

Holy Trinity Newsletter

March 7th 2010 -Lent 3

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 10.30 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 14.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 19.00 Gary Wilton

Our readings this week

Isaiah 55:1-9 God offers us not just the things that make life possible, but a life made rich in good things. He speaks through a picture, in which the necessities of bread and water are made rich with milk and wine. If we listen to him, he promises that we will become a pole of attraction for others. Could there be a stronger reason to turn our lives to him, as these verses compellingly urge us?

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Paul uses the picture of God's feeding of his people to remind us that when God feeds us, he expects us to follow a lifestyle that responds to him, not just to carry on as before. If we continue in disregard of him, we run a terrible risk. Yes, says Paul, we all face temptation: but if we are faithful to God, he will help us to overcome it. Salvation is not to be treated casually. It is a rich gift that calls for the response of our lives.

Luke 13:1-9 When we see someone overtaken by disaster, we may ask ourselves if God is punishing them for something. Jesus rejects this superficial view of God and his love, while warning us that our certainty of God's love gives us no grounds for complacency in the way we live. Like the fig tree, we are expected to deliver fruit. If we do not, we are in danger of being cut down.

Psalms 63 The love of God for us is not just a conditional gift given to extract something in return. It comes from God's deep care for us. The psalmist likens his longings for personal encounter with God to thirst felt in the desert. Worship in the temple, for which he longs, offers pictures that develop his message of trust. God offers life in its fullness and the psalmist clings to this gift, the greatest we can receive.

Pointers for prayer

- Pray that those overtaken by disaster may have the assurance of God's eternal love,
- Am I using the opportunity provided by God's love for me to make my life attractive to others?
- Do not forget to praise God.

At the Evening Service tonight Gary Wilton continues the Lenten series on 'Being at Home' with 'Being at Home with ourselves', drawing on 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Our life together

A warm welcome to Holy Trinity today to regular members and newcomers of our church alike. Please do stay for a cup of coffee or a drink from the bar downstairs in the hall after our 10:30 a.m. service.

Good to be back! Our Chaplain Robert Innes is delighted to be back at Holy Trinity after a most wonderful three weeks study leave at Ridley Hall Cambridge that was packed full with delightful encounters and opportunities for reading and refreshment. It was a very important time of personal resourcing for him which he hopes will bear fruit in the months and years to come. He is very grateful for funding from Holy Trinity to make this possible and to colleagues for looking after things so well during his absence.

Last Sunday afternoon Robert was pleased to represent the Anglican Church at a service at the Cathedral of St Gudule and St. Michel to welcome the new Roman Catholic Archbishop. Monseigneur Léonard gave a powerful sermon in which he advocated vocations lay and ordained, to family life and working life. His sermon was punctuated by spontaneous rounds of applause from the congregation in the packed Cathedral!

The Church Council met last Monday and was delighted to commend for our Annual General Meeting next month a set of accounts which reflect an excellent financial year in 2009. The Council was also very pleased to accept the proposals of the Mission Committee for a carefully constructed and balanced plan for mission spending over 2010.

Tomorrow Monday 8th March from 7.30–9 p.m. in the church we are presenting our hopes and aspirations for the development of our church house office and accommodation building. This is an important meeting which will set out a vision for the mission of our church and the way the buildings can support this. There will be presentations both from the Chaplain and our architect Richard Craddock, with opportunities for questions, and drinks and nibbles will be served. These presentations have already been made to our patron (Bishop Richard Chartres) and our diocesan bishop (Geoffrey). The meeting will be attended by Dave Healey, the head of ICS mission agency and the owner of our buildings. Do come if you possibly can!

Next Sunday at our 10.30 a.m. service, we celebrate **the baptism of baby Cristian Pappalardo**, the son of Lucio Pappalardo and Jocelyn Cleak. Also at this service, Sally Steen will be returning to Holy Trinity to give us an update on her work with refugees on the Thai–Burma border.

Calling all bakers and buyers! Next Sunday 14th March is also **Bun Sunday**. This is your chance to support smaller charities and missionary projects by buying our baked goodies, jams, chutneys and marmalades. We do also still need plastic carrier bags, or save the environment and bring along your own bag next Bun Sunday.

Are you baptised and thinking of getting confirmed? If so, Assistant Chaplain Augustine Nwaekwe began confirmation classes yesterday and will run them until the confirmation service

on 10th October. If you are interested in joining these classes, contact Augustine at augustine.nwaekwe@holyltrinity.be.

Easter Lilies. As in previous years, the flower team invites you to give Easter lilies in memory of departed loved ones. Each lily costs €1.50 and there are envelopes available at the back of the church in a basket. Please put the name(s) of those you wish to commemorate on the envelope and the amount inside and either return to the basket or give to Diane Oppenheim.

Volunteers needed for a housekeeper and a handyman in Church HouseWe are still looking for a person or a group working on a rota to carry out these functions. If either appeal to you and you would like to know more about the tasks involved, please contact David or Catherine in Church House via admin@holyltrinity.be.

