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LENT ILLS?



Lent is traditionally regarded as an austere time in the church calendar, a period of 40 days leading up to Easter, representing the time in the desert before Jesus began his public ministry. Traditionally the believer prepares through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial for the annual commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week.

However, Lent isn't just about giving up. Instead the discipline of Lent helps us grasp afresh God's presence, promise and purpose in every part of life. It is a *celebration* of God in the midst of all we are and do, above all creating space for God to breathe afresh through all of life, a time when God helps us see things differently. May we read, self-deny, pray and be blessed!



2011 - THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

In 1611 a company of 73 scholars and academics brought King James 1 a fresh translation of the Bible which he had commissioned 7 years earlier. We know it as the **King James** or **Authorized Version (AV)**. It is inspiringly beautiful, though still a translation. It depended on the work of many previous translators, saints and scholars, both Catholic and Protestant. They worked from the best manuscripts then known but, 400 years on, new research has uncovered better versions of old scripts, newer and much improved translation techniques, giving us a much firmer understanding of the Hebrew and Greek texts.

However, the AV was the version of the Bible which spoke over the years to the hearts and minds of so many people, as well as shaping their language and culture. It informed and fed their faith and its fruit is still within us.

For Christians, the Bible is not the last word of God, unlike Muslim or Sikh people. It reveals God's Word and Work, spoken utterly in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus and opened to us in by the Holy Spirit. It is a gateway and guide into God's life in Christ and for the redemption of God's whole creation. We hear God speaking through its treasured words, stories and inspirations in our own time and place, whichever version we prefer, but let us remember and celebrate with great gratitude the wonderful AV in this year of its 400th anniversary. **Cont. over**

BLESS ME, FATHER

Father Philip blesses Father Thames

The church of **St. Magnus the Martyr at London Bridge** was built in 1234 on the site of a 2nd century church in the City of London. It was completely rebuilt by Wren after the fire of London in 1666, and again in the 18th century following the demolition of houses, shops and the widening of London



Bridge. New stained glass windows were commissioned post WW2 resulting in a spacious **Parish and Pilgrimage** church, reflecting changes necessitated over 1000 years. Standing where those crossing the old London bridge entered the City, now as then prayers and worship are made daily to God.

The 215 mile **Thames** is England's longest river, rising in the Cotswolds, flowing eastward through Oxford (as Isis) to London out to the North Sea. Always an important trade and transport route London's fame and fortune are due to this river.

An **annual service** to pray for God's blessing on the Thames was held on London Bridge the Sunday after Epiphany. The clergy and congregations of **Southwark Cathedral** and **St. Magnus the Martyr**, whose parish boundaries meet on the bridge, processed there to follow the Orthodox custom of hurling a cross into the water as a symbol of Christ's baptism after prayers for those who work on the bridge and those who died in the water. **Fr. Philip Warner**, (seen here left with **Canon Andrew Nunn** from the Cathedral) who worshipped with us at New Year, revived this custom. www.stmagnusmartyr.org.uk

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CALLING ALLTHE SAINTS @ALL SAINTS!

2011 - THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE cont.

MY FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY

To celebrate the year of the Bible could you share in the newsletter **YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY/VERSE/PASSAGE/PSALM** so we can give others a real taste of what this wonderful book has to offer? It needn't be long - 100 - 200 words - but it does need to include the Bible reference and some short paragraphs to say why you like this particular passage. Maybe it has brought you comfort at a difficult time in your life or changed the way you think or act or maybe you just enjoy the story. PLEASE email it to allthesaintsnews@hotmail.co.uk or leave your written account in the office marked **FAO newsletter Editor. NO age limit** - young and old and in between! Every entry will receive a small prize. Don't wait to be asked - thank you in advance!

WITH ALL THE SAINTS ... for your diary

Bible Study of the Psalms at the **Anglican Centre** continues every **Tuesday** at **12 noon**.

Sunday 6th March; 10.30 Morning service followed by Parish lunch, Youth Group

Wednesday 9th March: ASH WEDNESDAY, 12.45, Eucharist with imposition of Ashes at All Saints.

Sunday 13th March: 09.30, Bible study at All Saints continues looking at the prophetic books of Amos, Obadiah and Jonah. Service follows at 10.30.

Thursday 17th March: 19.00, Concert at Basilica of San Pietro in Vincoli with the **choir** of St. Peter in Chains at the Tower of London.

Sunday 20th March: Youth Group follows **10.30** Eucharist; first meeting of Confirmation Candidates.



I'M SURE HULA HOOPS ARE SMALLER NOW THAN WHEN I WAS A KID

SAINTS ALIVE!

PARISH LUNCHES

Parish lunches continue on the first Sunday after 10.30 worship, organized by Val Spicer. We warmly invite visitors and family to stay for lunch as well as worshippers - please encourage them to join us, even if they are unable to attend the service. Suggestions, enquiries and offers of help telephone Val on **069963336**



The next lunches are planned for:

Sunday 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June

Food, forgiveness, fun - a family!

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

Tuesday 20th March: CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday 3rd April: Mothering Sunday, all age Eucharist and Away Day plus parish lunch.

Sunday 17th April: **PALM SUNDAY**

Monday 18th Sunday 24th HOLY WEEK

(for events and services see web site)

ALSO lots going on in **Rome** this month: **12th March** sees the last *Six Nations Rugby* home match when Italy take on the mighty French. Gli Azzurri may be the underdogs but their muscular but mobile play should ruffle a few feathers. (www.federugby.it).

On **13th** British singer-song writer and former SAS sergeant *James Blunt* croons in Rome (www.viagogo.co.uk) If you like a good movie then the *Rome Independent Film Festival* across the city is Rome's foremost cinema event, **16th -25th** (www.riff.it). Last but not least, Sunday **20th** the *Rome Marathon*, which passes along the Via del Corso behind All Saints and the *Rome Fun Run*, with concerts and shows as well across the city, will mean some disruption to public transport and parking in the city (www.maratonadiroma.it) - something to take into consideration when planning your route to church!

- * **Thank you to Bridget Armuzzi** for the donation of an altar cloth given in memory of Nora Hawker *
- * **Bake Sale appeal** for 20th March - contact Dana English dlenglish1@gmail.com *

A reflection for Lent:

*I need thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord;
 No tender voice like thine can peace afford.
 I need thee, oh I need thee! Every hour I need thee
 O bless me now, my Saviour! I come to thee.
 I need thee ev'ry hour; stay thou near by;
 Temptations lose their pow'r when thou art nigh.
 I need thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain;
 Come quickly and abide or life is vain.
 I need thee ev'ry hour, teach me thy will
 And thy rich promises in me fulfil.
 I need thee ev'ry hour most Holy One;
 O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son!
 I need thee, oh I need thee! Every hour I need thee
 O bless me now, my Saviour! I come to thee.*

Annie Sherwood Hawks, 1835 - 1918