

Holy Trinity Newsletter

May 9th 2010 – Europe Day

Today's Services: 09.00 Holy Communion Augustine Nwaekwe; 10.30 Holy Communion Gary Wilton; 14.00 Holy Communion Uche Nwaekwe; 19.00 Heather Roy

Our readings this week

The power of God, present with us in the Holy Spirit, transforms the lives of believers, both as community and as individuals.

Ezekiel 37:1–14 The dry bones of an ancient battlefield testify to death and defeat. But when the prophetic word of God is faithfully spoken, God's renewing spirit transforms the situation. Like a defeated army brought back to life, so God's people are restored when his spirit moves among them.

Acts 16:9–15 Guidance from the Holy Spirit is a daily reality for Paul. He is open to God's initiative in his work, building his team as he goes. In Philippi, Lydia becomes a believer and is baptised. A first convert in Europe, a new community is founded and a new phase of the missionary work is launched.

John 14:23–29 Jesus promises that God will be fully present in the life of the faithful disciple, the one who does God's will. That presence will bring a sharing in the love that is characteristic of God's inner being and, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, will set his power to work in our lives. So we are promised peace. Not the temporary peace of the world, but the lasting peace and security that comes from a full relationship with God in all his love and power.

Psalms 67 We long for God's blessing, to bask in the warmth of his love and for Israel this is not an idle dream, but their lived experience. The psalmist calls all peoples to praise God: his special people for the rich blessings he has poured on them; and the whole earth, towards whom he directs not the arbitrary power of the tyrant, but even-handedness in judgement, guidance in their lives.

Pointers for prayer

- Enjoying the guidance of the Spirit depends on being open to him and to his work. In asking for help, be sure to listen for answers;
- The faithful life of love will be enriched by the love and power of God. What does living that life involve today?
- Pray that the prophetic word of God may be spoken into the needs of our land, bringing renewal and life.

At the Evening Service tonight Heather Roy begins a new mini-series: "Knowing God", with 'Knowing God – as Our Father' drawing on Luke 11:1–13

Our life together

We extend a warm welcome to those worshipping at Holy Trinity today, both regular members and visitors alike. Please do stay for a cup of coffee or a drink from the bar after our 10.30 a.m. service downstairs in the hall.

Today 9th May is Europe Day to mark the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, regarded as the birth of the European Union. Gary Wilton will be preaching at our 10.30 a.m. service, and he will also be contributing to a commemoration service in the Chapel of the Resurrection, rue van Maerlant 22, Brussels, at 3 p.m., along with Peeter Vosu (chairman of the European Christian Political Movement), Evert-Jan Ouweneel (Dutch philosopher) and others.

Today is also Mother's Day here in Belgium and there will be a **Women's Day** celebration at the 2 p.m. service, at which we welcome Uche Nwaekwe to speak to us. It will be an opportunity for prayers of re-dedication for all women in their work in the family, Church and in the wider society. Native attire and Bible Quiz, as well as lots of refreshments after service in the Church Hall!

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!

Church Council meets at 8 p.m. on Monday 10th May in Church House. We have an interesting agenda, with opportunities to think about the results of autumn's church attendance survey, plans for Church House, and the possibility of improving our cycle parking facilities.

There will be a reflective service to celebrate **Ascension Day** here at Holy Trinity on Thursday 13th May at 7.30 p.m.

Please note that the Church Office will be closed next Thursday and Fridayth 31st 14th May for the Ascension Day holiday. Catherine Potter from the Administration team will be away the whole week (10th–14th May) and the newsletter will be produced and finalised tomorrow Monday 10th May so please send any notices in to admin@holyltrinity.be by 10.30 a.m..

Next Sunday 16th May sees the baptism of Chidubem Noah Osokogu and Charles Tobechi Iweajunwa during the 2 p.m. service.

Holy Trinity is taking part in the **Global Day of Prayer**. Our day is **Monday 17th May from 8 a.m.– 8 p.m.** If you are interested in praying either at home or in the church, there will be a sign up sheet in the church lobby as of this Sunday or contact Priscilla Stairs on Jeffrey_stairs@hotmail.com. Also see <http://www.globaldayofprayer.com> or <http://www.pray4belgium.be> for more information

We are still 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 **Vacation Bible School 2010**, for children aged 5–11, co-organised by IBC Brussels and St Paul's Tervuren, from Monday – Friday 23rd – 27th August (starting at 10 a.m. each morning) seeks enthusiastic volunteers to make it a success again this year. Please contact Martina Wallace at martina.wallace@skynet.be if you would like to get involved.

