

# allthesaints@allsaints

Newsletter of All Saints Anglican Church, Via del Babuino 153, Rome, February 2011 Vol 1 No 9

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PEWS



### LET THERE BE LIGHT

The feast of **Candlemas** is celebrated by many Christians on **2nd February**, 40 days after Christmas, bringing the season to a close. This ancient feast originated in the late 5th century under Pope Gelasius. It celebrates Jesus as *The Light of the World* (John 8:12). The infant Jesus was recognised by the priest Simeon and the prophet, Anna, when he was presented in the Temple according to Jewish custom and Law (Luke 2:25-40). Simeon declared; *'...My eyes have seen your salvation .. a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'*. So candles are blessed, lit and carried in procession as it is proclaimed that the **Light of God's Glory** is made manifest in Christ.

**Hogging the Limelight:** There were many pagan agricultural festivals around this date from Roman times - the 2nd of February is also **Groundhog Day** when the demeanour of an emerging groundhog predicts the end of winter! The most famous of these is at Punxsutawney, Penn, USA. NB A word of caution if you're googling - Candlemass is also the name of a Swedish Doom Metal group! (*Don't actually know what that is but it sounds ominous!* Ed)

### FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

**Rev. Bill Cave** is a former chaplain of the University of Lancaster and now doing great work in his capacity as Church of England chaplain at the Verne prison, Portland, Dorset, UK. He worships at All Saints when in town, including reading. Recently he attended an important, supportive conference in Sweden: **FORGOTTEN PEOPLE**. He writes; **IPCA - International Prison Chaplains' Association**, is a remarkable global network, open to all who exercise Christian ministry amongst those in prison. The sixth IPCA Worldwide Conference took place in Stockholm when just over 400 prison chaplains, men and women, ordained and lay from Baptist to Orthodox, from Siberia to South Africa, New Zealand to Northern Ireland, gathered to reflect on shared concerns for the 'forgotten people', in fulfilment of Christ's words; *'I was in prison and you visited me'*. (Matthew 25:36)

Speakers from universities, the United Nations, churches and prison services challenged and encouraged chaplains to continue their ministry with some of the world's most forgotten and marginal people.

Working with foreign nationals and life-sentenced prisoners I became acutely aware of how miniscule our problems in the UK really are. Some of my colleagues still work with

## COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE WOMAN? Old Catholics ordain a woman priest in the shadow of the Vatican.

All Saints recently hosted the ordination as priest of **Maria Vittoria Longhitano** from Sicily into a small Catholic order, the **OLD CATHOLICS**, who broke away from the Roman Catholic church in the 1850's in Utrecht. Not recognized by the Holy See, they are out of communion with them though they are in full communion with the Anglican church. They do not believe in papal infallibility or the Immaculate Conception and uphold the Eucharist as the core of the being of a church, 'church' being a communion of those believing in the surrender of Christ's life, who is the highest expression of the love of God.

**Sig.ra Longhitano** (35) felt a strong calling to be a priest from her Sicilian childhood. As the Vatican has no place as yet for women in its ranks, her spiritual journey led her to the Old Catholic church. Mother Maria joins Mother

Teodora, ordained in Bonn in 2006. 'I'm giving hope to sister Catholics,' she says. Being ordained in Rome is a strong signal to an entrenched Vatican amidst changing world views, where women are welcome in traditionally male roles. In Italy many non-Catholic denominations, such as the Baptists and Methodists, have women leaders.



**FORGOTTEN PEOPLE cont:** people facing torture and execution, practices rightly banned in the EU. Others face personal dangers and hardship and extreme poverty as a result of their calling. My own commitment is to visit a colleague in Rwanda with both victims' families and perpetrators of the 1994 genocide. After 15 years of prison work I have come to appreciate that the real privilege is that of being the prayerful presence in society's darkest corners. Prison chaplains, with the commitment of prayerfulness also need the prayers of others. Please remember us. Very best wishes, Rev. B. J. W. Cave.

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The Venerable Jonathan Boardman

**WHEN THE SAINTS** ... for your diary

**BIBLE STUDY** at All Saints every **Sunday** at **09.30**: *A study of the 'minor' prophets*, starting with **Hosea**.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** takes place every week during the 10.30 Sung Eucharist. All children welcome.

The **PASTORAL CARE** group meets on every other 1st Sunday of the month, beginning on 6th February.

**SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY: All Age Sung Eucharist** for **CANDLEMAS** at **10.30** followed by **PARISH LUNCH** and **YOUTH GROUP** (next meeting, Sunday 20th)

**SATURDAY 12th: 5pm, Ambrit International School Concert** also **12.30-5pm, EX-PATRIATE ASSOCIATION** (including Rome, Lazio and Marche) **ANNUAL EVENT AND LUNCH, 50/55 euro**, including lunch and guided tour, at Palazzo Brancaccio, Colle Oppio, the last Roman Patrician palace built 1880 in a beautiful park with sumptuous planting and majestic fountains. Contact Jessica Zagami on **349 3614269** or church office. All welcome.

**SUNDAY 20th and 27th FEBRUARY: 10.30 SUNG EUCHARIST.**

**SUNDAY 6th MARCH: 10.30 SUNG EUCHARIST** followed by **PARISH LUNCH** and **YOUTH GROUP.**

**WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH: 12.30** Eucharist and imposition of ashes for **Ash Wednesday** at All Saints.

#### **PARISH LUNCHES**

Parish lunches continue on the first of the month, organized by Val Spicer. 'We would like to warmly invite visitors to stay for lunch, as well as family members, even if they are unable to attend the service. Please encourage them to join us. Suggestions, enquiries and offers of help telephone Val on **06 996 3336**



#### **SHOE-BOX APPEAL FOR REFUGEES**

Rev. William McCulloch, minister of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Rome, writes: The volunteers were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who gave for the shoe-box appeal just before Christmas. We gathered enough items to make 250 excellent bags containing socks, gloves/hats, scarf./underwear/jumper plus razors, pens, note book or small game, hairbrush or comb, soap, sweets (candy), toothbrush and toothpaste. Additional donations of 950 euros meant 190 people, including some on the street, received 5 euros each - a little power in each recipient's life to spend as they liked. 78 bags over were given to the Missionaries of Charity Contemplative for their men's hostel who were preparing for the Christmas party. Everything donated went to delighted recipients.

Then the **Christmas Eve lunch** welcomed those in need and plenty of volunteers for a barbecue in the church garden. Four barbecues were lit and the rain immediately extinguished them! Re-assembling - with help from the braver, younger, fitter helpers - on the roof terrace under the awning meant the food cooked beautifully though the rain continued to fall. Afterwards lunch bags and apples were given to guests and to Caritas at Termini.

**Thank you** to all who supported this project, for putting your trust in me and helping make it all possible. W.M.

#### **SAINTS ALIVE! Rice Bowl Project**

Fr. David Greenwood, until recently at All Saints on sabbatical from the Canadian military, reports back on how the funds sent to the Rice Bowl Philippines project from All Saints and Citta'della Pieve last year were used; **Sister Bertrand**, of the St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls in Roxas City, Philippines, writes; *'The coming together of so many Christian denominations across the world extending help to us here is a clear manifestation of God's overflowing abundance of graces without boundaries. We realize how wonderful and marvellous are the works of our Lord. Never did think that there will be people like you of diverse denominations coming together to help us in the midst of our needs. Your contributions took us 'over the top' to purchase new furniture for the orphans and to have the kitchen and roof rebuilt. Cooking in our new kitchen will never be the same again! Thank you very much for being there for us ... God bless you in all your undertakings and rest assured of our special prayers.'* **Sr. Ma. Bertrand, OP**

#### **New Orphans welcomed at St. Joseph's**



#### **WITH ALL THE SAINTS** ... for your diary cont.

Next month in **Rome** the Six Nations Rugby tournament, 5th -12th March, takes on extra significance as it prepares for the 2011 World Cup in September. The 3 home matches will take place at Stadio Flaminio, vs Ireland on 5th, Wales on 26th and Grand Slam holders France on 12th March.

Further afield, **11th-14th** there's a chocolate orientated weekend in **Terni**, the home town of St. Valentine and in **Spello** on **20th** there's an Olive Oil and Bruschetta sagra - they both sound worth the trip!

#### **A meditation for Candlemas:**

*King of Glory, King of peace, I will love thee;  
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my appeal, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my my ardent zeal, thou hast spared me.*

*Wherefore, with my utmost art, I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me,  
And, alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.*

*Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise thee;  
in my heart though not in heav'n, I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:  
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.*

**(George Herbert, 1593 - 1633)**