

Poetry and Prose

How to reduce pain

Pets

In pain? Pat a pet. People who have undergone hip or knee replacement operations needed 50 percent less pain medication if they used 'pet therapy', in a recent study by the Society of Anthrozoology. A charity called Pets and Therapy has been taking animals into care homes, hospital and children's wards to help patients recover since 1983. It is now accepted that animal owners are often more healthy than non-pet owners because pets reduce stress and encourage exercise.

Touch

If you love someone who is in pain, hold their hand. If you can't be near them, at least send a photograph of yourself. A recent study at the University of California has found that pain can be lessened where the reassuring presence of a loved one is felt.

A Song of Duty

*Sorrow comes and sorrow goes;
Life is flecked with shine and shower;
Now the tear of grieving flows,
Now we smile in happy hour;
Death awaits us, every one-
Toiler, dreamer, preacher, writer-
Let us then, ere life be done,
Make the world a little brighter!*

*Burdens that our neighbors bear,
Easier let us try to make them;
Chains perhaps our neighbors wear,
Let us do our best to break them.
From the straitened hand and mind,
Let us loose the binding fetter,
Let us, as the Lord designed,
Make the world a little better!*

*Selfish brooding sears the soul,
Fills the mind with clouds of sorrow,
Darkens all the shining goal
Of the sun-illuminated morrow;
Wherefore should our lives be spent
Daily growing blind and blinder-
Let us, as the Master meant,
Make the world a little kinder!*
by Denis a. McCarthy



March



2010

The Chaplain writes **Shared Ministry**

Pastoral Care: A member recently expressed frustration about pastoral coverage. The person is a faithful, committed member, going through a bit of a difficult patch. I gave encouragement, but also had to admit I agreed.

Attempting to provide pastoral care comparable to that one might have known in England is probably among the most dissatisfying aspects of my ministry here. In Durham, where I trained, the average parish was a few miles wide, with hardly anyone more than 15 minutes away. Now my work covers two chaplaincies with three congregations, with members sprinkled over an area of 7000 km².

As I do not have regular access to a car, I often visit people using public transport. But even with a car, round-trip travel time averages from one and a half to three hours. Preparing weekly worship and sermons, leading three councils, and fulfilling Archdeaconry and other work requirements all take a bit of time, too. So I am not able to do much in the way of purely social visiting.

For my pastoral visiting, urgent matters claim priority. The focus is on visiting members who are hospitalised or in serious difficulty at home, and, of course, on baptism, wedding and funeral preparations.

Sadly, the very first category (hospitalisation) and the last (funeral preparation) demand more and more time. As I write, I am preparing the funeral of one of our dear, long-time members in Twente. This last month she has been in hospice, where she and her family have needed much support.

Ministry to those nearing the end of life is hard, but also a real privilege of pastoring. This, like many ministries, is, of course, one I do not do alone, but share with other members of the church here. We are blessed with able lay people with pastoral training (as lay Eucharistic ministers, for instance) and with hearts for pastoral care, as well as with retired or non-stipendiary ordained people, who give of their time as they can.

(Continued on page 4)



Annual Book Sale

I can finally announce that the next book sale will be on 21 March after he service. We are squeezed in between Mothering and Palm Sundays. We pray it pleases God to make the winter go away!



A couple of members from Arnhem have asked to be informed. When we started the Book Sale I did not realize that it would become so popular. However, once a year is just fine, I think!

Please comb through your library as well as asking friends for their unwanted books, magazines, DVDs or CDs.

Light refreshment will be provided even though we are in Lent. I think Sam has given us dispensation on Sundays.

For more information call me, Linda ten Berge, Flower Guild 0546-868139.

Report on Council Meeting 8 February

Chapel renovation - There was a brief discussion on the chapel renovation that is scheduled to take place some time at the end of the year. Although this will cause major disruption, the end result will be a more efficient and quieter heating system. Further discussions will take place when more information is available.

Bishop's Lent Appeal - This year is targeted at helping the Christian community in Burma. The council agreed to donate the Palm Sunday collection to the support this appeal.