Volunteers are also being sought to help clean the church kitchen floor rid it of the coating of grease that it has acquired which makes it slippery and dangerous. This is a job that requires two or three people for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning. We have the product and the equipment. Please let the office know at admin@holyltrinity.be if you would like to help with this important job to improve our kitchen safety.

A limited supply of '**Holy Trinity crosses**' in solid silver, 3_ by 2_ cm are available from Paulina Robbins van Rijn at a cost of €60. For more information, contact paulinaemma@scarlet.be. Cash or bank transfer only.

Exodus Vision will make a visit to Malawi on 1st –14th August. Would you like to join the party with Frieda Mukanyangezi, her brother Faustin Uzabakiliho and his group of six from California on this visit to give pastoral training and evangelistic outreach? They will be visiting the refugee camp "Dzaleka" which houses people from many African countries. If you are interested, please contact Frieda on 0472/44 94 27.

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please pass your request to Mary-Jo Nimmons – tel 02/640 50 18, or Anne Fieldsend – tel: 02/735 19 97.

For your diaries

During Lent, the **FCJ Centre for Spirituality** at 211 Avenue Winston Churchill is offering a number of guided sessions and courses; although most have already started, you would be welcome at the later ones. You can find flyers in the church lobby. And on Wednesday mornings from 10.15–11.45 a.m., FCJ has started an Open Door Group: Sharing the Word to which all are welcome. Email the FCJ at fcj@fcjcentre.be, call 0477/734551 or see <http://www.fcjcentre.be> for more details.

The **Christian Classics Book Club** will meet on Tuesday 9th March at the FCJ to discuss *The Inner Voice of Love* by Henri Nouwen. The meeting will start with a bag supper from 6.30–7.30 p.m., followed by the book discussion from 7.30–9 p.m. For more information or to RSVP contact Joan

McGeough, FCJ (0472/424.178 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com), or Ron or Maria Bailey (089/567502 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be).

The **International Christian Women's Club of Brussels** will hold its monthly brunch on Tuesday 9th March at which the guest speaker will be Gillian Wilton. Full details on the poster at the entrance, or see their website <http://www.ICWCB.org>.

On **Saturday 13th March** from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Mary Leahy of the FCJ will be carrying out an introduction to dream work. Email the FCJ at fcj@fcjcentre.be, call 0477/734551 or see <http://www.fcjcentre.be> for more details.

Serve the City is holding a World Water Weekend on 19th–22nd March with a film competition on 19th March, a focus on children on 20th March and a Film and Arts Festival on 22nd March. Sign up at <http://www.worldwaterweekend.be>. Children from 6–12 are very welcome. They are looking for sponsors for organic fruit baskets from Reason2 (€5 per basket), as well as juice and cookies for kids' snacks. Budding photographers who can take pictures are also being sought, as are youth groups interested in participating in the film competition. Contact Alison April at sourdoire.april@coditel.net for more information.

German MEP Thomas Mann, Italian MEP Patrizia Toia and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung are holding a European conference called '**Protection of a Work-Free Sunday**' on Wednesday 24th March from 4.30–7.30 p.m. at the European Parliament here in Brussels. Registration forms are available in the church lobby.

The Wednesday Club, an English-speaking afternoon social club for older men and women, will start on Wednesday 21st April in All Saints' Church, Braine-l'Alleud (see <http://www.allsaints.be> for directions). The club will provide a caring environment for members to enjoy each other's company and participate in activities. The club, which is secular and has no religious affiliations, will run from 2–4.30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Membership is open both to residents of the Brussels area and the "grannies and grandpas" of visiting families who would welcome a change of scene. Light refreshments will be provided. The premises are wheelchair-accessible and the club is looking to recruit volunteer drivers for those who have no transport. If you would like to drive or be part of the regular Wednesday teams, email vols@the-wednesday-club.org for a volunteer sheet or info@the-wednesday-club.org for any further details.

Holy Trinity's **La Foresta weekend away** will be on 28th–30th May. Please write the dates in your diary now! The main speaker will be Professor Ted van der Ende, who will be helping us to think about 'biblical travel stories'. We will be thinking about our own travels, and the question of migration, in the light of the travelling we read about in scripture.

HOLY TRINITY Rue Capitaine Crespel 29, B-1050 Brussels

Phone: 02/511.71.83 **Email:** admin@holytrinity.be

Website: <http://www.htbrussels.com> Office hours: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9 a.m. on Tuesday..

Chaplain: Canon Dr. Robert Innes. **Associate Chaplain:** Canon Dr. Gary Wilton. **Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd. Augustine Nwaekwe. **Hon. Assistant Chaplain:** The Revd. Prof. James Day. **Pastoral Assistant:** Mrs. Janet Sayers.

Gift account for pledges and gifts to HTB, the **Clergy and Friends of HTB** is 310-0344153-83. **IBAN:** BE14 3100 3441 5383 **BIC:** BBRUBEBB