



St Vedast-alias-Foster

Peace and Contemplation in the City

NEWS FROM FOSTER LANE

Newsletter No. 8, 2021

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

The Church is open Monday – Friday 10.30am – 2pm.

Donate

As with most charities the lockdown has stretched our finances considerably. If you are able please contribute to our work at

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

A message for Lent from Fr Paul

Our Angus makes epic pancakes. His skills have been honed over many years and are offered to a packed Rectory on Shrove Tuesdays, with dogs waiting to catch the crumbs falling from the table: this year it would be an illegal gathering. This Lent will be different. It can start with no personal touch when imposing ashes, no quiet words proclaiming our mortal nature: just a silent sprinkling of the ash. Lent can't end with the intimate and uncomfortable act of foot washing. Our journey through Lent will be more lonely, possibly more reflective.

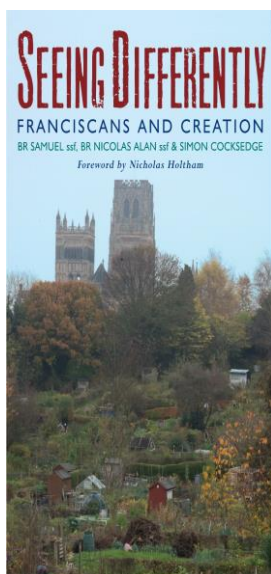
During plague in the 1300s, ships had to wait before landing giving rise to the term *quarantine*, referring to 40 days of isolated waiting. Thus echoing Christ's 40 days in the wilderness, Moses' 40 days in the thick cloud on Mount Sinai and our own journey through Lent. However, if we need to be more self reflective, let us not be more harsh on ourselves. We already have a form of quarantine imposed.

Lent is often about giving things up and for good reason. We need to live more simply, more humbly recognising our impact with on the environment and wider humanity, while exploring God's call upon our own lives. However, for a year now, we have had to give up so much. This year I will be avoiding a harsh Lent and following the advice of

George Herbert in the poem *Discipline*. He calls on God, and to my mind our own inner voices, to:

Throw away thy rod;
Though man frailties hath,
Thou art God:
Throw away thy wrath.

This is because, in aligning our wills and desire to the divine, it's not our self abasement that helps: "Love will do the deed."



So I am encouraging you to a gentle Lent. If you would like to take something up, I recommend, *Seeing Differently: Franciscans and Creation* written by three Anglican Franciscans. Post covid, we need to honour God and creation to build back better. This book can lend insight as the pandemic recedes, drawing on both: the environmental poetry and acts of St. Francis; along with Franciscan theologians who brought depth to his vision. Encouraging us to honour creation, all humankind and God. I would love to explore this with others - let me know if you're interested.

There will be no pew sheets during lockdown. Readings for this Sunday printed below.

Sunday 14 February, Next before Lent

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Psalm: 50.1-6

R Our God will come and will not keep silence

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. **R**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgement of his people. **R**

'Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed with sacrifice.' Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge. **R**

Mark 9.2–9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Belovèd; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.