The **St Gilles Home Group** will meet on Wednesdays leading up to the summer. Initially we will be studying "Plan Be" (about the Beatitudes), and then "Sex God" (about marriage within the Christian context in today's world of different types of union between people). Meetings will be held at Richard and Sally Steel's home, 54 Rue de Lombardie, from 8 p.m. We would love to welcome new people, so do get in touch with Sue Bird (0476/41 08 75) or Richard Steel (02/538 74 80) if you are interested.

Do be careful where you **park your car** in rue Capitaine Crespel. In particular, do not block any garage entrances as the proprietor of the building has the right to get you towed, and recovery of the vehicle will cost over €200. If in doubt, use the Inno car park next door to Holy Trinity, for which we have ample free tickets.

A Holy Trinity 7 p.m. evening service 'running team' will be running in the Brussels 20 km on Sunday 30th May. The team will all be running to support a street children's charity called Retrak (see <http://www.retrak.org> for details) that is well known to the Holy Trinity congregation. To avoid unnecessary competition for funds, the team has decided to ask Holy Trinity friends to support them collectively. Sian Platt has set up a justgiving account: at <http://www.justgiving.com/Sian-Platt>, but the funds will be accredited to all of the team. Please give generously, street children in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia deserve it. And if you are in La Foresta and will miss the event, you can pray for the team of four (Siân, Usman, Jacques and Kendrah) to have a successful run.

Emma Lowe from our 10.30 a.m. morning service is also doing the Brussels 20 km aid of the Giraffe Project charity (http://www.giraffeproject.org/About_Us.html), which is based in Belgium and provides educational support to impoverished children living in slums in Kenya. She is one of about 55 runners who make up this year's Giraffe Project 20 km team, and they have set up an online donation page which allows people to contribute to the funds being raised. If you would like to support her, please visit her web page <http://www.justgiving.com/emmalowe-20k>

Copies of Holy Trinity's new summer programme 2010 covering the four months from May to August are now available in the church lobby. This important publication sets out the upcoming reading and preaching calendar, as well as any other key events in our church life. Please feel free to take a copy and let Catherine in the church office know at admin@hollytrinity.be if you find any additions or modifications. More copies will be printed when required.

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 11th May to discuss Cyprian, And Origen On The Lord's Prayer by Alistair Stewart-Sykes. The meeting will start with fellowship and a bag supper from 6.30–7.30 p.m., followed by the book discussion from 7.30–9 p.m. at the FCJ Centre Of Spirituality, 211 Avenue Winston Churchill. This will be the last meeting until September. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joan McGeough, FCJ (0472/42 41 78 or mcgeoughjoan@yahoo.com), or Ron or Maria Bailey (089/56 75 02 or ronald.bailey@telenet.be).

Join Serve the City for Spring Cleaning on Saturday 15th May, a big volunteer day with many opportunities to serve. Jesus is making all things new! Feel his pleasure as you clean, weed, organise, and renew the facilities of non-profit associations in Brussels that are serving the needs of the homeless, asylum seekers, children and the disabled. They especially need men! Sign up to serve on <http://www.springcleaning.be> !

The **Brussels Chamber Choir** will perform a concert called '*Northern Lights*' here at Holy Trinity on **Wednesday 19th May**. Tickets are €10 (€5 reductions). See poster in the porch for more information, or visit <http://www.brusselschamberchoir.be> .

A workshop entitled "**A Human Perspective on the Global and Economic Financial Crisis**" led by Frank Turner SJ, will be held at the FCJ Centre of Spirituality on Saturday 22nd May from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Further information and booking can be obtained from fcj@fcjcentre.be or 0477/73 45 51.

Sue Bird will be repeating her **workshop on Christians and work** on Thursday 27th May 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.

Exodus Vision will make a visit to Malawi on 1st –14th August. Would you like to join the party with Frieda Mukanyangezi 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.

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