

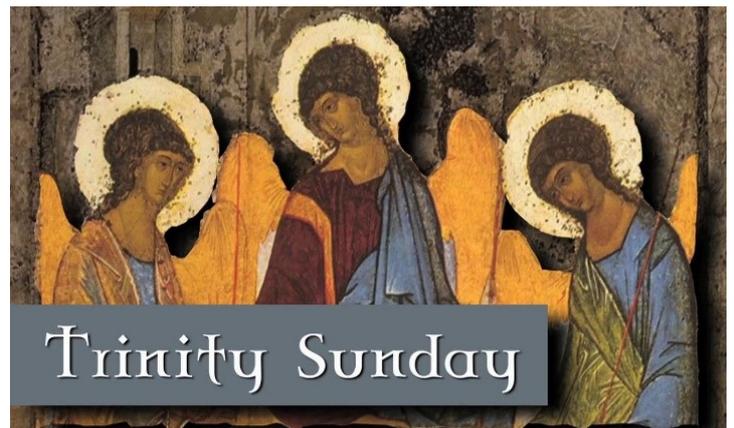
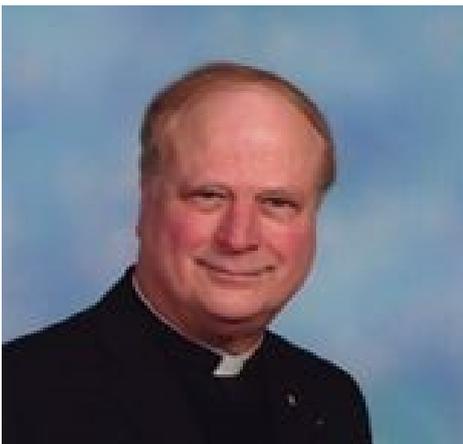
# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Letter No. 12

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Today's Homily has been provided by The Revd Dr Lawson Nagel, former Vicar of Aldwick for 25 years, also Canon of Popondota Cathedral, Papua New Guinea



**Gospel Reading for today: John 3: 16 – 18**

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters**

All three of the Mass readings for Trinity Sunday suggest that openness is crucial to an understanding of God. In the first reading (Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9) Moses' first reaction when the Lord passes in front of him in the cloud is to bow down to the ground. Yet, when he hears God announcing himself to be 'a God merciful and gracious', Moses listens carefully and has the courage to take seriously what he hears. In the presence of a God of love and faithfulness, Moses asks God to go with the Israelites – 'a stiff-necked people', he candidly admits, but 'pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance'.

God's disclosure of himself in the person of Jesus was the ultimate act of openness. God's love for us, and his longing for our love, led to Jesus being sent in humility and vulnerability to share our human life. He offers us the chance to share in the life of perfect harmony and freedom which he enjoys with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. All that God asks of us, as we hear in today's Gospel (John 3: 16-18), is that we do not shut ourselves off from the love God offers us. No one who believes in the Son of God will be condemned, but those who do not accept him deny themselves the chance of an open and intimate relationship with God.

We often refer to the Holy Trinity as a mystery, something which is hidden from us. There is much that we do not understand about the nature of God, but there is a great deal that we do know thanks to God's disclosure of himself to holy people like Moses, and above all through the person of Jesus.

Today's second reading (Cor. 13 11-12) ends with a well-known Trinitarian blessing 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' St Paul has no difficulty in appealing to the mystery of the Trinity: for that mighty mystery is not some vague, bewildering truth without relevance to daily living. On the contrary, Paul suggests that the loving union between the three Divine Persons should inspire us to live together in unity and love. We are called to reflect some of God's own mercy and grace and love and faithfulness in our dealings with each other. As Paul suggests, when we are open to the presence of God in each other, that is when we begin to share the life of the Trinity more deeply and to understand its perfection.

We who call upon the Trinity can unravel its mystery only by opening ourselves to love, for God is love. And in the Eucharist, which should be for us the summit and source of all our weekly activities, and which we eagerly wait to share once more, we do just that. The Eucharist is the sacrament, the visible and effective sign, of that love which has been revealed to us as the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.

**We thank Father Lawson for his contribution to our newsletter**



**An Open Letter from Bishop Martin to the Members of Parliament whose constituency is in the Diocese of Chichester**

The Church's celebration of the festival of Pentecost (Whitsun) this past weekend prompts me to write to you about the status of our churches.

It was a privilege to be in Chichester cathedral to record the Pentecost Eucharist, while observing all the distancing and hygiene regulations. The Bishop of London has underlined our commitment in the Church of England to complying with all the guidance and regulations concerning distancing and hygiene regulations. From her professional

nursing career she fully understands this.

She speaks for Church of England bishops in underlining our commitment to working with Government and other relevant authorities, in the expectation of opening our church buildings "in a phased way as soon as it is deemed safe and practical to do so. We [the Church of England] have already been actively planning to that end."

I hope that you would lobby for an urgent review of the continued closure of our church buildings to individuals who seek solace in such places.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has also spoken out about this, making a clear statement about the Catholic Church's planning and commitment to best practice for opening Church buildings, and about recognising the importance for every faith tradition of its place of worship.

The Cardinal also reminded us that we use our places of worship differently, and it is with this recognition in mind that we ask for churches to be opened for individual private prayer.

At a time when tensions run high, I believe that there is a deep thirst for access to churches and cathedrals as places of prayer for people of committed faith, or for anyone who is in search of space in which to find peace.

