

THIS WEEK

Sunday 26 February - Sunday Next Before Lent

- 8.00am **HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 82
President: The Canon Theologian
- 8.30am Breakfast with the Bible, led by Paul Beasley-Murray
- 9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
President: The Canon Theologian
Preacher: The Vice Dean
- 11.15am **CHORAL EUCHARIST**
President: The Canon Precentor
Preacher: The Canon Theologian
- 3.30pm **EVENSONG**
Address: The Dean
- 5.00pm Launch & Reception for *Songs for the Soul*

The Dean is preaching at Christ Church, Thorpe Bay this morning and at St Mary's, Maldon this evening.

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 5 March - First Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am **HOLY COMMUNION**, page no 86
President: Revd Kate Moore
- 9.30 am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
President: The Vice Dean
Preacher: The Canon Precentor
- 11.15 am **CHORAL EUCHARIST**
President: The Canon Precentor
Preacher: The Vice Dean
- 3.30 pm **EVENSONG with Essex County Council Thanksgiving**
Address: Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

Daily Prayer through the Week (Mon to Sat):

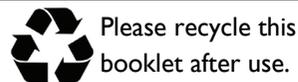
Morning Prayer: 7.45 am

Holy Communion: 8.15 am (also Wed at 12.35 pm & Thurs at 10.00 am)

Midday Prayer in St Cedd's Chapel

Evensong/Evening Prayer: 5.15 pm (sung on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri,
said on Wednesday & Saturday)

On certain Saturdays Evensong is sung by a choir
– please check the Music & Services list for dates



Printed by Diocesan Print Unit
printunit@chelmsford.anglican.org
chelmsford.anglican.org/printunit

CATHEDRAL LIFE WEEKLY

Sunday next before Lent, 26 February 2017

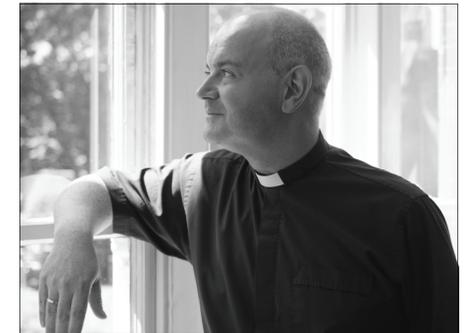


Lent Groups to meet on Wednesday daytime and evening

There are two different Lent Groups meeting in 2017, to which everyone is welcome.

On Wednesdays between 11.00am and 12.15pm there is a series of five meetings in the Johnson Room of the Chapter House, led by Canon Edward Carter. These will be using a new USPG course called **Living an Authentic Life**. This aims to explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ, and uses the experiences of Christians from around the world.

On Wednesday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.00pm there will be a series called **Faith & Poetry**. Five different speakers will reflect on a favourite poem. The series begins



Canon Mark Oakley, who is speaking about Faith & Poetry on 8th March

with Canon Mark Oakley from St Paul's Cathedral, talking about George Herbert's poem 'Love III'. The final speaker is Bishop Stephen of Chelmsford, speaking about a poem by Les Murray.

The full list of dates is 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March, and 5th April. More information can be found on the Cathedral website.

Contact us at:

Cathedral Office, New Street, Chelmsford CM1 1TY
01245 294492 (Emergency out of hours contact: 07518 124858)
and visit our website: chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk
Facebook: /chelmsfordcathedral Twitter: @CCathedral
Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Marshall 07717 043202



Diocese of Chelmsford

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel

Matthew 17: 1-9

Introduction & Context

Jesus and the inner circle of disciples ascend a mountain. Jesus is “transfigured” (v. 2). An aura of unnatural brightness is linked with mystical appearances in Exodus and Acts; “dazzling white” is a symbol of transcendence. In Jewish tradition, both “Moses and Elijah” (v. 3) were taken into heaven without dying; here Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets. Both are associated with Mount Sinai. Peter recognizes Jesus as “Lord” (v. 4). In his suggestion of making “dwellings” he thinks of Sinai, for dwellings (booths) were erected on the Feast of Tabernacles, commemorating the events there, and a time when the city was brightly lit. On Sinai too a “bright cloud” (v. 5) symbolized God’s presence. The words spoken by the voice recall Jesus’ baptism and add “listen to him”: Jesus is not only God’s Son and his Chosen, but also the prophet God promised to Moses.

Once you are settled and are ready to go:

- Read the passage slowly and reflectively
- Note anything that particularly strikes you and refer to the notes if they are helpful
- Spend a few moments in quiet reflection
- If you are a group, share your reflections in pairs or as a whole group (remembering that each person will have different perspectives and views on the passage)
- Read the passage for a final time and give thanks to God for the gift of his holy word.

Next Sunday’s Readings - 1st Sunday of Lent 05.03.17

9.30 am & 11.15 am:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

3.30 pm:

Psalm 25
Genesis 9: 8-17
1 Peter 3: 18-22

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 26 February

12.30pm

Shrove Lunch (Chapter House)

5.00pm

Book Launch ‘Songs for the Soul’ with Ivor Moody

Monday 27 February

6.00 - 8.00pm

Fundraising Curry Night for Youth trip to Sweden

Wednesday 1 March

ASH WEDNESDAY

9.30am

Parent and Toddler Group (Chapter House)

12.35pm

Eucharist with the imposition of ashes

1.00 - 3.00pm

Welcome on Wednesday: coffee and cake in the North Transept

6.00 - 8.00pm

Older Youth Group 14+ (Learning Centre)

7.45pm

Choral Eucharist with the imposition of ashes

Thursday 2 March

10.00am

Eucharist

10.45am

Faith and Fitness (North Transept)

8.00pm

Mothers’ Union (Chapter House)

Friday 3 March

10am

Women’s World Day of Prayer Service (at Our Lady Immaculate)

12.30pm

Lunchtime Concert - Ben Bloor (organ)

7.00pm

Compline

Saturday 4 March

8.15am

Holy Communion with laying on of hands

10.00am

Coffee in the Cathedral

12.30pm

Come and Sing Workshop, ending with:

6.00pm

Dave Pickthall Big Band & Cathedral choirs

Concert featuring the music of Duke Ellington

Saturday 18 March 7.30pm

Caprice Concert with music from *Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, the Beach Boys and more. Tickets costing £10 are available tel: 01245 465718.

Sunday 19 March 1pm

Meeting Point Lunch at St Anne’s Castle, Great Leighs. If you would like to meet others for Sunday lunch, please book with Maureen tel: 01245 697781 or 07778 932730.

NOTICES & DATES FOR THE DIARY

A very warm welcome to Chelmsford Cathedral especially if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Everything you need for the celebration is contained in the service booklet. Please ask one of the welcome stewards on duty at the doors if you have any questions.

Junior Church meets today, starting at 9.30am in Chapter House. This week's theme is 'The Transfiguration of Jesus'. Children are invited to bring dressing-up clothes for their favourite story or movie character.

Yellow Envelopes If you are a UK tax payer, please use a yellow Gift Aid envelope (available at the doors) to increase the value of your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Remember to fill in your name, house number and postcode and the date.

The Electoral Roll will be revised this year between 6 March and 3 April 2017. If you are over 16 and not on the Roll, please complete a form (available near the South door of the Cathedral) and either return it to me at 80 Kelvedon Close, Chelmsford, CMI 4DG or leave it with the Vergers. Existing members do not need to re-apply. Those on the Roll are entitled to take part in the

elections at the Cathedral AGM to be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 29 April 2017 at 9.30am. Any queries please contact me on 01245 268596 after 4.30pm. Many thanks, Jackie Dryhurst.

Monday 6 March 7.45pm
Volunteers' Steering Group meets in the Johnson Room. All Group leaders (or a representative from each group) are invited. It would be good if **every group of volunteers in the Cathedral** - whatever their activity - is represented. Alternatively, please advise me of any issues that you would like us to discuss.

Andrew Duke (Volunteer Co-ordinator) tel: 01245 697970

Thursday 9 March 2.00pm
Mothers' Union meeting in the Chapter House. Heike Prentice reflects on Lent.

Friday 10 March 7 for 7.30pm
Choirs' Association Quiz in the Cathedral - always a fun evening! Tickets £10, including a ploughman's supper are available from Philippa Penkett tel: 07713 150507.

