oratory of the Good Shepherd. I don't go on about the Oratory very much but it is essential to my life as a Christian, and has been since my first profession in 1991. The former Archbishop of Canterbury is our Visitor and he led our retreat. He has also contributed a little 90 second or so video to our new website which sums up something of our purpose. You might find it of interest...<https://www.oratory1913.com/>

The lovely Carmelite monastery that was our home for ten days was near to the extraordinary Niagara Falls. Some of us took a little boat trip up to the Falls on our rest day. Aside from the natural beauty, the power and the relentlessness of the water is overwhelming! The photo I took doesn't do it justice. Though perhaps somewhat less obviously dramatic, there was another sort of power at work in our little Christ Church last night as spiritual power was unleashed on our Deacon Jack for the Office and work of a priest in the Church of God. Niagara is of the natural order, which comes as gift from our Creator God; the ministry of priest entrusted to particular individuals whom the Lord calls for this purpose is of the *supernatural* order, not contrary to nature, but belonging to the realm of Grace. The gift, conferred with prayer and the laying on of hands is not a 'heavy handed' act though it is certainly weighty. It is gentle, yet it is strong, stronger than Niagara. It is an act of our strong and gentle Lord and reflects his quality of life.

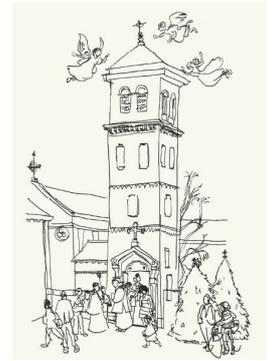


It takes time to make a priest!

In my talk about ordination at last Sunday's Lamb 'B & B' I mentioned that in the Gospels we hear of Jesus calling, or better understood, summoning the disciples. We hear of them responding and following him. And then it speaks of him '**making**' them into apostles, '**making**' them fishers of men and women. The point to note is that it is **he** who makes them, moulds them, forms them, and equips them.

The service last night took time! So it ought. It is a life changing experience and should not be rushed over. The exhortation to the candidate for priesthood outlines the seriousness of the ministry now entrusted to Jack, and it also makes clear that such a life can only be lived 'by God's grace'. No one present can have failed to 'see' that something extraordinary was happening..

Jack is now a priest, but we can be certain the Lord will continue to form him into the priest he is, and is called to be. It will take time...a life time. And so it ought.



It is always my hope at an ordination that it will touch the hearts and stir the wills of all present, and that it will prompt someone, (and one would be enough) to ask, "**Lord, is this the life you are calling me to?**" I will watch and pray!

On Sunday Fr Jack will preside at Mass for the first time. It marks another turning point that will shape his life. Pray for him as his voice echoes words which belong to Jesus...*my body, my blood.*



A candidate for priesthood must be examined and assessed by those in authority in the Church. He is presented by two of the examining chaplains of the diocese.



Under all that lot there is a young man kneeling, making himself available to the Lord for the rest of his life.



Some of the crowd that gathered to continue the celebration.. There was much joy! And much wine!

And finally there was much activity on the 'school' site this week. The crane manoeuvres a class room through the air! Love it!

Much love, + *Lindsay*

