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Ebbsfleet Extra

February 2010



Calendar of Events

Bishop's House, Dry Sandford,
Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6JP.
01865 390746, www.ebbsfleet.org.uk



February

9th – 11th February Ebbsfleet Clergy Retreat, Ascot Priory
17th February Ash Wednesday
22nd February Ebbsfleet Day of Prayer
24th – 25th February Ebbsfleet Council of Priests Residential Ascot Priory
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

March

5th – 7th March Ebbsfleet Lay Council, Ascot Priory
27th March 11.30am – Chrism Mass – (Holy Nativity, Knowle, Bristol)
30th March 11.30am – Chrism Mass – (St John, New Hinksey, Oxford)
31st March 11.30am – Chrism Mass – (St James, Wednesbury)
31st March 7.00pm – Plymouth Chrism Mass (Bishop John Ford, St Peter, Plymouth)

Day of Prayer on 22nd February 2010

THE DAY of Prayer on 22nd February, the feast of the Chair of Peter, is an opportunity to reflect, pray, and discern the way forward for each of us, our priests and our parishes.

The Day should focus on the Blessed Sacrament exposed. This will happen in different ways in different places. Some congregations, I hope, will join with their Roman Catholic brothers and sisters locally, in the Roman Catholic parish church. Others will not have this opportunity and will keep vigil in their own church. Some people, inevitably, will be restricted to taking part in their own homes, though we hope that the Day will be organised so that those who are at work have an opportunity for half an hour or so, on the way to work, during a lunch break, or during the evening.

Despite press reports, this is not a day of decision. The Apostolic Constitution (*Anglicanorum coetibus*) is not a crisis point but the opening up, permanently, of a new way into unity with the See of Peter. Decisions about how and whether this should happen for each of us will take place in different ways, and at different times. The time now is a time of prayer and discernment. May God bless us in and through it and further reveal his saving grace.

Mass Readings in February (Sunday Year C / Weekday Year 2)

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (31st Jan. or 2nd Feb.)

Monday	1 st Feb.	2 Samuel 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13	Mark 5:1–20
Tuesday	2 nd Feb.	2 Samuel 18:9–10, 14,24–25,30–19:3	Mark 5:21–43
Wednesday	3 rd Feb.	2 Samuel 24:2, 9–17	Mark 6:1–6a
Thursday	4 th Feb.	1 Kings 2:1–4, 10–12	Mark 6:7–13
Friday	5 th Feb.	Ecclesiasticus 47:2–11	Mark 6:14–29
Saturday	6 th Feb.	1 Kings 3:4–13	Mark 6:30–34

SUNDAY 5 7th Feb. Isaiah 6:1–13 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11

Monday	8 th Feb.	1 Kings 8:1–7,9–13	Mark 6:53–end
Tuesday	9 th Feb.	1 Kings 8:22–23, 27–30	Mark 7:1–13
Wednesday	10 th Feb.	1 Kings 10:1–10	Mark 7:14–23
Thursday	11 th Feb.	1 Kings 11:4–13	Mark 7:24–30
Friday	12 th Feb.	1 Kings 11:19–32; 12:19	Mark 7:31–end
Saturday	13 th Feb.	1 Kings 12:26–32; 13:33–34	Mark 8:1–10

SUNDAY 6 14th Feb. Jeremiah 17:5–8 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 9:28–43a

Monday	15 th Feb.	James 1:1–11	Mark 8:11–13
Tuesday	16 th Feb.	James 1:12–18	Mark 5:14–21

ASH WEDNESDAY 16th Feb. Joel 2:12–18 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2 Matt.6:1–6, 6–18 Luke 9:22–25 Matthew 9:14–15 Luke 5:27–32

Thursday	18 th Feb.	Deuteronomy 30:15–20	
Friday	19 th Feb.	Isaiah 58:1–9	
Saturday	20 th Feb.	Isaiah 58:9–14	

LENT 1 21st Feb. Deuteronomy 26:4–10 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13

*Chair of St Peter	22nd Feb.	Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18	Matthew 25:31–46
Tuesday	23 rd Feb.	Isaiah 55:10–11	Matthew 6:7–15
Wednesday	24 th Feb.	Jonah 3:1–10	Luke 11:29–32
Thursday	25 th Feb.	Esther 4:17	Matthew 7:7–12
Friday	26 th Feb.	Ezekiel 18:21–28	Matthew 5:20–26
Saturday	27 th Feb.	Deuteronomy 26:16–19	Matthew 5:43–48

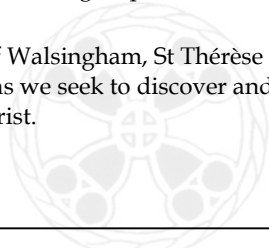
LENT 2 28th Feb. Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 9:28–36

* Ferial Readings: readings of the feast or solemnity will be read in Church.

