

Holy Trinity Newsletter

March 28th 2010 – Palm Sunday

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 10.30 Holy Communion Robert Innes; 14.00 Holy Communion Augustine Nwaekwe; 19.00 Gillian Wilton

Our readings this week

Isaiah 50:4–9a We see how God's servant is willing to receive God's teaching, and to pass on what he has learned. Although he offers a word for the weary, his openness leads him to persecution. But he will not give way: in the choice between God's truth and what humanity wants, he is determined to serve God.

Philippians 2:5–11 The first theme of this hymn to Christ is his self-emptying. He is described as emptied, humbled, obedient to the point of accepting death on a cross. The self-emptying leads, however, to the greatest result imaginable, which forms the second theme: exaltation by God, universal recognition as Lord. It is to this that we are called, following Jesus in bringing glory to God the Father.

Luke 22:14–23:56 This account of the Passion of our Lord begins at his last supper with his disciples and traces those moments when, without in any way losing dignity or individuality, he carries obedience and humility to the limit of human possibility. There are many ways in which we may, like others, follow Jesus through these events. One is to look for signs of the emerging kingdom for which we wait expectantly. While we rest, God is preparing to transform the world forever.

Psalms 50 When God shines forth in judgment of his people before the company of heaven, there will be no room for argument. His overwhelming authority will be visible to all. It is not to sacrificial religious observance that he challenges his people, but to obedient behavior, seen in word and action. He knows us in all our weakness and takes our salvation on himself. The only religious response that he seeks is our thankful acceptance.

Pointers for prayer

- Self-emptying is not self-hatred: rather it is clearing space for obedience to God and care for others. Pray for understanding of how to give him more space in our lives;
- Meditate on the ways in which the kingdom that Jesus inaugurates is different from the kingdoms of the world;
- Contemplate the wonder of God's love, seen in the passion of Jesus. Let it wash through our whole being and transform us.

At the Evening Service tonight Gillian Wilton invites us to celebrate Passover with the reconstruction of a first-century Passover meal.

Our life together

A warm welcome to Holy Trinity today as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week, when we focus on the last days of our Lord's life on earth. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration with Christians throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. We go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Many of our church members will be travelling over the coming week. We do hope that their journeys are safe and without disruption, and that people have a refreshing break over Easter. Here at Holy Trinity we have services at **8 p.m. on Maundy Thursday** evening and **12 p.m. (noon) on Good Friday**, as well as the celebrations on Easter Sunday. Our usual experience is that the services on Thursday and Friday bring together faithful Christian folk from across our four services. If you are in Brussels, please do think seriously about joining us. Flyers entitled **"Celebrating Holy Week and Easter at Holy Trinity"** are available in the church lobby to give to friends and colleagues.

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.

Our **Church Council** meets at 8 p.m. on Monday 29th March in Church House. We will be considering progress with our church's environmental audit, a strategy video from the diocese, and reflecting on plans for the development of Church House.

On **Tuesday 30th March at 12 p.m. (noon)** our diocesan Bishop Geoffrey will be leading a service of blessing of oils and renewal of ministerial vows. After the main service, there will be a short ceremony to 'install' two new canons in stalls in the chancel of our Pro-Cathedral. Clergy will be travelling from across the diocese to attend this event. Whilst it is especially for clergy and licensed lay ministers, all members of the congregation are very welcome to attend. A lunch will be served in Church House after the service for our clergy visitors.

The Ambassadors of Christ will present a concert for the prison inmates at St Gilles prison on Wednesday 31st March. This is one of the many youth outreaches of the Ambassadors. Speak to prison chaplain Grace West (g_westnekan@hotmail.com) if you would like to explore how to give Christian service or contribute to worship in the prison community.

We are looking for an **accompanist** for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) exams on Saturday 22nd May. Can you play the piano? If so, please contact David Mitchell at precentor@holyltrinity.be.

