

NEWSLETTER



Annunciation of Mary by Ivanna Demchick

Newsletter 29th March 2023

Dear Everyone - Greetings to you all.

We are at the point when we come to the end of Lent and approach Holy Week; the most sacred week in the Christian year starting on the evening of Palm Sunday. We think of Jesus on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the washing of the disciples feet, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, his betrayal and trial, his crucifixion on Good Friday. Then of course on Easter Sunday when we celebrate his resurrection and triumph over death which brings hope and promise to us all. So much to ponder on and absorb.

Palm Sunday: This coming Sunday, as you will see on the poster below, we will be having our palm service in church at 10.00am and, as usual, followed by a "Walk of Witness, joining with "Churches Together" at 12.30pm to walk in procession along the High St with our palms. It will be a good time to be together with our friends from other churches.

The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary: This is one of the main feasts of the Church, celebrated in many churches on 25th March, in the past called Lady Day. The day proclaims the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the Holy Spirit and will be called Jesus (Luke 1:26–38). The angel's pronouncement is met with Mary's willing consent "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word". This is one of the most painted, drawn, tapestry designed, carved scenes of bible stories, by famous artists of old and of our present day. The one at the top of our newsletter is by a young up-and-coming Ukrainian iconographer, Ivanna Demchick.

Malcolm Guite on the feast of the Annunciation: Because it is such an important feast, not always acknowledged by some churches, I have included a quintet of poems by Malcolm Guite, (*with his permission*) on the stages of Mary's acceptance, Malcolm is a much loved Anglican poet/priest. He starts off by reflecting on Mary and her importance in the Christian story, (Without her "yes" there would be no Christian story). He offers us a quintet of sonnets in her honour). I hope you like them. I have a number of his poetry books reflecting on many different aspects of Christianity, our lives as Christians and creation. If anyone would like to borrow any of them, please ask me.

Archbishop Oscar Romero: On 28th March 1980, while saying mass, Oscar Romero was shot dead by the death squads of the El Salvador regime. His crime was speaking out for the poor, dispossessed and persecuted of his country. Overnight he became a martyr. His courage as a Christian, his love of Christ, his

determination to put into practice Christ's words and teaching, meant he knew what would happen to him as a result. So he joined the long list of men and women of all denominations, countries and cultures, down the ages, who worked determinedly for the poor in situations of injustice in Christ's name. An article below outlines his life and many of his comments that gave strength to the poor and earned the enmity of the powerful. In our time he made me think of Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Tutu and many other women and men for their courage and faith who did the same. Would we have more.

Our Lent Course: started on Thursday evening 9th March from 6.30pm in church and by zoom throughout Lent and is going well. Details of the content are below.

Holy Week Services: Please note below the arrangements for the services that are taking place during Holy Week. It will be so good to see you.

Pakistan and Malawi: How tragic to hear that Malawi and Mozambique were hit by devastating floods leaving homes underwater and covered in mud caused by a tropical storm. At the same time a large earthquake of 6.5 magnitude hit Pakistan and parts of the border with Afghanistan destroying buildings and forcing people out into the streets. These devastating climate actions are hitting so many more countries, causing havoc to lives and properties. Last Sunday, Bernard gave us an update on what is happening in Malawi. **This Sunday we will be having a collection for those hit by the floods and earthquake in Malawi and Pakistan.** Please pray for all those involved who have lost their loved ones and homes in these tragedies.

Nigeria: We continue to pray for peace and tranquility and God's blessing and hope for unity and harmony in Nigeria.

The Night Shelter Project: continues to go well and goes on until 18 April 2023. It is not too late if anyone wishes to help. Please get in touch with Nehar on neharbird@gmail.com or at the Sunday Service.

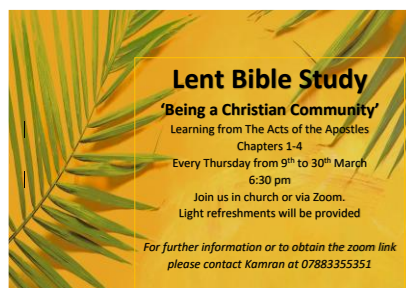
Coffee Morning: Finally, please come and join us for coffee, cake and chat in a warm church every Wednesday morning **from 10.30am -12.30pm.** It will be so good to see you.

All good wishes and love

Sally

Our Lent Course

Kamran is taking one aspect in turn each Thursday of the diagramme set out below with opportunities to discuss questions and issues that arise.





