

## ST. MARY OF NAZARETH /ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – WEST WICKHAM

12<sup>th</sup> June 2022: Trinity Sunday

### Hazel writes:

Having returned from pilgrimage directly into the Jubilee weekend, I've still to reflect on the power of the Passion Play in Oberammergau, but I hope to have opportunities to do so over the next weeks and will organise a meeting to give feedback after the summer. In the meantime, there is another Passion Play happening at Gatton Park near Reigate. I will be going to the performance on Friday 15 July (but there are other dates). Here's a link to the website for details:

<https://www.gattontheatre.org.uk/current-production/>.

**Today**, we have a Holy Communion service at 8am in St Francis' Church and non-Eucharistic services for Trinity Sunday at 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis'.

**Hymns at 9.15 a.m. in St. Mary's** – This is the day – There's a Spirit in the air – Holy, Holy, Holy – Spirit of the living God – Lord Jesus Christ

**Hymns at 10.45 a.m. in St. Francis'** – This is the day - Spirit of God unseen as the wind – Holy, Holy, Holy – Spirit of the living God – Lord Jesus Christ

Next **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**, we will have Holy Communion services at 8am and 9.15am in St Mary's Church and at 10.45am in St Francis' Church.

**Morning Prayer** is held each week in St Francis' Church on Wednesday morning at 9.30am, followed by the church being **open for private prayer** from 10.30-11.30am. It is also held at St Mary's Church on Thursday morning at 9am.

Our first weekend for the Festival of Arts is in July. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June we have a Zoom meeting at 7.30pm to give some **information about MIND** - one of the mental health charities that we will be supporting. Mental health is currently very topical, so it will be interesting to hear about their work. A flyer with the Zoom details has been circulated separately.

Our next **lunchtime recital** at St. Francis' is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Ayako Yamazaki (violin), Yohei Nakajima (viola) and Martin Sharpe (piano) will bring us a programme of varied light classical music. All three have played for us before and are back by popular request. Do come along on Thursday and bring a friend! The concert starts at 12.45pm.

**Resources and updates for the week ahead** – This week our service will be livestreamed on YouTube from St Mary's at 9.15am. All other files for this week have been combined and posted as a pew sheet which has been sent on paper to those who have told us that they are not on-line. In future weeks, there will always be a service livestreamed on YouTube from St Mary's (except where there is a joint service in St Francis') and, in some cases, there will also be a livestream from St Francis' Church.

Thank you to all who gave donations of cakes and money to the Jubilee and Pentecost service on Sunday 5 June and to those who helped on the day and made it a successful afternoon.

Please bring **Foodbank donations** to the Vicarage or St Francis' Church. Currently they require cooking sauces, tinned cold meat, squash, coffee, surface spray cleaner, toothpaste and washing up liquid. They are well stocked with pasta, cereal, tea and biscuits. Please do not bring any fresh or frozen food, or baby milk as the foodbank cannot pass this on. You can also donate financially here <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money>. Thank you for your continuing support.

In preparation for the Festival of Arts we will be having a **film night** to illustrate how important our emotions are in good mental health. This will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.15pm in the Bernard Dent Room at St Francis' Church – a flyer with more details has been separately circulated.

**St Mary's Garden Party** is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 11am-3pm. There will be a bouncy castle, plant stall, homemade cakes, light refreshments and a BBQ between 12 and 2pm.

**Julie Bailey's funeral service** will be on Wednesday 29th June, beginning at 11am in St Francis' Church, followed by a burial at Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery and a reception from 1pm at The New Inn, Hayes. Anyone attending should wear bright colours please. Donations can be made to St. Christopher's Hospice, through a 'Snowdrop Fund' where you can also leave messages, pictures, music. Here's a link: <https://maureenjuliebailey.muchloved.com>.

If anyone would like a pedestal at either church in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special anniversary etc., please contact Merri Womack (8777 8772) for St Mary's (or there is a list to sign in the vestibule at St. Mary's) or Nicky Nightingale ([nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicholanightingale@hotmail.co.uk) or 8916 9855) for St Francis'.

The pedestal display at St Francis for the Sunday 12 June service has been requested by Margaret Thorne and prepared by Christine Morton.

Any items for the joint pew sheet to Beryl [berylbolton@hotmail.com](mailto:berylbolton@hotmail.com) and items for the websites to [brian.griff19@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.griff19@btinternet.com) or Gifty [office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarywestwickham.co.uk).

**Collect**

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**First Reading:**

**Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

<sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

<sup>4</sup> 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no

depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—

<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.

<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he

assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he

marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup> then I was beside him,

like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him

always, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**Second Reading:**

**John 16: 12-15**

<sup>12</sup> 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever.

## REFLECTION – Hazel O’Sullivan

I wonder if you have a memory of a great day out somewhere.

Maybe a time on holiday somewhere with family. Maybe a special occasion where lots of friends got together. Maybe a trip to the beach or some beautiful gardens.

