

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES

Our Ladye Star of the Sea (Crooms Hill)

And St Joseph (Pelton Road)

West & East Greenwich

PRIEST in Charge Fr. Kevin Robinson BD MA AKC

www.greenwichcatholic.org Tel: 020 8858 0662

Email: kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk



15th Ordinary Sunday

Sunday 12th July 2020

Orange Book Page 102

In 1845, “*Catholic Emancipation*” was causing **riots** across the U.K, and the potato famine was raging in Ireland. Against that background, the determination of Fr Richard North to construct the Star of the Sea was extraordinary. His wily ability to raise funds and his maverick daring, entrusting those same funds to a 24-year-old self-styled “*Architect*”, is the stuff of legend. The prologue to that, is the story of how, from childhood, having nearly drowned with their mother in the Thames, he and his brother were pledged to become priests. It is all on the tomb. His “*Last Will & Testament*” of 1858 remains safely in the house. However, while we know a lot about his life we know nothing about his death. He was ill in the latter part of 1859 and died in Feb 1860 at the age of 58. Something that is very pertinent is that he died in the wake of an epidemic that was far worse than anything we are facing. 1858 was the year of the “*Great Stink*”. Human excrement had accumulated several feet high on the grassy banks of the Thames. (No stone embankments at that time). Parliament was forced to shut. The long hot summer reduced the flow of the river to an open sewer. Then came the worst ever outbreak of Cholera. Fr North would have been ministering not only to the Catholic Seamen in the Hospital nearby, but he would have been caring for all kinds of industrial workers dwelling along the riverside between Rotherhithe and Woolwich. It is very likely that he contracted the disease himself. Only way to find out would be to open his tomb and run a pathology test. Never mind **Wuhan**, only God knows what lies beneath our feet!? Following his death, his brother Joseph, was appointed in his place. At the same

moment a young assistant arrived aged just 27. His name was Michael O’Halloran. He served as an assistant for 25 years before becoming the “**Rector**” (an unusual title in an English Catholic Parish). ***Michael O’Halloran served his entire ministry here for 61 years.*** He has left his mark all over this building. The “**Sacred Heart Chapel**”, was erected in the mid 1890’s using an unexecuted plan of 1850 originally intended as a burial chapel for the Knill family*. It serves as O’Halloran’s memorial. He supervised the **Golden Jubilee** restoration of OLSS in 1901. One of the saddest things is that though photography had become a national obsession, there are no surviving images of the North brothers or even O’Halloran. Or perhaps not! Raking through old papers in the presbytery I have found a very solemn image entitled “**Corpus Christi 1920**”. It is set within the Ursuline grounds and features a gathering of 82 serious *Suffragette Styled* Edwardian ladies & gentlemen and just one child. At the centre is an elderly priest. It must surely be O’Halloran (detail above left). After 58 years, at the age of 85, he was finally made “**Parish Priest**”. (Perhaps that’s how long I will need to wait). He looks like a kindly soul. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of his death. We ought to commemorate him. If anybody has old wedding pictures relating to parents & grandparents featuring past clergy in Greenwich, I would like to see them. Lying about in the presbytery is this 100-year-old tin box marked with his name. Was it for his packed lunch or to keep his socks?



God Bless Fr Kevin

* (A prestigious family mausoleum at Brockley Cemetery -destroyed in WW2- was constructed instead after Sir Stuart became the 1st RC Lord Mayor of London).

Entrance Antiphon

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Collect

O God, who show the light
of your truth to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians the grace
to reject whatever is contrary
to the name of Christ and to strive
after all that does it honour...

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow
come down from the heavens and do not return
without watering the earth, making it yield and
giving growth to provide seed for the sower and
bread for the eating, so the word that goes from
my mouth does not return to me empty, without
carrying out my will and succeeding in what it
was sent to do.'

