

Holy Trinity Newsletter

April 11th 2010 – Easter 2 – Low Sunday

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Augustine Nwaekwe; 10.30 Holy Communion Augustine Nwaekwe; 14.00 Holy Communion Jeanne Mbonigaba; 19.00 Andrew Graydon

Our readings this week

Acts 5: 27–32 The once-fearful disciples of Easter are now bearing witness, with conviction and determination, to their experience of the risen Lord. Their conviction is that Jesus, sent from God, was killed by the people to whom he was sent, but has been raised to life by God and is now offering forgiveness to all. God has made his position in the matter very clear. The council are more concerned with the accusation than with the offer of forgiveness. Is this not strange?

Revelation 1: 4–8 John's greeting to the church is packed with symbols. These point beyond what they seem to say, to deeper meaning. Seven points to completion and perfection. Grace and peace are the two great gifts of God to his people. Giving titles to Jesus and to God points to their revealed nature, and indicates what Jesus has done for us. Above all the passage points to the encounter with the eternal God that all, even those who have willed his downfall, will face.

John 20: 19–31 Jesus meets with his disciples when they come together on the first day of the week. They may be fearful, or skeptical, but this is where Jesus shows himself to them, revealing his glory in the marks of his passion. Notice how, as the gospel moves quickly from Easter to its conclusion, the resurrection experience moves from Mary's "I have seen the Lord", to the disciples' "We have seen the Lord", to Thomas' "My Lord and my God". These are signs, pointing you and me to belief in Jesus, and so to true life.

Psalm 118 As on Easter Day, we use this joyful hymn of triumph, once seen as looking forward to the Messiah. But for those of us who have put their trust in that Messiah, it has become our hymn too. The gate of the Lord is open to us!

Pointers for prayer

- Pray for all who have pierced Jesus by word or action, to find his forgiveness and life;
- Do our lives witness to the Risen Lord?
- Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his steadfast love endures forever!

At the Evening Service tonight, Andrew Graydon continues the mini-series: Easter, looking at the Resurrection with new eyes with 'The Resurrection through Peter's eyes', drawing on John 20: 1– 9 and John 21:1–19

Our life together

Over this Easter period our church welcomes friends, family and those visiting Brussels. Please do stay for a cup of coffee with us after the 10:30 a.m. service downstairs in the hall. At the moment, many people from our regular congregation are away, and we wish them a refreshing break and safe travels.

Calling all buyers! Today is **Bun Sunday**. Our monthly sale of baked goodies and marmalade and jams will be held downstairs in the hall after the 10.30 a.m. service. Please bring along your own bag to take home your purchases!

The Collections and Offerings at our services go towards the general running expenses of Holy Trinity. Our Pro-Cathedral costs about €750 per day to run, 365 days per year. This cost is mainly born by the pledged giving of our regular church members. We are not a rich church, and any donations that visitors can make towards our operations are very gratefully received.

We express sincere thanks to all those who helped create such a wonderful worship environment for our Easter services. Particular thanks are due to the flower team, and to all involved in the music, whether directing, playing or singing. The choir at the 10.30 a.m. service looked resplendent in their new red robes, and it was a marvellous opportunity for these to be worn for the first time. Our Easter services were a magnificent celebration of the joy and hope of the resurrection. Our 10.30 a.m. service was full to capacity, and we thank all who helped to look after our many visitors and guests.

Sue Bird will be repeating her **workshop on Christians and work** this Thursday 15th April, as well as on 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.

Copies of the Annual Report are available for you to collect from the lobby. Our **Annual Meeting follows the 10.30 a.m. service next Sunday. 18th April**. In order to keep the meeting as focused as possible, we will try to follow closely Church Representation Rules for the conduct of the meeting. This encourages: (a) questions on the reports tabled at the meeting; (b) opportunity for more general questions at the end of the meeting – but only in the form of resolutions to the meeting or requests for action from the Church Council. Please do read the Annual Report before you come, as the meeting does not allow time for page by page reading. 2009 was a year of considerable achievement for our church, not least in the rebuilding of our financial reserves. If you care for the ongoing life of Holy Trinity, please do read the annual report and try to attend the annual meeting.

The Chaplain is away today and returns to the office tomorrow, Monday 12th April.

Assistant Chaplain Augustine Nwaekwe will be away in Nigeria from 12th April to 3rd May. During this time, he will be meeting with the newly elected bishop of his "home" Diocese of Mbaise to discuss the future of the Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind which the Diocese runs, which has received support from Holy Trinity's Bun Sunday. Augustine goes in the company of Alexander Koistinen from our congregation. Please pray for their time away.

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.

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 which 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.

Congratulations to our 7 p.m. service who raised some €500 as a special gift to the Anglican church of St. Martha and St. Mary Leuven. Fondly known as St. "M and Ms", this church was originally founded by Holy Trinity. Its congregation is composed mainly of people involved in the university life of the city. Whilst it is currently quite small, we hope and expect that it will see significant growth in the future.

Use of the pigeonholes at the back of the church is being reviewed with the aim of improvement. If you already have a personal pigeonhole and wish to keep it, or if you would like us to set up a personal pigeonhole, please contact Catherine in the church office at admin@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.

White (not yellowed) cotton or real lace is now needed for communion linen. Contact Paulina Robbins van Rijn (paulinaemma@scarlet.be) if you can help.

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.

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

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.

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.

Churches Together is holding a meeting with **Professor John Bowen** of Wycliffe College, Toronto, on **"The Man who invented Narnia"** – a discussion on the work of C.S. Lewis. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th May at St Paul's Church Centre (Hoornzeelstraat 24, 3080 Tervuren) as of 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost €10 or €15 for a family. Information from Gilbert Dunachie (02-767-9772, dunachie@skynet.be) or Sue Bird (0476/41 08 75).

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