Preparations for AGM - In preparation for the forthcoming AGM, completion of necessary reports and personnel changes were discussed at length.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)



FOLLOW ME

We quite often look at saints on this page, people who have lived their lives for others, who followed Jesus Christ and did His work. But time and time again the people that Jesus chooses aren't the ones we would have thought of as natural leaders or preachers. Someone who knew him wrote that St Paul was 'a little man, a big red nose, bandy legs and not able to speak very well!' Moses tried to convince God that he wasn't the right person to persuade Pharaoh. In the end Moses had to take his brother Aaron to speak for him (Exodus, chapter 4).



We have to remember that we are all called to follow Jesus. We might think that it is too difficult and someone else would do the job better than we could. But by our baptism we are all called to serve and we all have different gifts and talents to bring to the job. How boring it would be if we were all the same and how great the excitement in finding out just what God want us to do.

JUMBLED JOBS

All the answers to this are jobs but the letters have been jumbled up. For example TVE unjumbled is VET. Can you work out what these people do?

1. Sarah is a TODROC.
2. Peter is a RORLY VERDIR.
3. Amelia is a THEERAC.
4. Jack is a EFCH.
5. Rose is a GEDUJ.
6. Sam is a NICEOMPLA.
7. Liz is a HOSP STAISTSAN
8. Calum is a TOPLI.
9. Emma is a READRENG.
10. Andy is a MAFRER.



How many schoolteachers does it take to change a light bulb?

None. Anything not completed during the lesson is added to the homework.

How many firemen does it take to change a light bulb?
Four - three to cut a hole in the roof and one to change the bulb.



Answers: 1.doctor 2.lorry driver 3.teacher
4.chef 5.judge 6.policeman 7.shop assistant
8.pilot 9.gardener 10. farmer

Quiet Peace

O Lord, my heart is
all a prayer,
But it is silent unto
thee;
I am too tired to
look for words,
I rest upon thy
sympathy
To understand when
I am dumb;
And well I know
thou hearest me.

I know thou hearest
me because
A quiet peace
comes down to me,
And fills the places
where before
Weak thoughts
were wandering
wearily,
And deep within me
it is calm,
Though waves are
tossing outwardly.
*Amy Carmichael 1867 –
1951*



Memoriam to Mr. Jan Dreteler

It was with a great sorrow that I heard the news of the very sudden death of Mr. Jan Dreteler. You may wonder, what Jan Dreteler had to do with St. Mary's Church and what did he do?

Let me tell you - Mr. Jan Dreteler was one of, if not the most, important Weldam Estate worker. I never actually discovered, what his job was exactly, but you could find him, at work in the Woodshed carpentering, or building something on the Estate, or renovating rooms in the Castle, making gates, fencing, garden benches and repairing roofs. He seemed to be the general factotum for Count Alfred and the Weldam Estate. I first got to know Jan when we were organizing the tearoom for the first Garden Open in 1993/94. Count Alfred introduced me to him and said: "you must discuss with Jan Dreteler anything you need making for the tearoom." The equipment he made for us after discussion, then, is still in use I believe: several trestle tables, a draining board with sinks, and a stand-out board to advertise the tearoom's whereabouts.

He put up shelves in the Hut, he repaired the coffee-maker, he constructed and hung a better door for the toilet and built an extension to the Hut. Amongst all these jobs he so willingly did for St. Mary's, he also cleared and tidied the Woodshed so that coffee could be served there after the large Carol Services, we had in those days. He prepared the Woodshed for Bonfire-night and sorted wood to build the Bonfire. You only had to explain what it was you wanted, and he knew immediately what you needed and told you whether it was possible.

Yes!

St Mary's has much to be grateful for to Jan Dreteler. He was a man of few words, with a dry sense of humour and a wry smile. His expertise will surely be very missed and those who worked and knew him, have had their lives greatly enriched for knowing him.

Thank you Jan Dreteler

We convey our sincere condolences to his wife, family and co-workers.

Brenda Pyle.

