



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 20, 23 May 2021

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 23 May 2021, Day of Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the

entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

Psalm:104.26–36, 37b

R Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great. There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it. **R**

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it to them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good things. You hide your face and they are terrified; you take away their breath and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in all his works. He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul, Alleluia! **R**

Gospel: John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

Jesus said to the eleven, 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said these things

to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

Mild Mother? **Written by Edward Bunting**

I have, for many years, been a fan of *Ship of Fools*, a Christian website (<http://www.shipoffools.com/>) which describes itself as "Iconoclastic and debunking but also committed to the ultimate value of faith", and which admits that it "attracts readers more interested in searching questions than simplistic answers". Much of the site is devoted to offbeat Christian discussion, but it also features a Mystery Worshipper section. Here, anonymous worshippers (mainly virtual of late) attend services in churches they happen to be visiting (of all sorts and conditions), and write up the experience. Perhaps a dozen City churches have been visited in the past five or six years (most recently, Saint Giles Cripplegate in March). Saint Anne & Saint Agnes got the Mystery Worshipper treatment back in 2012, when the Lutherans still worshipped there but, so far, nobody has ventured into Saint Vedast.

A few weeks ago, a mystery worshipper under the pen-name of Paterfamilias stopped by (in person) at Saint Joseph's, Kalamazoo, a Roman Catholic parish in Michigan. In a précis of the sermon, Paterfamilias noted the deacon as saying that "we will celebrate the feat of the Visitation on May 31". I assume this was a typo, but the visitation was indeed a feat. Having just heard from the Archangel Gabriel the most earth-shattering news that any human will ever hear, "Soon afterwards Mary set out and hurried away to a town in the uplands of Judah" (Luke 1:39) to see her cousin Elizabeth. Luke does not say in which town Elizabeth and Zechariah resided, but tradition says it was Ein Karim, now a western suburb of Jerusalem, but mentioned in the Old Testament as contributing to the repair of Jerusalem's Dung Gate (Nehemiah 3:14). Even on modern roads, that is a 90 mile journey. By donkey, or on foot, it would take perhaps five days. Recall that Mary was in the very early stages of pregnancy (and so fatigued, bloated, prone to morning sickness). Luke doesn't mention Mary travelling with anyone, or even seeking (let alone obtaining) permission to go; but her other journeys in her early years (to Bethlehem; the flight into Egypt; the Passover trip when Jesus was left behind) are all documented as travelling in a family or bigger group. We don't know Mary's exact relation to Elizabeth. Gabriel refers to her only as 'your kinswoman'. Not only were they well enough acquainted for Mary to turn up

unannounced and stay for three months, but they close enough that she could decide to up sticks and return home just at the moment when Elizabeth, an older mother expecting her first child, was about to give birth and could probably do with every bit of help on offer. In due course, at Christmas we will recall that, at the Incarnation,

“Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child”

And on Good Friday we will note,

“At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping”

In the Visitation, however, we catch a glimpse of Mary as a typical teenager: wandering off when she feels like it; not checking in with her parents about where she’s going; heading off on dangerous adventures; refusing to behave as was expected of someone “in her condition”. There will be a lot of sorrow in Mary’s life. So being a tough cookie is just what she needed to be.