

Poetry and Prose

26 January
Australia Day

Assurance

A priest was preparing a dying old Aussie drover for his last long journey into the night.

Whispering firmly the priest said, "Denounce the devil! Let him know how little you think of his evil."

The dying old drover said nothing.

The priest repeated his order. Still the dying old drover said nothing.

The priest asked, "Why do you refuse to denounce the devil and his evil?"

The dying old drover opened his eyes and in a voice barely above a whisper replied, "Father, until I know where I'm heading, I don't think I ought to aggravate anybody."



The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running in your veins.
Strong love of grey-blue distance

Brown streams and soft,
dim skies -
I know but I cannot share it,
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of rugged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding plains.

I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

The stark white ring-barked forests,
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold rush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

My Country

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die -
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back three-fold.
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze ...

A opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land -
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand -
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

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February



2009

The Chaplain writes

Joy to the World

Researchers in the UK now have a habit of declaring the third Monday in January – this year the 19th – to be ‘Blue Monday’ – officially the most depressing day of the year. Cold weather, fading Christmas memories and broken New Year resolutions mean this period is usually fairly miserable. This year, in particular, the effects of the economic downturn have exacerbated the situation.

Fortunately, for our family, the Lord has placed a little, regular reminder of joy on the calendar this time of year, namely: Nicolas’ birthday. This year it fell on Blue Monday. And I’m delighted to say that Nicolas didn’t regard it to be a glum time of year at all. Aside from birthdays, there have been other causes for hope and joy. If you have been outside at dusk in the last few days, you’ll have observed that there is a very small but perceptible difference in the amount of sunlight we enjoy. The brightness is lasting just that little bit longer each and every day. And though it has been cold of late, it has warmed the heart to see masses of the Dutch population frolicking on frozen ponds and canals, like a modern Brueghel painting. And however you may be politically inclined, the scenes of millions of Americans turning out in the streets and parks to celebrate a new president who happens to be of an ethnic minority that, only 40 years ago, did not even have its right to vote assured, must give cause for hope. Things in our lives and in world terms can and do change, and for the better. And the Lord actually gives us constant reminders, large and small, all the time. Even in the darker days of winter.

January has been the time of the Epiphany, when the church makes a concerted effort to dwell on the light of God in the darkness, rather than on the darkness itself. Remember the star leading the wise men. Jesus rising from the dark waters of baptism and into the glorious light of day, where he knew the power of God’s Spirit, and knew God’s love for his beloved Son and for all his children.

Epiphany means ‘manifestation’, and ought to be a most hopeful and stirring time of year. One Christian commentator recently rued the fact that Epiphany does not often get its due, sandwiched as it is, ‘like a piece of wilted lettuce’, between the more celebrated periods of Christmas and Lent-Easter. She is right. Epiphany is a time in which, if we listen out, if we observe closely, we can see how God manifests himself in our world and in our lives. This is cause for great hope and joy.



Lent Study on Worship

Ever wonder why Christians usually have their main worship on Sunday? It has partly to do with the idea, from Genesis 1, that the Lord rested on the 7th day in order to delight in his creation. The 4th of the 10 commandments in Exodus (20:8-11) cites this as a reason for keeping the Sabbath (which means 'desist or stop') holy.

But another, arguably more central reason Christians worship on the Sunday (the day after the Jewish Sabbath) is that, in all four Gospels, Jesus' resurrection was witnessed 'early on the first day of the week.' Sunday, in Christian theology, has thus become the main day to commemorate the raising of Christ to new life. And giving thanks and praise for that resurrection, that incredible victory over death, that new dawn for a whole new creation, is the driving force of all our worship.

You could argue that Easter is the focus of all our worship. Lent, the time leading up to Easter, provides us an ideal opportunity to reflect together on the nature and meaning of worship – from how the whole Church year is organized, to the content of specific kinds of worship and sacraments, like the Eucharist, baptism, and anointing for healing and reconciliation.

A group will meet on Sundays after church at 13:00 in March to follow the 5 session program.

- March 1 Anja van der Neut's: Stationslaan 26, Goor
- March 8 Sietze & Anneke Postmas': Catsstraat 16, Goor
- March 15 Sietze & Anneke Postmas': Catsstraat 16, Goor
- March 22 Anja van der Neut's: Stationslaan 26, Goor
- March 29 Sietze & Anneke Postmas': Catsstraat 16, Goor

To join in, please contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620) or Everhard Ottens (efh.ottens@gmail.com or 0572 850199) or sign up on the list in Hut available after services in February. There may also be another group forming for weekday evening meetings in the Goor area – check the Hut for forthcoming details.