Holy Week Services

HOLY WEEK			
Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
Services Times			
Palm Sunday 2 April			
Parish Communion 10 am			
Walk of the Witness 12:30 pm			
Maundy Thursday 6 April			
Holy Communion Service 5 pm			
Rahe – Calvary - Asian Holy Week Service 6:30 pm			
Good Friday, 7 April			
The Service of Lord's Passion at 11 am			
14 Stations of Cross – 2:30 pm – 3 pm			
The church will be open until 3 pm for private prayers and meditation.			
Easter Sunday, 9 April			
Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10 am			

Malcolm Guite - On the feast of the Annunciation, A Quintet for Mary



Malcolm Guite writes: On March the 25th many churches across the world, Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, keep the feast of the Annunciation, and though we can no longer keep the feast outwardly and visibly in our churches, I would like to keep it inwardly and spiritually here with you.

The Annunciation, the visit of Gabriel to the blessed virgin Mary, is that mysterious moment of awareness, assent and transformation in which eternity touches time. In my own small take on this mystery I have thought about vision, about what we allow ourselves to be aware of, and also about freedom, the way all things turn on our discernment and freedom.

The scripture that says of Mary that “All generations’ will call her “blessed”, It is true that some Christians have disagreed with one another bitterly about her, but equally, in every age and every church she has been, for many Christians, a sign of hope, an example of prayer, devotion and service, and an inspiration.

In a strange way, which I will write about one day, she was a sign of hope to me even before I was a Christian, and it was something numinous and beautiful in the paintings and poetry she has inspired that helped lead me to her Son.

I thought for this feast day, I would offer a quintet of sonnets in her honour, gathering together the four

sonnets about her which are part of my wider collection 'Sounding the Seasons'. and then adding a fifth, based on the antiphon O Virgo Virginum. The first four take us, from the Annunciation and her 'yes' to the angel, through the Visitation, with its beautiful magnificat, to the birth of Jesus, and then to her presence with him on the via dolorosa and at the foot of the cross. The final sonnet invokes her prayer and aid for the many women exploited and betrayed in our own age.

Annunciation

We see so little, stayed on surfaces,
 We calculate the outsides of all things,
 Preoccupied with our own purposes
 We miss the shimmer of the angels' wings,
 They coruscate around us in their joy
 A swirl of wheels and eyes and wings unfurled,
 They guard the good we purpose to destroy,
 A hidden blaze of glory in God's world.

But on this day a young girl stopped to see
 With open eyes and heart. She heard the voice;
 The promise of His glory yet to be,
 As time stood still for her to make a choice;
 Gabriel knelt and not a feather stirred,
 The Word himself was waiting on her word.

The Visitation

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys
 Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place
 From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise
 And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.
 Two women on the very edge of things
 Unnoticed and unknown to men of power
 But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings
 And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.
 And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',
 Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'
 They sing today for all the great unsung
 Women who turned eternity to time
 Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth
 Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.

Theotokos

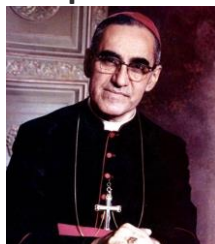
You bore for me the One who came to bless
 And bear for all and make the broken whole.
 You heard His call and in your open 'yes'
 You spoke aloud for every living soul.
 Oh gracious Lady, child of your own child,
 Whose mother-love still calls the child in me,
 Call me again, for I am lost, and wild
 Waves surround me now. On this dark sea
 Shine as a star and call me to the shore.
 Open the door that all my sins would close

And hold me in your garden. Let me share
The prayer that folds the petals of the Rose.
Enfold me too in Love's last mystery
And bring me to the One you bore for me.

Jesus meets His Mother

This darker path into the heart of pain
Was also hers whose love enfolded him
In flesh

Archbishop Oscar Romero



Archbishop Oscar Romero was shot when celebrating Mass on March 28th 1980. He was executed for speaking out for the poor in his country, El Salvador, against the vast corruption that was damaging so many. He witnessed the devastating poverty and ill treatment suffered by the peasants. The wealth of the country was held by 2% of the population, 14 families controlled 90% of the country's wealth.

He was originally promoted as he was thought to be a quiet and unassuming pastor, a studious and pious conservative who would do nothing to challenge the government and question the status quo. How wrong they were. He saw what was happening. He had scarcely taken up his post when he heard that a priest friend, taking mass, had been killed by a death squad. He was moved to speak out and began to find a voice for the poor and voiceless. He knew it would be his turn but would not stop speaking out or have any protection. He commented that, "My new position has put me on the road to Calvary".

