



## St Vedast-alias-Foster

### Peace and Contemplation in the City

#### NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

#### **Newsletter No. 18, 9 May 2021**

##### **A date for your diary**

A reminder - we are looking forward to Thursday 13 May (Ascension Day) morning at 8.30 am when Fr Paul is made Rector of St.Vedast. Both the Bishop and Archdeacon of London will be present.

Social distancing is still required in church, so if you are attending and have not let Fr Paul know, please do so by email. Breakfast will be served afterwards at the back of Rucoletta.

For anyone heading off to work, the service will last about an hour. Breakfast will finish before lunch time.

##### **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](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 9 May 2021, Easter 5

### Acts 10.44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### Psalm 98

**R** The Lord has made known his salvation in the sight of the nations.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.  
His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. **R**

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music. Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it. Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity. **R**

### John 15.9-17

Jesus said to the eleven, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

## STAGES OF SPIRITUALITY 1 & 2

By Michael McClure

One spiritual writer who deserves to be better known by Anglicans is Baron Friedrich von Hügel, an Austrian Catholic writer who died in 1925. He had much to say that is very relevant to Christians who worship in the Anglican tradition.

One of his best-known insights was his understanding of spirituality as essentially different stages in growth, which he compared to the stages of human growth and also the life of the Church. He identified in Church life an institutional element, a critical element and a mystical element, all of which must exist alongside each other but should not predominate one against the other. The institutional element he identified with childhood before adolescence sets in, the critical element with that of adolescence, and the mystical element is adult life itself, in which the other elements are integrated but the adult moves beyond the merely defined and intellectual.

Before all these elements in a person's life comes the infantile stage of existence. This is the stage when the little child is a bundle of instincts, needs and desires, which are necessary for that child's survival. The little child's world extends no further than the child's mother and, soon, father, siblings, immediate family and, perhaps, other children of the same age. It is a selfish world, entirely built around instinct and pleasure. We might call it the "Number 1" stage of spirituality and is, essentially, no spirituality.

Little children are entitled to be like this but many adults in spiritual terms are still infants. They are selfish and see life entirely as the satisfaction of desires. Some are criminal and sociopathic. Their lives are centered round themselves as material beings. Many "Number 1's" are not at all criminal or babyish. Some are highly competent and charming people and very successful. They are major CEO's, politicians, masters of livery companies, highly successful traders in the City. This does not mean that successful people are all "Number 1's". What it does mean is some of these people are there because they are "Number 1's". Life for them is simply a matter of material success, the acquisition of riches and status. They are spiritually empty.

The Baron saw the institutional life of the Church as analogous to the child's life before adolescence. Here the child, although occasionally naughty, basks in the love and security of parents. Their authority is accepted and their rightness is unquestioned. The Church too must have structures of authority and decision. The Anglican Communion traces its apostolic authority back to the threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon. Through the laying on of hands, the faithful can be assured, however much exterior details may have changed over the centuries, that the Church still transmits the faith revealed in Jesus Christ and passed on to his apostles.

For many individuals the assurance and the authority of the Church is the comfort and

mainstay of their spiritual lives. This is good but if it becomes the sole definition of their faith then they are like children, at what I shall call, the "Number 2" stage of spirituality. This is the faith of the fundamentalist evangelical or the "orthodox" Catholic. If anyone questions the "revealed" teaching of the Church, they are outraged. They are like the eight year old if the love of Mummy or Daddy seems compromised. They feel that anything threatening the security of their faith must be suppressed.

To be continued next week with Stages 3 & 4