Psalm

64:10-14

*Some seed fell into rich soil
and produced its crop.*

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R)

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth. (R)

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R)

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R)

Second reading

Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never
be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed,
which is waiting for us. The whole creation is
eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It
was not for any fault on the part of creation that
it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was
made so by God; but creation still retains the

hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to
decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory
as the children of God. From the beginning till
now the entire creation, as we know, has been
groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not
only creation, but all of us who possess the first-
fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we
wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but
such large crowds gathered round him that he
got into a boat and sat there. The people all
stood on the beach, and he told them many
things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower
going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell
on the edge of the path, and the birds came and
ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock
where they found little soil and sprang up
straight away, because there was no depth of
earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were
scorched and, not having any roots, they
withered away. Others fell among thorns, and
the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell
on rich soil and produced their crop, some a
hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Prayer Over the Offerings

Look upon the offerings of the Church,
O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that,
when consumed by those who believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 83: 4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow
a nest for her young: by your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Prayer After Communion

Having consumed these gifts, we pray,
O Lord, that, by our participation
in this mystery, its saving effects
upon us may grow...

Dear Friends,

I celebrated a congregational Mass with about 20 people from both churches attending by invitation at St Joseph's at noon last Thursday. Our purpose was to engage those volunteers who had indicated that they would be willing to act as stewards and cleaners and to establish safe mechanisms for regular public worship. For these reasons, we had not announced this Mass publicly and I was grateful to all those who came. We resolved several things about seating and communion and congregational supervision. I shall be away from Greenwich throughout the coming week to care for my father where I shall continue to offer a daily Mass privately for all your intentions. For these reasons, and now that the scaffolding has been removed from OLSS, we shall begin to resume weekday services in the week beginning Monday 20th with a view to starting Sunday Masses on the weekend 26 & 27th July. In the first instance I shall say a Saturday evening Mass at OLSS at 6.00pm, Sunday 10.00am at St Joseph's and for the time being NB 12.00noon at OLSS. I shall need FOUR designated Steward/Cleaners at each Mass. We have measured the churches for safe distance seating and anticipate that we can accommodate a maximum of 40 people in either of the churches. If you are willing to act in this capacity please email me at kevinrobinson@rcaos.org.uk so that we can establish a reliable rota. We are required to keep records of all those attending for "track & trace" purposes and you will be required to provide your name address and contact details. Those who have underlying health issues or who may for any reason be subject to infection because of reduced immunity problems should continue to avoid social gatherings in public places. Public toilets are required to remain closed. Sanitisation and cleaning equipment is available including masks for stewards but in general it is better if everybody brings their own mask *and a pen!* Congregational singing remains prohibited although organ music and ONE Cantor/Singer is permitted. We shall continue to broadcast "Livestreamed" Masses at the weekend.

God Bless Fr Kevin



Zofia (Sophie) Kasprowicz RiP

Many people, especially at OLSS will be sad to hear of the passing of Zofia last Tuesday morning. She has discreetly struggled with Cancer treatment for many years. Ever supported by her devoted husband Joseph she had undertaken all her difficulties with tremendous dignity. Always cheerful and good natured she was very faithful at OLSS for more than 30 years and best known as part of the 9.00am congregation. Her funeral will be in OLSS church on Thursday 23rd at 12.30 followed by Burial at Eltham. Our thoughts remain with Joseph and son John, also daughter Victoria & Grandchildren who remain locked where they live in South Africa at this sad time.

Eucharist

*On fields festooned with rippling wheat
Fertilised by the sun's ardent kiss*

*On vines engorged in the summer heat
God easily found in this rural bliss*

*In the pummelling of squelching dough
By a weary, aging hand*

*In the rhythmic pounding of grapes under toe
We witness a show so grand
(so splendid)*

*That in the midst of our suffering
Through darkness desolation and pain
In our inadequate offerings
God is with us
Once again.*

Eleanor Kirby

I am very encouraged by the number of people who value the livestreamed Sunday Masses at 6.00pm on Saturday and 10.00am on Sunday but I always forget to say the prayer to make a "**Spiritual Communion**" which is as follows;

*Oh Jesus, I turn towards the Church
where You dwell for love of me
hidden and silent in the Tabernacle.*

*I love you, O my God. I cannot
receive you in Holy Communion at this
time. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with
Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart.
Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like Your
own most Sacred Heart. Amen.*

While the Church remains closed Saturday & Sunday Masses are livestreamed to Facebook search “ Our Ladye Star of the Sea ” also visible on YouTube later in the week.

15th Ordinary Sunday Mass will be offered Privately Each Day for the following intentions

Saturday 11 th	OLSS	6.00pm	Int: Sr Dolores Caine OSU		
Sunday 12 th	St J's	10.00am	Int: “Mary”	(Mother of Chithra RiP)	<u>(15th Ord Sunday)</u>
Monday 13 th	OLSS	Int: Zopie RiP		(Joseph & Family)	
Tuesday 14 th	St Js'	Int:			
Wed 15 th	OLSS	Int:			
Thurs 16 th	St J's	Int: Margaret Lawless		(Rip)	
Friday 17 th	OLSS	Int:			
Saturday 18 th	OLSS	6.00pm	Int: Peter Dayer	(RiP 20 th July)	
Sunday 19 th	St J's	10.00am	Int: Well Being of the People		<u>(16th Ord Sunday)</u>



To the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Southwark Friday 10 July 2020

‘Thus says the Lord; the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty.’ (Is 55: 11)

Dear brothers in Christ

I hope this week's lockdown email finds you well. I will hopefully send out an ad clerum next week and conclude these weekly emails to the clergy at the end of July. For a time I was a prison chaplain in Leeds. One of men in the prison gave me poem he'd written himself on a scrap of paper. It read like this:

This is a prayer for the broken; A hymn to the rhythm of seeing;

A cry from a fractured hosanna, To the vastness and mercy of being.

Those words speak to me of a hope rising out of misery, of a desire for God coming from the rock-bottom of pain and regret. When I'm on my own, God is with me. When no one else listens to me, God hears me. When life - past, present, and future - all just seems too much, we cry out in prayer. One particular phrase from that poem fascinates me. It's the line: 'A cry from a fractured hosanna.' The word 'hosanna' has a Hebrew root. It means something like, 'save now, we pray.' The poem suggests that people's life experiences - what's happened to them, what others have done to them, and what they've done to others – somehow, these experiences stop people crying out to God with a fully functioning 'hosanna.' To put it another way, in the words of Leonard Cohen, some people have a 'broken hallelujah.' Words of hope are like seeds scattered by a farmer. Sometimes they fall on the edge of the path. They get eaten by the birds, they are taken away from us. Sometimes seeds of hope fall on rocky ground where there's no soil. When life gets difficult the words just die away, scorched by the sun. Sometimes thorns grow up and choke the seeds of hope. Our worries and obsessions thwart the words of hope growing within us. When experience steals our hope, when our hosanna is fractured and our hallelujah broken, precisely then we need to open our hearts to the Lord Jesus' word of life. Into the soil of our heart He wants to plant the seed of His love, the seed of His mercy, and the seed of His hope. He wants His life to grow within us. Fractured or broken, in whatever sense, our hosanna and our hallelujah become prayers. We cry out, 'hosanna,' 'Save now, we pray,' fill us with your compassionate love. 'Hallelujah,' we say, we praise you for your faithfulness and mercy. By faith we proclaim to the world, to ourselves, and to each other, that we have a hope in the Lord Jesus. He is the mender of splintered lives. He is divine mercy in person. He is the human face of God's compassion. We live by the certitude of hope that flows from the words the Lord Jesus has planted in our hearts: ***‘Do not be afraid’ – ‘I am with you always.’***

Yours devotedly in Christ + John

Most Rev John Wilson Abp of Southwark

Ursuline Conv: 66 Crooms Hill SE10 8HG Tel: 020 8858 0779

Dominican Conv: 38 Hyde Vale SE10 8QH Tel: 020 8692 3382

St Joseph's House: Email: fsm Sisters at stjoseph@gmail.com

Franciscan Srs 103 Pelton Road SE10 9AN Tel: 020 8858 1845

St Joseph's RC primary school va, Tel: 020 8858 4182

Commerell Street SE10 9AN Headteacher:

St Ursula's Girls Convent School Tel: 020 8858 4613

Crooms Hill, SE10 8HN Headteacher: Catrina Hamilton