Forum on Christian Belief and Practice Today

On **March 14**, there will be a Northwest Europe Archdeaconry Forum on outreach and Christian growth. Organized in cooperation with the Anglican mission society ICS, the forum will involve a mixture of short talks, interactive discussions, and group work, exploring topics such as:

(Continued on page 3)

Job

So your new job gives you lots of freedom?

Absolutely. I get here any time I want before 8am, and leave just when I please after 5pm.

Rice

A man who had been dating a girl for a number of years took her out to a Chinese restaurant. As they studied the menu he asked: "How would you like your rice, fried or boiled?" She looked at him sadly. "Thrown."

Be my Valentine

Young man: "Do you love me?"

Young lady: "Yes."

Young man: "But can you live on my income?"

Young lady: "Certainly. Though - what will you live on?"

Broker

Quick, get my broker, Miss Jones.

Yes sir. Stock or pawn?



CELEBRATE?

Have you had a cold this winter?

Hope is at hand if you've got a sore throat because February 3rd is St Blaise's Day and he is the patron saint of sore throats. There is actually a church in London, St Ethelreda's, where they still hold a special service of Blessing the Throats.

Another way to celebrate February 3rd is to join in the Japanese festival of Setsuban. Setsuban (which means 'change of seasons') separates winter from spring. You throw beans to drive off imaginary devils and scatter beans in the home to discourage evil spirits.



I have a feeling that spreading baked beans on the living room carpet wouldn't be a good idea – nor throwing the odd tin at friends!

CELEBRATING

We all celebrate lots of different things – can you say what is celebrated when

1. You blow out the candles on a cake and have presents?
2. When children eat lots of chocolate eggs?
3. Jesus and his disciples celebrated it with a special meal?
4. People remember the day they got married?
5. We decorate our homes, sing carols and remember when Jesus was born?

Answers at the bottom of this page.



What cake can you eat in heaven?

Angel cake.



Why did the banana go out with a prune?

Because he couldn't find a date.

My dad's a light eater. As soon as it's light, he starts eating.



Answers: 1: birthday 2: Easter 3: Passover 4: anniversary 5: Christmas

Blow Out the Candles

A grandmother took her three-year-old granddaughter to church for the first time.

The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles.

All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you..."

Pet Names

An elderly man was invited to his old friend's home for dinner one evening.

He was impressed by the way his old buddy preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms-calling her Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. The couple had been married almost 70 years and they were still very clearly in love.

While the wife was off in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his buddy, "I think it's wonderful that, after all the years you've been married, you still call your wife those loving pet names."

The old man hung his head. "I have to tell you the truth," he said. "I forgot her name about ten years ago."

The Rectory, St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I confess to being rather disappointed that little Miss Asquith retired from stoking the church boiler last month. She was ideally suited to the job; being only five feet, two inches tall, she didn't have to stoop too much to get into the five foot high cellar.

That she had done the job for the past 50 years seemed another good reason for her continuing. But no, just because she turned 94 at the end of last month and was finding it difficult to negotiate the cellar steps on her two sticks, she decided to throw in the towel. And her rash decision placed us in a dilemma.

The boiler has been lit every Wednesday, so that the church becomes almost bearable by Sunday morning. It therefore means that it has had to be stoked three times a day for four days - not too onerous a duty I would have thought, especially as it gives an ample three days afterwards for recovery. Admittedly, the fact that a complete change of clothing is necessary after each visit is a slight handicap, but no one could be persuaded. Such is the level of Christian commitment these days.

And so we have become very modern and now have a gas boiler. No longer used, the cellar was instantly invaded and occupied by the flower arrangers and is now full of chipped vases no one can bring themselves to throw away and lengths of string and chicken wire that seem indispensable to their art.

There was an attempted second invasion by the Scouts looking for somewhere to store their tents, but they were repulsed by volleys of Oasis from the female occupying forces. They initially also took hostages, until the police convinced them it was not an entirely good idea.

We now have a system with frost detectors, thermostats and so many options on the time clock that it renders the system incomprehensible. Apparently a simple on/off switch was an option the plumbers were unaware of. I also miss that deep rumble beneath our feet during Mattins, sounding like the Queen Mary coming into port, letting us know that the ancient boiler was attempting to get the water lukewarm.

Naturally, there have been teething troubles; for several weeks, the church was admirably heated on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons when it was unused, but arctic on Sundays. On another occasion, the frost stat took over, but would then not let go, keeping the building heated for 14 days continuously. We shall probably need a loan from the International Monetary Fund to pay the bill.

And so twenty-first century technology is beginning to make a not altogether welcome appearance at St. James'. Miss Asquith has a lot to answer for.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Why church attendance is low in many European countries? How contemporary people think and what are their views of Christianity

How our churches can attract more English-speakers and help them understand the Christian Gospel and faith Encouraging individual growth in the Christian faith given the demands of modern life, cultural pressures and work patterns.

