



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 19, 16 May 2021

A date for your diary

By Zoom 20 May 2021 7-8:30 pm Fr Paul will host a film night Please email film choices to priest@vedast.org.uk

Following on from our successful and popular poetry, art, book, and music evenings, it has been decided to embrace the re-opening of the big screens - a film night You can either: Join and listen to the cinematic choices of others or choose your own film. This is the film that you remember encountering and which still engages your thoughts and reflections. Email a YouTube link or details of the piece to Fr Paul who will be able to share pictures and maybe even a trailer - no guarantee on what can be played over Zoom. Please feel free to charge your glasses and join in the conversation Please mute for popcorn.

Paul Kennedy is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Film Night time: May 20, 2021 07:00 PM London Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85267223916> Meeting ID: 852 6722 3916

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/UCq5Plrgy_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 16 May 2021, Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 1.15-17,21-26

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus - for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

R : Happy are they who trust in the Lord.

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night. **R**

Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

John 17.6-19

Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus - for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the

men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us - one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

STAGES OF SPIRITUALITY 3 & 4 Michael McClure

Children, however, grow up. Puberty arrives and children start growing away from their parents, questioning their authority and even the values they hold dear. This is right and proper, otherwise children cannot become mature adults. So too must church people and the Church be open to criticism, explain the meaning of doctrines and what, in intelligible intellectual terms, Christianity is. This stage the Baron identified with the critical faculty that the Church must exercise. I shall call it the "Number 3" stage. Again, the critical faculty of Church life is essential but if it becomes a way of practicing the faith, it very often leads a person out of the Church into unbelief or into a sort of grumbling Christianity in which the "Number 3" is always the "authentic Christian" and other Christians are not. It is a faith more often found among certain members of the clergy than the laity. I am not unacquainted with it myself! However, do not misunderstand me. Questioning the faith, practices and bad witness in the Church is essential. *Ecclesia sit semper reformanda est.* This is the story of the Reformation but it was also a period of great tragedy.

What then of the adult? The Baron identified this with the mystical stage of Church life. This is the stage when both instincts, the institutional and critical thought are not left behind but rather redeemed in an immediate apprehension of God. It is rather like T.S. Eliot's famous saying, "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." I shall call it the "Number 4" stage.

Even here, dangers lurk. Some, feeling they have left behind the intellectual and institutional, are directly in touch with God and know that they are redeemed by Christ. This is the faith of the "happy clappy" and the "born again". There are some Anglican churches where you feel the authority of the local bishop is strictly optional. All you need is exciting preaching and to turn up the music. Some believers of this kind are also dogmatic "Number 2's". They have forgotten that they should not forget the institutional and critical, but rather integrate them into their faith. This is not spiritual maturity. On the contrary, it is personal immaturity.

I would to emphasise that when I talk about stages of spiritual growth that "Number 1's, 2's, 3's or 4's" are not self-contained groups of people. All of us inhabit the different stages, sometimes all in one day, but it is true to say that a good many of us are more inclined to one or other stage at times of our lives. Some great Christians exemplify one stage more

than others and were holy because of it. Archbishop Laud was a great "Number 2" and lay down his life for Church order and the "beauty of holiness". The Anglican divines Hooker and Andrews were great "Number 3's". George Herbert and John Donne were "Number 4's" who conveyed the mystery and grandeur of God. The important thing is to know that, if one or other stage seems over dominant, then our spiritual life may be out of kilter.

For most of us, I suspect, it is essentially an easy living in the faith, an acceptance that not all is right with the Church but that, despite itself, it is, truly, the Body of Christ, that will persist through the ages; that God really does guide our lives and fortunes, even though we cannot always understand how; that those we are most liable to despise and reject are no worse than ourselves and that we are all sinners in need of God's grace. It is, in short, a work of holiness.