(The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for February – Continued from page III)

the 'high church' bit. More important, we are the ones who in matters of faith and morals – what we believe about the Gospel, the Creeds, the Ministry, and the Sacraments – and how we live – have always claimed to be 'Catholic'. Do we mean it? And, if we do, what do we do about it? Individually and in groups. That's what we are saying our prayers about.

May the prayers of Our Lady of Walsingham, St Thérèse and John Henry Newman assist us as we seek to discover and build unity in the Church of Jesus Christ.



(The Chair of St Peter – Continued from page IV)

to the sixth century. What appeared to be an outer or second chair was a covering which served both to protect the throne and to carry it in procession.

Every year on this feast, the monumental altar housing the Chair of Peter is illuminated by scores of candles throughout the entire day. Numerous Masses are celebrated at this altar, from early morning to early evening, concluding with the Mass of the Canons of St Peter.

Slightly adapted from an explanatory article published by the Vatican Information Services, February 2009

(Noticeboard – Continued from page V)

Words for Life! The Mystery of Godliness, The Walsingham Bible Week is a new venture, running from 25th–29th October. £190 full cost. This is suitable for all ages and under-16s and students pay only £85. For information and enquiries about the Bible Week, ring 01328 824204 or look at the Shrine website, www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

Appeal for Saint Seraphim's Church. Many have grown to love the Orthodox Church that used to be Walsingham Railway Station. Funds are urgently needed to secure the fabric and roof, provide disabled access and develop the garden as a community amenity. Further details from, and donations to, the Treasurer, St Seraphim's Church, Station Road, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EB.

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter



Anglo-Catholics & the See of Peter

ANGLO-CATHOLIC is one of those labels which proves so tricky to define. It nearly always gets changed to 'high church' by the media, who mean by it people who like 'smells and bells', 'fancy' worship rather than 'plain' worship. The first people to use the term, however, the 'Tractarians', were not especially interested in bells, and would certainly not have burned incense. Back in 1838, the first use of the term in English, the emphasis was on the continuity of the Church of England with the Church of apostolic times. The Church, the Tractarians said, was a divine society and not an instrument of the state. The ministry of the Church and her sacraments were holy, catholic, and apostolic.

There was an early division among the Tractarians, what was called a 'parting of friends'. Some, notably John Henry Newman, were led by their theological explorations to become Roman Catholics. Others, notably John Keble and Edward Bouverie Pusey, took refuge in the 'Branch Theory', the idea that Rome, Constantinople (the Orthodox), and Canterbury were all ancient churches, sharing the ministry of bishop, priest, and deacon, descended from the apostles, and the sacraments, ordained by Christ. Tragically divided, in human terms, these 'branches', the Anglo-Catholics said, were nonetheless branches of the One Vine, in a way that Methodists and Baptists, say, were not (because they have no bishops and a different view of sacraments).

Throughout the twentieth century there was a continuing exploration of what it might take for the main 'branches' to recognise one another. Rome has talked to the Orthodox. Anglicans have talked to Rome, and to the Orthodox. In addition there have been extensive dialogues and conversations with churches of the Reformation, what we tend to call 'nonconformists'. Since 1966, when Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Pope Paul VI met in Rome, there has been particular enthusiasm for ARCIC – the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission – and we were never more optimistic about reunion in the West than in 1982, when Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Robert Runcie knelt together to pray in Canterbury Cathedral. In 1995 the Pope issued an Encyclical Letter, *Ut Unum Sint* ('That they may all be one' [John 17]), inviting Christians separated from Rome to explain just what they required to change before they were re-united with the Holy See.