Speakers will include: Dr David Smith, Lecturer in Urban Mission and World Christianity at the International Christian College in Glasgow; David Healey, General Manager of ICS; and Archdeacon John de Wit.

The forum will be held from 11:00 to 16:30, Saturday, March 14 2009 at the Theological and Pastoral Centrum in Antwerp (Groenenborghlaan 149, 2020 Antwerp, Belgium). For more details, see the booking leaflets available in the Hut or contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620).

Advanced notice:

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 14 | (Antwerp) Archdeaonry Forum on Christian Belief and Practice Today |
| March 22 | Mothering Sunday |
| April 5 | Palm Sunday, with visit of Bishop Geoffrey Rowell |
| April 12 | Easter Sunday |
| April 19 | First Sunday after Easter, Annual General Meeting |
| June 20 | (Arnhem) Archdeaonry Choral Festival |



Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.

Taxing

An exasperated woman, being questioned by a Tax Inspector about her tax deductions, was heard to say: "I wish the government were half as fussy about how it spends money as it is about how I spend it!"

Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

A cabbie is a fare-minded person.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A job at the nursery can lead to a budding career.

A man said his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

A will is a dead giveaway. According to my calculations, the problem doesn't exist.

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone.

Wishful

First friend: Your problem is that you are always wishing for what you haven't got.

Second friend: Well, what else can one wish for?

Study Group on Background to Anglicanism

Though many of us have been around Anglican churches for many years, and have gained some grounding in the development of the Anglican church's history and spirituality, many others of us have not yet. Initially to meet the expressed needs of those who would like to be (or have recently been) confirmed or received into the Church of England, we have decided to form a small group to learn more about Anglicanism. As our main text, we'll use a helpful little book by Alastair Redfern, entitled *Being Anglican*, which sets main aspects of Anglicanism in the historical context of such inspiring people as mystic poet George Herbert, theologian Richard Hooker, and social reformer Josephine Butler. There will be five sessions in total, meeting roughly fortnightly. Our first meeting will be on the afternoon of Tuesday, 10 February at 14:00 at Backerstraat 47, in Oosterbeek (to allow those from Amhem-Nijmegen and Twente to come). Space and books are somewhat limited, so please contact the Chaplain (sam.van.leer@hetnet.nl or 026 495 0620) if you'd like to join us



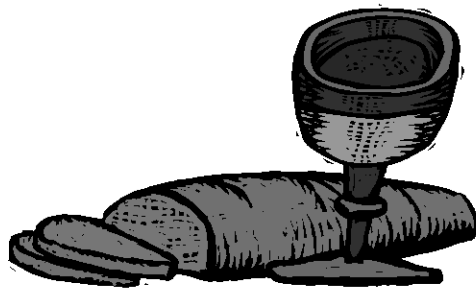
Ash Wednesday Taizé Service with Holy Communion

February 25th 2009 at 20:00
at St Mary's Chapel

The first Christians observed the days of our Lord's Passion and resurrection with great devotion, and it became a custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting, called Lent. During this time, converts were prepared for baptism. Also, those who had been separated from the community for some transgression were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the Christian fellowship. The whole congregation was thus reminded of God's mercy and the need to renew their repentance and faith.

We begin Lent this year with a meditative service on Ash Wednesday, in the style of Taizé. Taizé is an ecumenical community in France whose worship is contemplative and makes use of chants and candlelight to create a unique and prayerful atmosphere. Holy Communion will be celebrated, and ashes, a symbol of purification (Numbers 19:9) and penitence (Luke 10:13), will be administered.

We hope you will join us for this special service of quiet reflection and meditation as we prepare to enter into Lent.



He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.

So heart be still!
What need our human life to know
If God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife of things
Both high and low,
God hideth his intention."

Minnie Louise Haskins, 1908

Finding that prayer was a huge turning point in my faith journey. I discovered the joy of reaching out into complete darkness and letting God take my hand to where He wanted me. I stopped praying for a 'light' and I stopped waiting for a light. I learnt to trust God.

© Pauline Talstra



8 February Feast Day of St. Kew

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the 'Q' of James Bond fame. This Kew lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew's older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. She spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of "rare virtue and holiness". Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over an difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

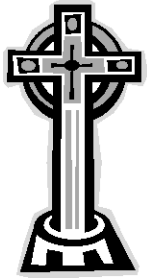
The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



Prayer

'If a matter is not serious enough to pray about, then it is not serious enough to worry about. If it is serious enough to pray about, and you have prayed about it, then there is no need to worry about it.'

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MY FAVOURITE PRAYER (one of my favourites!)

I came across the following prayer 25 year's ago. It came to me when I really needed it.

My father had just died, a few days before Christmas and it was a great shock to myself and all of my family. He was only 59 years of age and died suddenly.