(Continued from page 2)

Forthcoming Dates

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 6 March | Child Protection Awareness Seminar (The Hague). |
| 14 March | Mothering Sunday/All Age Service. |
| 15 March | Council Meeting |
| 28 March | Palm Sunday |
| 1 April | Maundy Thursday Service 20:00 |
| 2 April | Good Friday Service 20:00 |
| 4 April | Easter Sunday |
| 18 April | Annual General Meeting (AGM) |
| 13 May | Ascension Day Service/Baptism followed by picnic |
| 12 June | Quiet Day - Franciscan House, Denekamp |
| 4 July/ 8August | Summer Teas |
| End July | Franciscan Pilgrims in Twente |
| 11 September | Castle Fair |
| 19 September | Eusebiuskerk Service |



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

(Continued from page 2)

made to sign the electoral roll.

The youths were then let out of the church, and quickly departed. Now full-fledged members of the Church of England, they were only ever seen again at Christmas and at Easter.

Granny

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School. He told his mother that his Sunday School teacher was Jesus' granny. Startled, his mother replied, "How did you reach that conclusion?"

"Well, she never stops talking about Jesus," he replied.

Flowers

There are women whose thoughtful husbands buy them flowers for no reason. And then there's me. One day I couldn't stand it any longer. "Why don't you ever bring me flowers?" I asked. "What's the point?" my husband said. "They die after about a week."

"So could you," I shot back, "but I still like having you around."



Respect the pastor's free time

This a true story: a little Baptist church had made so many demands on its old minister that he had retired early, just to get away. As the new minister was installed a few months later, the church elders stressed how important it was that the congregation respect the new pastor's free time. Everyone nodded enthusiastically.

Next morning in the parsonage the phone rang before 6am. The pastor leapt for the phone, heart pounding. "Good morning, pastor," said a cheery voice. "I just wanted to catch you before you begin your day off..."

Hospital update

A 75 year old lady rang her local hospital with a polite enquiry. "Please could you give me some information on one of your patients? She is Mrs Tiptree in Ward 3. She was admitted last week with chest pains and I just want to know if her condition has deteriorated, stabilised or improved?"

The nurse on the ward checked the notes. "I'm pleased to say that Mrs Tiptree's condition has improved. She has

(Continued from page 1)

I am most grateful for all their work, as we all should be. The Acts of the Apostles and virtually every New Testament Epistle speak glowingly of the many different gifts and talents – including for pastoral care – of the various members of the Body of Christ.

Through its history, the church has been comprised of a very small minority of ordained people and a large majority of lay people, and has depended on *all* its people serving God. Part of my job as a pastoral leader is to encourage lay people's gifts and help them apply them. Pastoral care in our patch would simply not be possible without lay involvement. 'Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.' (1 Thess 5:11)

Junior Church: At present, one of the crucial needs of our church is to provide for the Christian nurture of our young people. When families present their children for baptism, we as a church promise to pray for and support them as they seek to bring their children up in the faith.

It is essential for us, if we are to fulfil this part of our Christian vocation, to offer age-appropriate learning opportunities for our young people. We do not have huge numbers of children attending, but each is precious, and if we genuinely wish to encourage young families to join our church, we have to prioritise children's work far more than we do.

A traditional worship service with classic hymns and an expository sermon may well meet the needs of adults, but it does not connect adequately with pre-teen children. The All-Age Worship Services we do offer attempt to do so, but we currently offer them only once a quarter.

Most Anglican churches in the Netherlands have them every month, which might help us, too, but that still would not meet the needs of children the rest of the time. On those Sundays when we do not have All-Age Worship, we should offer Junior Church (aka Sunday School).

As I write, we have opted to try to offer Junior Church only two Sundays a month, during the school year. But we only have two volunteer leaders at the moment, which, though

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 12)

and determines the full moon using ecclesiastical calculations. But the Eastern Church sets its celebration according to the astronomical full moon. It sets the date for Easter Sunday based on their astronomical calculations of the full moon and the equinox along the meridian of Jerusalem.

Thus an exact date of Easter Sunday celebrations is impossible even though it always falls sometime between March 22 and April 25.



