

Voice from the Vicarage 23rd March 2023

Dear All,

In the corner of our Lady Chapel you will find both the icon of the Annunciation, and the crucifix we use for Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. They reflect the twin doctrines that are indispensable to the Christian religion, and it is good that they are near each other, for they are really two sides of the same divine coin.

And it's a happy thing that the dates we particularly recall them each year are never far from each other, even though one is set firmly for this Saturday (25th) while the other is set by the movements of the moon!

Filled not shrouded.

The importance of the **25th March** cannot be exaggerated, as we recall and give thanks for the purposes of God revealed in Nazareth to Mary, and her assent to his plan for our salvation. This plan is *filled* rather than *shrouded* in mystery. It is a *revealed* Mystery. The spiritual and material are One in Christ Jesus, and the purpose is that humanity may recover that same unity.

The crucifix reminds us not only of the extent of the Divine Love for the world, but of the capacity for human beings to destroy themselves. For the destruction of Jesus was the destruction of a man, one of us, though also God made into our flesh. It is both tragedy and triumph. It is 'Good' Friday...

And both symbols remind us that we have a God who is not immune to the vicissitudes of the human condition, not least to suffering. The wounds displayed on the crucifix are Jesus' credentials to the sufferings of the human race.

During the very good session with Fr John Stewart in the Lamb last Sunday evening, the question of suffering emerged, if only briefly. I tried to recall the last verse of a poem published not long after the horrors of the First World War by Edward Shillito, called 'Jesus of the Scars'. I've since found them, and they're worth quoting:

***The other God's were strong; but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a God has wounds, but Thou alone.***

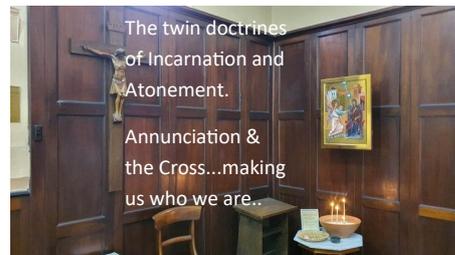
The event the Church celebrates on Saturday marks the beginning of the extraordinary pilgrimage toward us made by God himself, and which sets the direction of our own pilgrimage.

Anyway, you will be welcome at the Mass on Saturday at 8am to be followed by celebratory bacon butties in the cafe

Francesca in the lead...

And looking ahead, though not very much further ahead, the **GREAT WEEK** begins on Sunday week with Palm Sunday. **Attached with the Voice is a leaflet telling you of the services during that week.**

The journey with the Lord begins by our gathering with Christians from other local churches. Our faithful friend Francesca will be in the lead...



FEAST of the ANNUNCIATION
SATURDAY 25th March 8 am
Mass with Hymns
followed by butties in The Lamb

The height of English culinary sophistication, the bacon buttie involves a soft bun (or bread), lots of butter, plenty of good bacon and HP sauce...



And continuing the theme of the Feast Day, at Lamb B & B on Sunday night we will immerse ourselves in what the Bible has to teach us about the Annunciation....



Sonya and Mark...found this on google. Hope they don't mind..

This Sunday morning meanwhile, we will welcome our new associate priest, **Fr Mark Lindsay** as our preacher at the 8 & 10. We are fortunate indeed that he has recently joined our parish family, and good to see his wife

Sonya and son Elijah (great name!) around the place too.

And finally, a bit of welcome trench warfare by the Vic this week as the lads prepare for the ramp that will lead to the front door. The end is nigh! D.V. Much love, +L



This boy's pilgrimage too!



Francesca skulking...I love this photo!