I remember one afternoon on holiday in Ireland – before children – when John and I were driving along a country road beside a lake. And the track playing on our CD player in the car was “Have I told you lately that I love you” by Van Morrison. I suspect that we did some walking on that day and had something good to eat in the evening, but I don’t remember any of the detail, except that driving by the lake and the music playing at the time. Although I have a very clear image in my mind of what it was like, it’s really difficult to describe it to you now, so that you could have that same experience. It’s a bit like the Seamus Heaney poem – *Postscript*:

And some time make the time to drive out west  
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,  
In September or October, when the wind  
And the light are working off each other  
So that the ocean on one side is wild  
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones  
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit  
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans,  
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,  
Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads  
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.  
Useless to think you’ll park and capture it  
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor there,  
A hurry through which known and strange things pass  
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways  
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

As it says in the poem, it’s impossible to capture that moment to revisit it again in the same way – even with photos, a video and music to help. You need to have been there to appreciate it fully and be moved by it.

The poem talks about coastal breezes buffeting a car and threatening to catch the heart off guard, and so I think our hearts must be willing to be surprised by our experiences, ever open to receiving and learning from them, so that growth can

happen. This is the only way in which wisdom can be formed. That learning and growth might be sparked by a photo. It might involve telling others about the experience gained. It will definitely require some reflection on the experience and, if that can be done prayerfully, God might speak to you through the Spirit. Because if you're not able to have space for that reflection, the experience will be lost forever from the memory and no learning and growth takes place.

But, of course, this being open to the moment and learning from our experiences will also involve change, which might be a bit scary.

I wonder if you recognise either of these people? Although they are pictured here as babies, they are both women who you would all immediately recognise if you were to meet them today.



We know that we all change over time. Without such change, these babies would never have grown into the women you know today. This growth sometimes has to include changing our mind about something, maybe through seeing it in a new light. This is true wisdom.

For example, I wonder what you wanted to be when you were a child. I wanted to be an aeroplane pilot. No matter that I'd never flown at the time, this was something that I wanted to do. Since that time, my understanding of what's involved in such a job has changed, as well as the actual job changing through technological developments and the wider use of flight as a means of transport. My own likes and dislikes have also changed through the experiences that I have had. I do enjoy travelling abroad, but there are many reasons why I am very glad that I never ended up pursuing this career choice.

And this process of changing of our mind might include something about God. Although he never changes, our understanding of him will and the world around us also changes, so that we gain different experiences of him. The way that I see God today is different to how I saw God when I was younger.

In the reading from John, Jesus is telling the disciples that, now that he will no longer be physically with them, their hearts (which are already touched by his example and teaching) must be open to the Spirit of truth, as this is how they will continue to be guided by God and to find his glory. This speaking of the Spirit can come in many ways – through the Bible, through other written or spoken words, or through things that we see. It's through all of our experiences that God speaks. The disciples must be willing to be surprised, comforted and challenged by what they receive in each new moment from their living Lord. Can we also do that today – be open to the Spirit?

Spend some time now reflecting on the following aspects of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit):

- How has your understanding of God changed since you were a small child?
- How has the world around you changed?
- How has your relationship with God changed over this time?
- How has this impacted your relationship with others?

We often find it hard to admit that our perception of God has changed, because this involves realising that we may have been mistaken before. But just as our lives are only revealed slowly over time, so our relationship with God is only revealed slowly through the work of the Spirit of truth. Obviously, this means that over time our relationship with God and with each other will change.

Just as we can only recall those great experiences from our past if we've reflected on them, so our relationship with God will only be developed and our faith deepened, if we are open to receive and learn from our experiences, so that some growth can happen and wisdom develop. This is the work of the Spirit - a critical part of the God in whom we believe.

Amen

And who are those two women who were pictured earlier as babies? So as to not spoil the surprise for those who will be at the services on Sunday, I'll reveal this then and in the pew sheet next week.

### **Prayer Pointers**

Pray that our faith and our relationship with God may be deepened and matured by listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May we be surprised, comforted and challenged by each encounter with the Spirit.

Pray for our two congregations of St Mary's and St Francis. Pray that we may rejoice in what we have in common and not what makes us different. Pray that we may be open to change and new possibilities for us in worship, social interaction and working in our community.

Pray for all politicians that they may have a sense of purpose, duty and see once again the ways they can impact their communities for the good. As a church, help us to model a community where different people, with very different backgrounds and politics can come together and show love and appreciation for each other.

Pray for the Ukrainian people who are being welcomed by families in the UK. May the people arriving find places of safety where they can rebuild their lives. Help these new households to grow together and learn from one another.

Hold before God all those we know who are sick, especially those suffering from cancer and undergoing treatment. In our congregations we pray for those struggling with ill health – especially Vicky Pearce, Mike East and Pat Allegacone – and those known to God alone.

Pray for all who have died recently, especially Julie Bailey and for her daughters Pippa and Zazine and her wider family and friends. Thank God for the example of her life – for her laughter and joy even when faced with illness.

Offer our own personal prayers and thanksgivings. We entrust to God all those things that worry us; those situations we feel helpless in; those decisions that burden us; those losses that overwhelm us, and all that we are thankful for.