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I am fortunate to live near to Chichester cathedral. Each day I see individuals peering in through its glass doors. I know from personal experience what pressing and intimate needs find expression in the prayers that they write down and leave behind.

We urgently need places and experience that build hope, trust, and endurance. The capacity of the Christian Church to engender those virtues through prayer and stillness in its buildings should not be underestimated.

I am making this letter public, in order to indicate to those who have made comments to me on this matter that I have shared their concerns with you.

Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and for your staff, as you seek to serve your constituents and the common good at this challenging time in our national life.

+Martin Cicestr:  
1 June 2020



### **Raising funds for St George's**

Geraldine was able to find a home for the guitar and other accessories shown in last week's newsletter, and was able to add to church funds as a result. It does occur to us that, at this time when we cannot hold our usual bric-a-brac sales, summer shows etc readers may have items that we could sell, either through these pages or on e-Bay. Do let us know if you have, we can arrange collection and it will go to help shore up our rapidly dwindling financial coffers.

### **Week 10 at Forbes Place**

Living as I do at Forbes Place, we have always been a community of neighbours which has enhanced our lives without being intrusive. What the current situation has pointed out is that we are willing, and able, to support one another in these changed circumstances.

Those who are shielded have never been short of supplies as we share on-line deliveries, "I have a Waitrose order this week, is there anything you want me to put on it", "My delivery is coming from Iceland, what would you like to add to that?." "I am popping to M&S can I get you anything?" Telephone wires are hot with daily calls to check on how people are coping.

We have been provided with supplies of sanitiser, and my early morning job is to spray lift and access buttons and various handles. Our gardens have never looked so good as different people come out to weed, water and plant new things. Latterly our Quince tree, with its numerous benches, is a place to sit and have a chat with residents or visitors, and we are all thankful for the glorious weather.

So, a new normal is being established here and we are all very grateful, and as Father James Cooper said today, "People have recognised their need and dependence on one another." Let us hope this continues to bring a sense of unity. Stay safe.

**Thank you to Pat Sparkes for her contribution**

### Gentle Humour from Ken

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0900 1730 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel Agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre".

Travel Agent: "Sir, they are our opening hours.

Thank you, Ken, keep working at it!

### Parochial Church Council – Reminder

As at the beginning of April the Legal Office of the Church of England agreed to the following due to the Coronavirus situation as follows:

- The deadline for APCM's should be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- Churchwardens elected in 2019 to continue in post until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- Deanery Synod reps who were elected in 2017 to continue in post until November 2020.
- Members of the PCC who are due to retire (stand-down) in 2020 to continue in post until the APCM takes place.

Current members are as follows:

Churchwardens: Ken Green & Geraldine Burrows

Treasurer: Jane Martin

Secretary to the PCC: Jenny Harding

Safe Guarding Officer: Mary Howick

Deanery Synod reps: Fred Corbin, Sian Thomas, Mavis Dolton, Geraldine Burrows

PCC Members: Sue Bainbridge, Kim Mcnamee, Susan Howell Evans, Nikki Edge, Jill Merry, Neville Stevenson-Watt, Garry Long.



**Coronavirus - Priory Park, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, even the dear old Druid is sporting a face mask, just in case!**

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**It's as if Chichester is slowly breaking out of a chrysalis:**

Turners Pies in East Street have opened.

M&S in East Street have opened their 1<sup>st</sup> floor with male & female clothes, sorry, no coffee shop yet.

Fenwick's, Priory Park are open for take aways.

Lucke's, North Street are also open for take aways.

The Friday Market started up again on 5<sup>th</sup> June at the old cattle market carpark.

Harry's Fish & Chip shop is open as is La Fish.



### From St George's Church Family

Thank you cards are being delivered to Lyndwyke Stores in Whyke Lane and the Co-op in Bognor Road thanking them for continuing to remain open during the pandemic shut-down, going that extra mile in providing a service, ensuring members of the parish have been able to make and receive their vital purchases .

If you know of another local service that deserves a thank you card, please do let either Ken or Geraldine know and we will ensure our appreciation is passed on to them.

### Something to help fill the page!

A little boy had been working hard on his drawing at Sunday School but the teacher was not at all sure that it illustrated the story she had just told. The drawing showed an aeroplane in flight, with four passengers. "This doesn't look at all like a bible story to me," said the teacher.

"Yes, it is!" exclaimed the boy. "It's the flight to Egypt!". On being asked who the figures were, he explained that they were Jesus, with Mary and Joseph, escaping from the wrath of Herod.

"But who is the fourth figure?" asked the teacher. "Don't you know?" the little boy said, surprised. "That's Pontius – the Pilot!".

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Some years ago a man set out for a country walk and lost his way. On a lonely track he came upon a cottage and decided to ask for directions. With quiet courtesy an elderly woman invited him in for a cup of tea and home-baked scone.

He was taken aback to see how simply she lived and how barely her room was furnished. "You seem so content, yet you have so little," he said. Where is all your furniture?"

"Where is yours?" she replied with a smile. "Mine?" he said in surprise "Why, I am only passing through" he replied. The old woman smiled again. "So am I," she quietly replied.

### A Prayer

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, as an infant you were made an exile,  
You fled to Egypt with your Blessed Mother and Holy Joseph.  
With your family you knew vulnerability in a foreign land,  
Seeking shelter and sustenance.  
Be with me and all I love in these times of doubt, loss and fear.  
Give us understanding of others who must cross borders  
Flee for safety and plead for support.  
Give to us a heart of compassion, the grace of humane response,  
And respect for the dignity of all.

Amen

Thank you to Pamela Langley for this beautiful prayer