

Dear All,

Lunch today was both humbling and amusing. Fr Jack is of course no longer part of the team, so our Thursday co ordinator, Margaret, asked if I could be a bit more of a visible presence each week. I'm of course happy to do so, but today had to listen to the folk endlessly lamenting his departure and only mildly glad to see me. They clearly prefer a younger model of clergyman! One wag remarked that is more usual to trade in an older model for a younger one rather than the other way around... I'm not sure what Jack has been saying about himself, but one talked about the departure of 'Abbot Jack'...It was good natured banter with a bit of teasing of me, in the midst of genuine thanksgiving for Jack's contribution to the ministry.

One difference between us is that I hardly know a name. Jack knows them all and many of their stories. I clearly have a bit of catching up to do!

A church full of memories...

Yesterday, a goodly number of folk gathered in the church for the funeral mass for **Nola Vincent**. It is not a contradiction to talk about a liturgy having both solemnity and joy. The funeral rites of the Church are filled with depth, and with meaning, and with hope. And those who gathered, filled the church with love and memories of a life well lived. And it was very good to welcome three of my predecessors as parish priest, testifying to Nola, and her husband Bob's enormous commitment to Christ Church. Of course by my calculation Nola lived through twelve vicars of Christ Church, a testimony to her perseverance I reckon.



Our Nola. A photo taken on her 90th birthday last year.



It's our custom to lead the hearse to the end of Glenlyon Road. Anne and John and Fiona followed the altar party escorting their Mum to the end of the road.. Nola has no longer any need of Christ Church. We do....

Sending Fr Jack on his way...

Last Sunday Father Jack celebrated and preached at the 10 am Mass and, as is our custom, we called down the Lord's blessing on him as we bid Godspeed as he journeys to Aberdeen to continue his studies. There is no greater thing we can do for one another than pray. It keeps us together, and although he will be 10,400 miles away (Google told me) we stay close in the Body of Christ. One Church. One Faith. One Lord.

He will know doubt be on the edge of his Scottish seat waiting for The Voice to arrive each week....

Jack was surely God's provision to us.



May she rest in peace, and rise in glory!

More 'travel mercies' asked for!

We shall be praying travel mercies again this Sunday as our Sister Cara makes her journey back to Wales to spend time with her community at Tymawr. During that time, she will formally withdraw from the Community in a liturgy conducted by their Warden, Bishop Rowan Williams. In her recent Advent letter of the Community. Mother Katherine wrote:

Cara will formally leave the Community in January, taking with her the relationships and gifts she received at Tymawr into a wider pastoral forum. We have been changed by her presence and we will continue to uphold her in prayer for her ongoing vocation within the Body of Christ.

Cara will be away for six weeks and then return. What a happy thing it is that for the time being we are among that 'wider pastoral forum' as she will be our pastoral assistant going forward. Cara is presenting herself as a candidate for ordination and will continue her studies at Trinity College.

Have a blessed time, dear Cara! We will be praying for you and eagerly awaiting your return.

Chalking it up...

On the Feast of the Epiphany chalk is blessed and Christians are encouraged to mark the lintel above their front door with a sign:

+ 20 + C + M + B + 23 +

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the names associated with the Magi, who persevered in their search for Jesus. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, **Christus mansionem benedicat** (May Christ bless this house) The crosses are a reminder of the vocation of the Child and the 20 and 23 the year of Grace we have now entered.

Chalk will be blessed at the 6.30 mass today and on Sunday @ 10, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus which will include echoes of Epiphany...

Hope to see you! Much love, **+Lindsay**



Cara makes herself comfortable (and studious!) in the vicarage study...preparing her sermon for the Epiphany mass this evening..