Signs and Symbols in our churches: Incense

A number of churches use incense within their worship; some as a regular feature, others on particularly 'high' or 'special' occasions, such as Easter and Christmas, yet others only as a part of one-off informal participative services.

'Incense' is a combination of natural gums, plants and waxes, each different combination giving a unique fragrance. You can find incense in many different forms in local shops for use in the home – sticks, cones, within wax to melt on a heated plate and so on.

In churches it's most common to use incense in the form of small grains which are placed on burning charcoal.

Incense was used in worship long before the time of Jesus. It's sweet smell and its rising smoke give it the image of a person's prayers rising up to God. It's no surprise that the psalmist says in Psalm 141, "Let my prayer come like incense before you."

Each granule when placed on a heated coal immediately emits a strong perfume and clearly perceptible smoke. When a number of grains are placed together the result is a powerful visible reminder that whilst alone we can be heard and seen, together we are far more potent and noticeable.

The slightest time of burning can leave an aroma long after the heat of the burner is quenched and the incense itself is consumed. *The Rev Dr Jo White*

(Continued from page 12)

of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands. It depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse. Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.

It depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now, it depends whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because...

It depends whose hands it's in.

This message is now in YOUR hands.

What will YOU do with it?

It Depends on WHOSE Hands it's in!

Contributed by R. Van Wijk

Church Bulletins - Whoops

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children be will be baptized at both ends.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Jackson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar



The Date of Easter

The date of the Easter observance has always been a matter of great debate especially as there are no sufficient records of the exact date of Jesus' resurrection. The confusion increased when Christianity was split between the Western Church (Roman Catholic and Protestant) and Eastern Church (Greek and Russian Orthodox).

Naturally, the dates of observance of many a festival came under serious consideration and Easter was no exception. The Eastern Church wanted to observe Easter on a weekday as early Christians observed Passover every year on the 14th of Nisan, the month based on the lunar calendar. But, the Western Church wanted that Easter should always be a Sunday regardless of the date.

The Roman Emperor Constantine tried to put an end to this problem in 325 A.D. and called the Council of Nicaea to try and fix a definitive date for Easter. The council decided that Easter should fall on Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. With the assistance of the Alexandrians, experts in astronomical calculations, it set March 21 as the perfect date for equinox.

Henceforth, Easter has always been celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Both Western Churches (Roman Catholic and Protestant) and Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox) conform to this tradition even though there exists a gap of about five weeks between the date of the two Easter celebrations.

The main reason for this disparity lies in the fact that the Western Church follows the old Julian calendar while the Orthodox Church abides by the Gregorian calendar. Originally both churches fixed their activities according to the Julian calendar but things changed when the Eastern Orthodox Church abandoned the Julian Calendar in favor of the Gregorian calendar. As a result, Catholic (and eventually Protestant) churches needed to convert the originally Julian-based date of Easter into a Gregorian date.

The difference between the Western and the Orthodox observance of Easter also depends on the way both churches calculate the date of the vernal equinox. The Western Church abides by the ecclesiastical full moon. It holds 21st March as the steady date for the vernal equinox

(Continued from page 4)

they are both dedicated, is insufficient. We expect and need more to helpers to join in. Will you join me in praying for and encouraging volunteers to help with Junior Church? Will you yourself consider helping if you can?

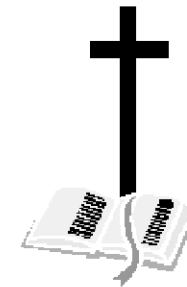
Church Council: On Sunday 18 April, after the service, we have our Annual General Meeting, at which the lay electorate of the chaplaincy will choose those to fill some of the regular seats on the Church Council, and the two Churchwardens positions. (NB: Happily, some of those currently on Council are willing to be re-elected!)

Church Council is a further example of how our church depends on the gifts, talents and time of all their people. Anglican parishes (chaplaincies) are led not by the clergy, but by a lay majority working alongside the ordained folk licensed there.