Saturday 18 March 10am
Junior Church Family Morning takes place in the Cathedral where there will be free, fun activities for all the family.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

<i>Sunday:</i>	Matthew 17: 1-9	<i>Thursday:</i>	Luke 14: 7-11
<i>Monday:</i>	Matthew 11: 25-30	<i>Friday:</i>	Matthew 9: 14-15
<i>Tuesday:</i>	Mark 10: 28-31	<i>Saturday:</i>	Luke 5: 27-32
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	<i>Sunday:</i>	Matthew 4: 1-11

You can find a simple 10 minute reflection at: pray-as-you-go.org

Thought for the day

Listen to Jesus and follow him. That's the message of the Transfiguration. - *Pope Francis*.

Please pray for:

- Sue Cockett, Rosemary Duffin, Julie Liney; all those receiving home communion and all in need of our prayers
- People who experience poverty and those who make decisions that affect the lives of our poorest communities
- The Diocese of Malek (Upper Nile, Sudan)
- St Andrew's Church, Sandon

A reflection on Christian Unity

JUST OVER two years ago Caroline and I began to worship at Chelmsford Cathedral. To my amazement, today we feel very much at home in this Cathedral church.

I guess that other friends of ours are amazed too. After all, both of us come from good Baptist stock. Caroline's grandfather was the Principal of the South Wales Baptist College, and my father was Principal of Spurgeon's College. Both of us were baptised as believers when we were in our early teens. We met in the Robert Hall Society, the former Cambridge University Baptist Society. We were married in a Baptist church. I was ordained into the Baptist ministry. We served for two years with the Baptist Missionary Society. Later I pastored two Baptist churches and was also Principal of Spurgeon's College. What's more, I wrote the Baptist best-seller, *Radical Believers: the Baptist way of being the church*, which went through two editions and was also translated into Czech, German, and Norwegian.

So what happened to cause us to worship in an Anglican cathedral? The simple answer is that it was circumstances, and not convictions, which brought about

this change. Initially I had thought that after a break of six months or so we might have been able to return to worshipping in my church. But this proved not to be possible. So I began to look around. We felt we couldn't move to one of the other our city's Baptist churches – they were too small for us to be ordinary worshippers; indeed I feared that that I would then have to put my shoulder to the wheel and hand out hymnbooks! For various reasons none of the other Free Churches in the locality seemed to be right. In the end, we opted for the Cathedral, which is less than a mile away from where we live. The congregation at the 9.30am Parish Eucharist is relatively large and therefore is undemanding in terms of how we might continue to serve God. However, what sealed our decision was the welcome we received – both from the clergy as also from many others in the Cathedral community.

Yes, I confess that I have found it challenging adjusting to a new way of doing church. The style of Sunday worship is very different from what I have known – there is no worship band at the Cathedral, the sermons are short, and the Eucharist is central. However, I enjoy singing traditional hymns and songs again – always accompanied by first-rate organists. I have developed an

appreciation for the Anglican liturgy – and have been surprised at the variety present within the common liturgical framework. Although from my perspective the sermons could sometimes be better constructed, I have enjoyed the thoughtful presentations and have almost always come away feeling I have been 'fed' from God's Word. I have come to love the weekly opportunity to 'feed' on Christ within the context of the Eucharist, although I still find it strange to have so little time to meditate at the altar as I receive the bread and wine.

There have, of course, been some theological challenges. On the whole I have no difficulty with the language of the Anglican baptismal liturgy however, without wanting to be rude to Anglican friends I do find the baptism of infants a 'nonsense'. Thankfully most infant baptismal services in the Cathedral take place in the afternoon!

The Cathedral does not have an Evangelical tradition – but odd as it may seem to some of my fellow Evangelicals, this does not cause me difficulty. Rather I find it an enriching and stretching experience to listen to clergy seeking to expound Scripture with different perspectives from those of my own. In contrast to the practice of most Baptist churches, the reading of Scripture takes a major place within the service. Furthermore, in 'Breakfast with the Bible' sessions prior to the Parish Eucharist, there is often more depth and erudition than there is in many a so-called Evangelical church. Theological labels can be unnecessarily divisive. Inevitably a Cathedral is a very diverse community; however, I thank God for the very real sense of Christian fellowship which I experience Sunday by Sunday. As a result every Sunday I wholeheartedly affirm the words of the Nicene Creed, "We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church".

Paul Beasley-Murray

The services last Sunday were sung by the Choir of St Edward the Confessor, Romford