The latest initiative, *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, this year, is yet another invitation from the Holy See to Anglicans to return in groups. Our day of prayer on 22nd February, the Chair of Peter, is our opportunity to think about this, in the company of Our Lord himself, and, where possible, with Roman Catholics. It is not a day of decision but a day of prayer. Though it is addressed to Anglicans in general, the particular focus of *Anglicanorum coetibus* is, of course, Anglo-Catholics. We are the ones who have longed for the re-union of the Catholic Church. We are the ones who, with candles, and devotions, and incense, and music, and prayers, and vestments have got as close as we can to Roman Catholic practice. That's

(Continued on page VI)

The Chair of St Peter



THE FEAST of the *Cathedra* or Chair of St Peter, 22nd February, is a feast dating back to the fourth century that honours and celebrates the primacy and authority of St Peter. The word '*cathedra*' means seat or throne and is the root of the word 'cathedral', the church where a bishop has his throne and from whence he preaches. Another word for cathedra is *sede* (seat or see): the 'see' is the place from which a bishop governs his diocese. Thus, for example, the Holy See is the see of the bishop of Rome, the Pope.

On 22nd February 2004, in reflections made during the *Angelus*, Pope John Paul II remarked that

'the liturgical feast of the Chair of Peter underscores the singular mystery, entrusted by the Lord to the leader of the Apostles, of confirming and guiding the Church in the unity of faith. This is what the *ministerium petrinum* is, that particular service that the Bishop of Rome is called to render to all Christians: an indispensable mission that is not based on human prerogatives but on Christ himself as the cornerstone of the ecclesial community. Let us pray that the Church, in the variety of cultures, languages and traditions, will be unanimous in believing and professing the truth of faith and morals transmitted by the Apostles.'

The Chair of St Peter is actually a throne that Charles the Bald, the grandson of the Emperor Charlemagne, gave to Pope John VIII at the former's coronation as emperor on Christmas Day 875. For many years the chair was used at liturgical events by Pope John and his successors: it was ensconced in Bernini's Altar of the Chair in 1666.

A mixture of tradition, legend and belief held for many years that this was actually a double chair, parts of which dated back to the early days of Christianity and to St Peter himself. This chair or cathedra has been studied over the centuries; the last time it was removed from its niche in the Bernini altar was a six-year period from 1968 to 1974 during which studies pointed to a single chair whose oldest parts date

(Continued on page VI)

Notice board

This section evolves month by month. Watch out for new items and changes.



ST AGATHA'S SPARKBROOK

On Saturday 6th February, St Agatha's, Sparkbrook, B11 1QT. Feast of title followed by Reception. Concelebrated Mass 1100. Principal Celebrant: Bishop Edwin Barnes. Further details: Canon John Hervé SSC (0121 440 4605)

EBBSFLEET CLERGY RETREAT

Unfortunately this was seriously under-subscribed and, with only four weeks to go, had to be cancelled.

EBBSFLEET PARISH EVANGELISM WEEKEND - OOPS!!

Unfortunately the Ebbsfleet Lay Council arranged a residential weekend at Ascot Priory on the weekend we normally use for the EPEW. First come, first served and we shall have to see if a weekend later in the year would work for an EPEW. Sorry.

CHRISM MASSES

There will be three Ebbsfleet Chrism Masses this year: Saturday before Holy Week in the West, 11.30am on Tuesday of Holy Week in Oxford, and 11.30am on Wednesday of Holy Week in the West Midlands. Further details in the Calendar. Clergy in Truro diocese are invited to join with the Plymouth Chrism Mass, celebrated by Bishop John Ford.

EXCITEMENT AT WALSINGHAM

Stargazers, the Walsingham Children's Pilgrimage, takes place from 19th-21st March. Suitable for children aged 7-11, early booking is advisable. Contact the Hospitality Department at the Shrine (01328 820239) or accom@olw-shrine.org.uk

Enter the Mysteries...It's all in the Beads, the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, takes place from 2nd-6th August. The Youth Missioner would like to know contact details of those responsible for young people's work in your parish: shrine.pr@olw-shrine.org.uk

The Education Department at the Shrine is keen to encourage residential school visits. There are 250 beds, a team of teachers, secure gardens, great classroom facilities and a nearby seaside. Surely a must for your church school. Contact ed@olw-shrine.org.uk or for a look at the Shrine website, see www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

(Continued on page VI)