He continued to speak the truth week-in and week-out. "We must incarnate god in our own lives and inspire others to live the gospel. We pray that the church may be a beacon of hope, a voice to the voiceless and to those in need. Jesus brings good news to the poor. We have to start from where we are. God belongs to all not just some. The universal church is made in God's image in all our diversity. The church cannot remain silent when it sees injustice of an economic, political, social nature - if it remains silent then the church remains complicit. The churches good name is not a matter of being on the side of the rich people. These unjust inequalities are a sign of anti-Christianity. All human beings should consider themselves brothers and sisters".

He stated, "The poor have shown the church the true way to go. How beautiful will be the day when a new society, instead of selfishly hoarding and keeping riches, will portion out the shares, divide them up because we are children of the same God".

As he told the truth his words were essential listening for friend and foe alike. People gathered to hear him. His words were a constant call to conversion to rich and poor alike. The threats and insults multiplied towards him and efforts were made to kill him which failed until he tried to persuade the ordinary soldiers to to put down their arms and stop killing their own people. Their brothers and sisters. "The law of god must prevail – though shalt not kill. In the name of God and this suffering people I plead with you stop the repression". Two days later he was shot while celebrating mass in the chapel of a cancer hospital. He had previously said, "I have frequently been threatened by death. As a Christian I do not believe in death without resurrection; tell them if they succeed I pardon them for what they have done, A bishop may die but the Church of God will never die".

Some parts of this article are taken by a talk given by Revd Richard Carter at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Toddlers Club

The Toddlers club is held on every Tuesday from 9.30-11.30am. It is held in church. There is a £3.00 entrance fee. For further details contact: 0 208 455 1873. The club will not be meeting for the next two weeks.

How We Are

We send all those who are sick our love. Please continue to pray for all who have been unwell that they may gain in strength and good health as well as those who are grieving because of loss of a loved one.

Sheila: We send prayers and love to Sheila who is recovering and how good to see her back in church.

Sylvia: We also send our love and prayers to Sylvia who is unwell and hopes she recovers soon.

Please continue to pray for **David Agbim, Sheila, Gideon, Rose and Eunice**. We hold them in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

Please continue to let us know of family members and friends who are sick and would welcome our prayers, either by WhatsApp, email, Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk or by phone, **020 8455 1873**

Prayers with Kamran

- ❖ from Mondays to Thursdays, Kamran will be in church at 9.00am for a short time of prayer with anyone who would like to join him. This does not have to be compulsory; you are welcome to stay home and pray for the church and the parish each day for 15-20 minutes;
- ❖ he will also be in church each day for those who would like to visit and talk with him. Please consider making an appointment to ensure that he will be available to meet with you;

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0DaDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: 400416

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/aemYT2p1YY>

Church Bulletin

The Parish of Golders Green Parish Notices: 12/02/2023

Sunday Service: 10 am - After the service, Prayer ministry is available for anyone who wishes to receive prayers.

Sunday School – please continuously keep our children and team in your prayer.

Night Shelter Project – 28th February - 18 April 2023. our church is hosting 17 homeless people.

The Community Coffee Morning – All welcome. Every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Communion Service will follow straight after.

The Toddler Group – Every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. Please join us for song, laughter, play, reading, crafts, tea & coffee, biscuits & fruit.

For your prayers:

Please remember Alexis and family on the loss of their mother Alice. Please continue to pray for Sheila, Sylvia, Tony, Mike Houghton, Eunice and Naila for God's healing.

Rota for Sunday 05 Feb 23

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti

Office Tel: 020 8455 1873, Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

Church Rota

GGPC Rota March 2023							
Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	Av Desk	Service leader
05/03/23	Isa 2:1-5	Cynthia	Sally	Rose/Ezim	Tony	Thomas	Jenny
	John 3:1-17						
12/03/23	Rom 12:1-3	Sam	Nehar	Catherine	Tim	Onyeka	
	John 14:15-27						
19/03/23	Acts 4:32-36	Nwennaka	Nwadi	Naila	Daniel	Shaniv	Alexis
	John 13:33-35						
26/03/23 Bring & Share	1 Cor 12:12-20	Tbc	Rose	Nehar/Chinwe	Nwadi	Elizabeth	
	Mark 12:28-34						
02/04/23 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 61:1-3;	Dozie	Jenny	Nwando	Tony	Tony	
	Matthew 21:1-11						
07/04/23 Good Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Keith	Alexis	Bilan	Naila	Thomas	
	John 18:1-19:42						
09/04/23 Easter Sunday	Colossians 3:1-4	Abi	Annie	Ezim	Ifeyinwe	Onyeka	
	John 20:1-18						