The second-hand bookshop is looking for helpers to sort out books during the week, following recent donations of a large quantity of books. Volunteers are also welcome to help sell the books on Sundays. Contact Dora on 0473/52 79 77 for more information.

Please note that **the Electoral Roll has been posted in the church lobby** for you to take a look at. Contact Paulina Robbins van Rijn (paulinaemma@scarlet.be) for any information.

Holy Trinity's **La Foresta weekend away** will be on 28–30th May. The main speaker will be Professor Ted van der Ende, who will be helping us to think about 'biblical travel stories'. Ted has a wide range of pastoral and teaching experience in America and Europe. Following last year's very successful children's work, we have the same team of leaders – Ruth Faber and Ilse ten Cate. And the Dance Band who provided such excellent entertainment last year will be back with us. We are managing to hold prices at the same level as the last two years. Please be aware that the booking charge increases for payments received after 3rd May, so take advantage of the early bird prices and book soon. Programmes and booking forms for La Foresta are now available in the church lobby.

This month our mission focus is on Burma and the work of Projects to Support Refugees from Burma and Help 4 Forgotten Allies (H4FA) who support refugees from Karen and Karenni States. There are around 150,000 refugees in camps along the Thai–Burma border, among them veterans or widows from the Second World War who fought with the British. This dwindling group of very old people have had their small grants cut and H4FA, with your help, has been able to replace these this year. Holy Trinity has also supported a Bible College in a Karenni refugee camp. While visiting recently, Sally Steen was asked to give the congregation of Holy Trinity heartfelt thanks. Please see the notice board in the foyer or <http://handsoffriendship2.dynalias.org:8080/> for further details.

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

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

Assistant Chaplain Augustine Nwaekwe will be holding the **next confirmation class on Saturday 3rd April at 2 p.m.** in the conference room in Church House. He will continue to run them until the confirmation service on 10th October. If you are interested in joining these classes, contact Augustine at augustine.nwaekwe@holyltrinity.be.

There will be a **2 p.m. elders meeting** immediately after the Easter service on 4th April.

You are welcome to join a **lunch prayer at 1.15–1.45 p.m. on Thursday 8th April** led by Augustine Nwaekwe at the Chapel of Resurrection, 22–24 rue Van Maerlant, Brussels.

The Christian Classics Book Club will meet on Tuesday 13th April to discuss *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. 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. at the FCJ. For more information or to RSVP contact Joan McGeough at 0472/42 41 78 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com. Ron or Maria Bailey at 089/56 75 02 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), a human rights organisation focusing on religious freedom around the world, will co-sponsor two films during the One World human rights film festival from 12th-19th April in Brussels. Kimjonglia, a film about the human rights situation in North Korea, will be screened on 14th April at 6.30 p.m. in the European Parliament. Moving to Mars, a film about the experience of Karen refugees from Burma who have been resettled in Sheffield in the UK, will be screened at Bozar on 16th April at 7.30 p.m. (cost is €5). Seats are limited so if you would like to attend any films, visit http://www.mzv.cz/representation_brussels/en/culture/archive_of_events/one_world_2010.html to register online. Please note for any films being shown in the European Parliament, you must register at least one week in advance and bring photo id. with you.

Sue Bird will be repeating her workshop on **Christians and work** on Thursday 15th April and Thursday 27th May, both to be held in Church House starting at 8 p.m. When all of us spend so much time "at work", this is a topical subject to take a closer look at. We hope you will support this initiative.

Sunday 18th April will be a **Global Day of Prayer for Turkey**. Please take a few minutes to read the notices about this in the church lobby, or visit <http://www.prayforturkey.com>

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>). The club, which is secular and has no religious affiliations, will provide a caring environment for members from 2-4.30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Membership is open to residents and "grannies and grandpas" of visiting families. Light refreshments will be provided. The premises are wheelchair-accessible and the club is recruiting volunteer drivers for those without transport. Email vol@the-wednesday-club.org or info@the-wednesday-club.org for details.

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.

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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@holyltrinity.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