This is a virtue, insuring that spiritual *and* practical emphases are blended in church management. You might call it a healthfully incarnational approach to church! Do give some serious thought and prayer to whom you might like to see elected to Council – perhaps you yourself feel called to serve – and pray that the Spirit inspires and guides all our work together, that it may be fruitful.

Yours in Christ,

Sam Van Leer



regained her appetite, her temperature has steadied and after some routine checks tonight, she should be well enough to go home tomorrow.”

“Oh that's wonderful news, I'm so happy, thank you ever so much!”

“You seem very relieved, are you a close friend or relative?”

“No, I'm Mrs Tiptree. Nobody tells me anything in here!”

Mix-up

What do you get when you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness? Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.



Car

At a garage selling cars: “The best way to get on your feet...miss a car payment.”

Science

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

Hands!



A basketball in my hands is worth about €19.
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about €33 million.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
A tennis racket in Andre Agassi's hands is worth millions.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away an angry dog.
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A slingshot in my hands is a kid's toy.
A slingshot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.
It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.
Two fish and five loaves

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued on page 13)

Best blonde joke you'll ever read!!!

Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble.

In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull so that they can breed their own stock.

Upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, 'When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home.'

The brunette arrives at the man's ranch, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it.

The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less.

After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office, and says, 'I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch.'

I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home.'

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be

Page:6

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Exodus

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means exit or departure (from the Greek translation), reminding us that the departure of the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book. Although reworked over the years, it is not unreasonable to assume that much goes back to Moses. Depending on the time of the exodus, the book dates from around 1446 (traditional date) or 1290 BC.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an obscure and oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of this freed people. The book introduces us to the idea of *salvation* or deliverance, significantly presented not as abstract truth but as *story*. God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews his covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God himself. In chapter 3 God reveals his name as YHWH or 'I am who I am'. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament and it is expressed as 'the LORD' in our Bibles. To know God's name is to know him as well as his character. That is, his justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is also the God who controls history, as he delivers of the people out of Egypt. Neither the affliction of Israel nor the plagues of Egypt were outside of his control and the death of the Passover lamb is fulfilled in the cross of Christ (1 Co 5:7).

A key verse that reminds us of God's promise of help comes when the Israelites face crossing the Red Sea to escape Egypt: '*Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today"*' Exodus 14:13. As Eugene Peterson has commented: 'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'

© Rev Paul Hardingham

I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on, so that users will not be denied a single second of your hour-long sermons. .

Our congregation should be grateful for what they now have. And to think that someone even suggested it should have heating!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Mothering Sunday - 14 March

There is an old Jewish saying:

*God could not be everywhere,
and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honoring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

'Honey,' he said, 'that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?' 'Oh,' she said, 'that's the money I made from selling the dolls.'

A Womans Prayer
Dear Lord, I pray for
Wisdom to understand my
man;
Love to forgive him;
And Patience for his
moods;
Because Lord, if I pray for
Strength, I'll beat him to
death, because I don't have
time to crochet.

Contributed by P. Birtill

Help Needed

A woman walked up to the manager of a department store.
"Are you hiring any help?" she asked.
"No," he said. "We already have all the staff we need."
"Then would you mind getting someone to serve me?" she asked.

With Palm Sunday in mind

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

Anon

Page: 11

THE SHOEBOX

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little Old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said She would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside.

She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling €25,000.

He asked her about the contents.

'When we were to be married,' she said, 'my grandmother told me The secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll.'

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight

(Continued on page 11)

Page:10

St James the Least of All

On the nonsense of a lavatory at church

My dear Nephew Darren

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St. James the Least. Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will inevitably form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly, preferably something rousing; "Onward Christian soldiers" would be ideal. A hymn book has been installed as an *aide memoire*.

The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar that obliges me to stop preaching until the cataract has subsided. By the time the customer returns quietly into church, all noise has ceased and they remain oblivious of the chaos they caused and the stoic politeness of the congregation.

(Continued on page 11)

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Mark

In our series looking at the books of the New Testament we come to Mark, the second of the synoptic gospels (with Matthew and Luke).

