



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 16, 11 April 2021

Message from Fr Paul

Dear Newsletter Receivers

Thursday is our next occasional evening of St Vedast erudition and humour. We've done (at least partially) art and books now it's time for music.

You have the opportunity to share your favourite piece of music - well about 3 minutes of it - with others. It's the piece that on the desert island as the waves approach, this is the vinyl that you would save.

You can either share by sending beforehand a YouTube link or letting me know the music and I'll find it on my Apple Music subscription.

Paul Kennedy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Music Evening

Time: Apr 15, 2021 06:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83003488836>

Meeting ID: 830 0348 8836

St Vedast is open

We open every Sunday for our 11 am Parish Mass along with opening Monday to Friday 11.30 am - 2 pm - including our weekday 12.15 pm Mass.

If you are vulnerable to COVID-19, please consider remaining at home until you have had both vaccinations and a period of three weeks has passed - especially if you are using public transport.

If you would like to discuss coming to church, please call my mobile 07877211307.

Service information

You can join us for live weekday masses & our Sunday Service

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5PIrgy_zMhluHu-ZePFRQ?view_as=subscriber

After the Sunday Service

Paul Kennedy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Post Eucharist coffee

Time: This is a recurring meeting each Sunday after Mass

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89210467362>

Meeting ID: 892 1046 7362

Donate

As with most charities the lockdown has stretched our finances considerably. If you would like to donate, or catchup on your giving, the easiest way is online at:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/3020d4c5-77d2-4718-8e2c-d9047a66f720>

Or alternatively you can make a bank transfer to: CAF Bank LTD, 40-52-40, acct name St Vedast alias Foster, acct num 00024014

Readings for Sunday 11 April, Divine Mercy Sunday 2nd of Easter

Acts 4.32-35

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalm 133

R How good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.

Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing. **R**

It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore. **R**

John 20.19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

From our foreign correspondent, Edward Bunting

Anglicans in America

Many at St Vedast will be aware that the United States' new president, Joe Biden, is Catholic. He has made much of his Irish forebears (though the Biden side of his family originates from Sussex); what is less well known is that he also has a (rather distant) connexion with Saint Vedast. On 29 September 1653, Allen Robinett married Margaret Symm in the church of St Mary Aldermanbury. He would then emigrate to Pennsylvania and, nine generations later, his descendant is president. The link is marked in the fact that Joe Biden's middle name is Robinette (his grandmother's family – some of whom make an annual trip to St Mary Aldermanbury, which is now in Fulton, Missouri). Biden is only the second Catholic US president, the first being John F Kennedy (who took office sixty years, to the day, before Biden). Today, about one in five Americans are Catholic, whereas only one per cent are Anglicans. However, of the 47 presidents to date, eleven have been Anglicans: beginning with George Washington and seen most recently in George Bush Snr. Anglicans are also 'punching above their weight' in the current US Congress, where five per cent identify as such.

Just across the way from the White House one can find "the Church of the Presidents", known for the fact that, since its construction in 1816, every sitting president from James Madison has attended at least once (the "president's pew" is not, as you might have thought, anywhere near the front). Far from attended inside, Donald Trump will, perhaps, be better remembered as standing *outside* the church in June last year, Bible in hand. Formally speaking, it is the Anglican church of St John's Lafayette Square. I recall attending a Sunday morning Eucharist there some decades ago. At the end of the service, the people in the pew in front of me turned round and said, "you must be British, because you were singing the hymns so loudly"!

The US capital city is also home to Washington National Cathedral, widely known as "the national house of prayer". As with St John's, it is an Anglican foundation, and the Bishop of London preached at the laying of the foundation stone in 1907. Its bells, like those at St Vedast, come from Whitechapel Bell Foundry. As the US is a nation whose Constitution rules out any established

religion, this designation is informal (although many are under the impression that the government has decreed it so, and its charter was granted by Congress). Strictly, it is a double cathedral, the seat of both the Diocesan bishop of Washington and the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (Rt Rev Michael Curry, the current presiding bishop, preached at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle).