

# Voice from the Vicarage 3rd August 2023

Dear All,

I was so moved this week when faced with the dentist's chair, the pastoral assistant encouraged me with the assurance that she was pleading on my behalf to St Apollonia, the patron saint of dentistry. Apparently the blessed saint knows all about it, since when she was martyred all her teeth were cruelly shattered or pulled out. Those Romans knew how to make folk suffer!

Most of you are unlikely to be surprised that rather than Apollonia, I turned to St Augustine of Hippo for aid. In his Confessions he speaks of being tortured with a toothache such as he was not able to speak! Writing on a tablet he asked his friends to pray with him, and the pain disappeared. I myself had to fork out a bit of cash to Dr Jim for the extraction of a wisdom tooth! But he was kind, and the pain will go. Jim is himself a frequent visitor to 'The Lamb' and has been our tenant on the corner for many years now. I recommend him!



Roman torturors! I've sent a copy to Dr Jim for professional development purposes

## Home away from home...

Talking of tenants, you may know we have a flat above the café. For six months one of our serving team, Mason Bradford will be living there. It'll be a bit of an experiment since until now he has been living at home! Mason works with computers which will be very handy from the parish priest's point of view, and he will of course be sharing in the regular rhythm of our prayer life as much as a demanding job and other commitments allow.

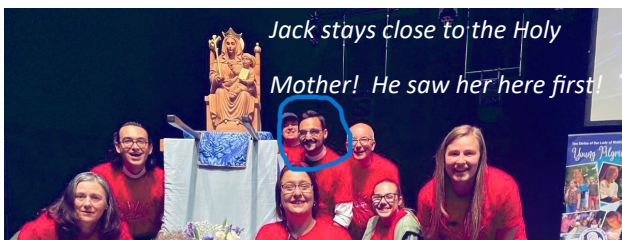


A snap taken in his Italian 'hometown' of Lucca....

Some might say he has his parents well trained. Yesterday his father was in and out carrying box loads of Mason's goods and chattels up the stairs. Mason was of course at work..

I think it will be fun to have him around, and good to have someone in the flat, which at various times has been inhabited by curates and parishioners, the most recent of course being Fr Isuru, and before that, our Fr Jack.

And talking of Fr Jack, he is currently at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** as part of the Ministry Team leading the annual youth pilgrimage. I saw what can only be kindly described as tragic video of him dancing among hundreds of



pilgrim teenagers on the first evening of what is every year, a marvellous week of catholic worship, teaching and fun. It's a great experience!

**This Sunday is the Feast of the Transfiguration** of Jesus. If you'd like to prepare, why not read the Gospel passage in advance? Mark 9 : 2 -10

The light that shone through Jesus was unlike any other. It was utterly Divine.

A cloud then overshadowed the company on the mountain, and the voice of God was heard.

## Shining with darkness...

Sunday is also a day when the world is called to remember another cloud and a light that shone with a terrible darkness. The dropping of the atom bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6th 1945 was a turning point in the fortunes of the Second World War, yes, but also in world history.

Decisions about tactics in war, and about how to bring about the end of a war are complex to say the least, but it is certainly hard to fit the killing of so many thousands of civilians, there, or in Nagasaki three days later, or anywhere else for that matter, into any 'just war' theory.

Post war reconciliation was surely a minor miracle.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and August 6th is a day to pray for world peace, and we most certainly will.

\* \* \* \*

## SUNDAY EVENING @ 6

*And finally,* this Sunday's Bible and Beer will be a time of adoration and song and silence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We will pray for Brunswick and for that world peace.

Just this week, Pope Francis said this:

**'Only in Adoration, only before the Lord, can we recover the taste and passion for evangelisation.'**

It is in silence before the Lord that we learn the right words to then say to Him, and in silence we learn to right words to say of Him. Silence is not always easy, but it can be deeper than so many words.

Protest about injustice and talk about peace and reconciliation is more authentic when it emerges not from the comfort of our armchairs, but from the discomfort of our knees. **It is in listening to Him we learn how to listen to one another**, a learning much needed in our day I reckon.

**45 minutes of Adoration followed by refreshments**



With much love,

+ *Lindsay*