My father had lived in a lovely house right by the edge of a river, the Murray River in Western Australia and my whole family would spend some of our happiest times in that house. We were a large family - seven children, with husbands, wives, and lots of children ... there was always a lot of noise, fun and laughter.

When my father died I felt like a light had gone out. Everything seemed so dark and bleak. My mother decided to sell the house and move closer to the city. As sad as I was to lose that house and all the joy that had taken place in it, I knew it could never be the same anyway.

In my own personal life I had been going through a really tough time as well, a broken marriage, and lots of heartache & stress. It wasn't easy bringing up two children on my own. I'd always felt safe and secure in my father's house situated on that beautiful river.

When my mother and I were packing up and clearing the house to get it ready to be sold, I was praying to God. I felt a dark cloud hanging over me and I couldn't see anything in front of me. It was scary and I felt so alone. I prayed to God for a 'light' so I could SEE where to go.

As I was taking down all the little magnets and sayings on the fridge I came across this little prayer. I couldn't believe it - it was an answer for me.

The Gate of the Year

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"
And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trod gladly into the night

2 February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

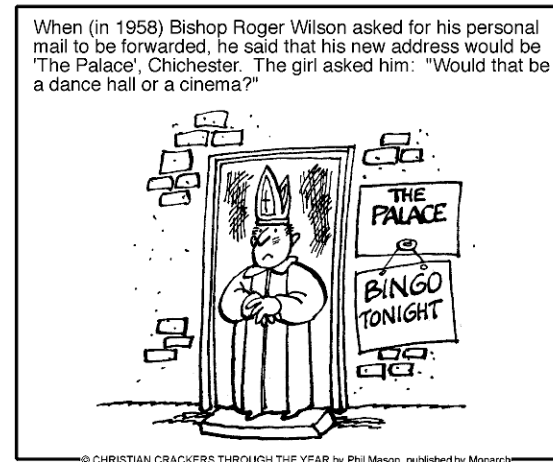
In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God,
You hate nothing that you have made
And forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
That we, worthily lamenting our sins
And acknowledging our wretchedness,
May receive from you, the God of all mercy,
Perfect remission and forgiveness;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.



(Continued from page 1)

Reflect on the ways God has revealed Himself to you. And, since Epiphany recalls the baptism of Christ, reflect, too, on living out your baptismal covenant with God. Your life, too, can be an Epiphany, for yourself and for others. Pray for the Spirit of God to fill all our lives, making us more aware of God's light and love and hope, that we may 'rejoice in the Lord always' (Phil 4:4) and bring His joy to the world.

Yours in Christ,

Sam



Beer

After the Great Britain Beer Festival, in London, all the brewery presidents decided to go out for a beer. The guy from Corona sits down and says, "Hey Senor, I would like the world's best beer, a Corona."

The bartender dusts off a bottle from the shelf and gives it to him.

The guy from Budweiser says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, give me 'The King Of Beers', a Budweiser." The bartender gives him one.

The guy from Coors says, "I'd like the only beer made with Rocky Mountain spring water, give me a Coors." He gets it.

The guy from Guinness sits down and says, "Give me a Coke."

The bartender is a little taken aback, but gives him what he ordered.

The other brewery presidents look over at him and ask, "Why aren't you drinking a Guinness?"

The Guinness president replies, "Well, I figured if you guys aren't drinking beer, neither would I!"

Bigger than an elephant?

Q: What is bigger than an elephant?

A: His shadow!

1st February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
Candlemas Sunday	First Reading Coretta Van Leer	Malachi 3:1-5
	Second Reading Jeanet Luiten	Hebrews 2:14-18
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Luke 2:22-40

22nd February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
Last Sunday before Lent	First Reading Peter Ribbens	2 Kings 2:1-12
	Second Reading Joy Romeijn	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Gospel	Mark 9:2-9

8th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
Third Sunday before Lent	First Reading Els Ottens	Isaiah 40:21-31
	Second Reading Victor Pirenne	Corinthians 9:16-23;
10:30 am	Gospel	Mark 1:29-39

25th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Canon Geoffrey Allen
	Intercessor	
Ash Wednesday	First Reading	
	Second Reading	
20:00 (08:00 pm) Taizé Eucharist	Gospel	

15th February	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	Nettie van Sisseren
Second Sunday before Lent	First Reading Heleen Rauwerda	Proverbs 8:1, 22-31
	Second Reading Vivian Reinders	Colossians 1:15-20
10:30 am	Gospel	John 1:1-14

1st March	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd. Sam Van Leer
	Intercessor	
First Sunday of Lent	First Reading	Genesis 9:8-17
	Second Reading	1 Peter 3:18-22
10:30 am	Gospel	Mark 1:9-15