Traditionally this gospel is ascribed to John Mark, a close associate of Peter (as we read in Acts). According to Papias (c AD 140), Peter was a major source of material for Mark and it is believed that the gospel became a source for the other synoptic writers. It was written for Gentile readers, probably in Rome. This may have been during Nero's persecution of the church (c AD 64-7), recognising that suffering and persecution are important themes throughout the gospel.

Mark wastes no time in getting down to business: 'the beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God' (1:1). Unlike Matthew and Luke he omits the birth narratives, but begins with the unveiling of Jesus' public ministry. The gospel is a succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry, emphasising more about what Jesus did than what he said. Mark moves quickly from one episode to another, often using the word 'immediately' which is characteristic of his gospel.

For Mark, understanding the true identity of Jesus is fundamental to his gospel. Halfway through his account Jesus asks the disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' (8:27). Mark is helping us to understand Peter's answer, 'You are the Christ'. This is evident in Jesus' role as rabbi (teacher), his call for discipleship and the account of Jesus' death and resurrection, which occupies a third of the gospel. The messianic secret, when Jesus warns people to keep silent about who he is or what he's done, is unique to Mark. It contributes towards the tension in grasping Jesus' true identity.

A key verse which helps us to understand the nature of Jesus' mission and how we might live in the light of it is: "Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (10:44,45). Mark is understandably in a hurry to tell us about Jesus; the one who reveals the truth of God to us, so that we can live in reality and not ignorance!

(Continued from page 6)
glad to help her, then adds, it will cost 99 cents a word.

Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word. After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, 'I want you to send her the word 'comfortable!'

The operator shakes his head. 'How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word 'comfortable?'

The brunette explains, 'My sister's blonde. The word is big. She'll read it very slowly.... 'com-for-da-bul.'

Contributed by P. Birtill

Postal Cat

Q. Why did the mother cat put stamps on her kittens?

A. Because she wanted to mail a litter.

Church Bulletin

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon

PAGE: 7

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Sam Van Leer |
| Third Sunday of Lent | Intercessor | Philippa te West |
| | First Reading Philippa te West | Isaiah 55:1-9 |
| | Second Reading Joyce Wigboldus | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 |
| | 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | Gospel Luke 13:1-9 |

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| 14th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Sam Van Leer |
| Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday) | Intercessor | Special |
| | First Reading Young people | Exodus 2:1-10 |
| | Second Reading Young people | Colossians 3:12-17 |
| | 10:30 am All-Ages Service with Communion | Gospel John 19:25b-27 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21st March | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Sam Van Leer |
| Fifth Sunday of Lent | Intercessor | Joyce Wigboldus |
| | First Reading Mike Allen | Isaiah 43:16-21 |
| | Second Reading Vivian Allen | Philippians 3:4b-14 |
| | 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | Gospel John 12:1-8 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| 28th March | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Sam Van Leer |
| Palm Sunday | Intercessor | Simone Yallop |
| | First Reading Simone Yallop, | Isaiah 50:4-9a |
| | 10:30 am Sung Eucharist <i>(Service starts by the hut - weather permitting)</i> | Second Reading Linda ten Berge |
| | | Gospel Palm Gospel Luke 19:28-40 Luke's Passion |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1st April | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Canon Geoffrey Allen |
| Maundy Thursday | Intercessor | Rev. Canon Geoffrey Allen |
| | 20:00 Eucharist with the Liturgy of Foot washing <i>(Participation in the foot-washing is entirely voluntary!)</i> | First Reading Arthur Cass, |
| | | Second Reading Blair Charles |
| | | Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35 |

2nd April
Good Friday
20:00 Stations of the Cross **Passion readings**



| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4th April | Celebrant & Preacher | Rev. Sam Van Leer |
| Easter Sunday | Intercessor | Joy Romeijn |
| | First Reading Janice Collins | Isaiah 65:17-25 |
| | 10:30 am Sung Eucharist | Second Reading Arjen Haffmans |
| | | Gospel Luke 24:1-12 |