

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 26 June 2022
The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
11.00am Solemn Mass & Holy Baptism

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.*

Please take this order of service away with you

THIS WEEK

- Observances** Monday: *St Cyril of Alexandria*
- Tuesday: *St Irenaeus*
Low Mass: 10.00am
Low Mass: 6.30pm of Ss Peter & Paul
*with blessing of new vestments,
followed by PCC meeting at 7.00pm*
- Wednesday: **SS PETER & PAUL**
Low Mass: 7.30pm
- Thursday: *The First Martyrs of the See of Rome*
Low Mass: 10.00am
- Friday: *Feria*
- Saturday: *Feria*
Holy Rosary: 11.00am
- Sunday 3rd: **DEDICATION FESTIVAL**
Solemn Mass: 11.00am
*Visiting Preacher: Fr Max Marsh,
Assistant Curate, St Mary, Lewisham*

Website:

ascensionlavenderhill.org.uk

Email:

ascensionsw11@gmail.com

Phone:

020 7228 5340

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please remain standing until the procession has left the church.

*You are warmly invited to join us after Mass for refreshments
at the back of the church*

CCLI REGISTRATION NO: 1405641

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those in need

Joan Aubee, Hazel Sack, Ruth Cansdale, Arthur Shorey, Constance,
Joanne Donaghy, Kingsley Eson, Beryl Hodges, Siobhan Manning,
Roberto Sanchat, Sergio, Elly Kostur, Bernadette Savage, Catherine,
John Magnan

We pray for peace in Ukraine.

Anniversaries of death

29: Henry James Crittenden, Cecilia Fagg, Leroy Orbon

30: Donald Vincent Beckingham (pr), Minnie Lavinia Smith,
Hugh Shovlin

1: Maria Lombardo, Alfred Phillips

2: George Henry Palmer, Julia Knight

Preparing for Ordination

Deacon: Michael Dixon, Thomas Cotterill, Stephen Miller, John
Hillman, Daniel Heaton, Andrew Bailey;

Priest: Fr Luke Demetri, Fr James Chegwiddden, Fr Max Marsh,
Fr Charlie Bell

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servants now to be ordained the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NOTICES

WELCOME

to Lily Jackie Rose Hubball being baptised today, and to her parents, Godparents, family and friends. We assure you all of our prayers.

MANY THANKS

and a warm welcome to our visiting organist, Charlie Price, deputising for Brian today; we're very grateful to him for being with us.

PCC MEETING

Tuesday 28 June at 7pm, preceded by Mass at 6.30pm. Papers have been circulated and hard copies available at the back of church.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL

Next Sunday (3rd July) we celebrate our Feast of Dedication – the nearest Sunday to the date our church building was consecrated. It was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Rochester on the Feast of Ss Peter & Paul 1883. It is an opportunity to give thanks, and to pray for the repose of the souls of our founders, benefactors, and for all deceased clergy and people of the Parish.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Max Marsh, Assistant Curate at St Mary, Lewisham, as our preacher. Please remember him in your prayers as he will be (God willing) ordained Priest the day before.

SUMMER FAIR: SATURDAY 23 JULY

Between 10am and 2pm. Please mark this date in your diaries now. Copies of the poster are available at the back of church: please take one away and display it somewhere. Raffle tickets on sale from today.

NEW ALTAR FRONTALS

I hope you have noticed the smart new altar frontals that have been on display over the past few weeks. These have been commissioned thanks to a generous grant from the Society of the Holy Cross in the USA (SSC). SSC is an international body of catholic priests in the Anglican Communion, and the Province of the Americas decided some while ago to make some grants to parishes served by SSC priests in the UK which were affiliated to the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda.

The total donation was \$10,000 USD, which has enabled us to purchase these beautiful, matching frontals for the nave and high altars. We have also purchased new altar cloths and dust covers for each altar, which will arrive imminently. And there will be enough remaining, I hope, to allow us to replace the carpet in front of the high altar. Our grateful thanks to Fr Swain and his SSC colleagues in the USA for this generous grant.

FR LUKE DEMETRI: ORDINATION & FIRST MASS

Ordination: Saturday 9 July 2022 at 3.00pm – St Michael's, Croydon

The nearest National Rail Station to St Michael's Church is **West Croydon**. I suggest that if any coming from Lavender Hill wish to travel together, we should aim for the **1339 train** from Clapham Junction to West Croydon, departing from Platform 15.

First Mass: Sunday 10 July 2022 at 5.00pm – St Michael's, Croydon

Suggested train to West Croydon from Clapham Junction:
1539 from Platform 15.

SAINT THIS WEEK: ST IRENAEUS, BISHOP & MARTYR (130 – 202)

St Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, in Asia Minor (now Izmir in Turkey) and emigrated to Lyons, in France, where he eventually became the bishop.

Whenever we take up a Bible we touch Irenaeus's work, for he played a decisive role in fixing the canon of the New Testament. It is easy for people nowadays to think of Scripture – and the New Testament in particular – as the basis of the Church, but harder to remember that it was the Church itself that had to agree, early on, about what was scriptural and what was not.

Before Irenaeus, there was vague general agreement on what scripture was, but a system based on this kind of common consent was too weak. As people meditated on the intolerable event of the Redemption, dissensions and heresies inevitably arose, and reference to scripture was the obvious way of trying to settle what the truth really was. But in the absence of an agreed canon of scripture it was all too easy to attack one's opponent's arguments by saying that his texts were corrupt or unscriptural; and easy, too, to do a little fine-tuning of texts on one's own behalf.

So Irenaeus went through all the books of the New Testament, and all the candidates (such as the magical pseudo-Gospels, and the entertaining and uplifting novel *The Shepherd of Hermas*). He did not simply accept or reject each book, because his enemies could have said that he was doing it to bolster his own arguments: he gave reasons for and against the canonicity of each. Irenaeus's canon of scripture is very nearly the modern one (he does not quote from three of the short universal epistles), but more important is the fact that he started the tradition of biblical scholarship.

Irenaeus had to fight against the Gnostics, who believed that the world was irredeemably wicked, and against the Valentinians, who claimed to be possessors of a secret tradition that had never been written down but passed from master to disciple through the ages.

An extract from *Against the Heresies* by St Irenaeus:

The glory of God gives life; those who see God receive life. For this reason God, who cannot be grasped, comprehended or seen, allows himself to be seen, comprehended and grasped by men, that he may give life to those who see and receive him. It is impossible to live without life, and the actualisation of life comes from participation in God, while participation in God is to see God and enjoy his goodness.

Men will therefore see God if they are to live; through the vision of God they will become immortal and attain to God himself. As I have said, this was shown in symbols by the prophets: God will be seen by men who bear his Spirit and are always waiting for his coming. As Moses said in the Book of Deuteronomy: *On that day we shall see, for God will speak to man, and man will live.*

God is the source of all activity throughout creation. He cannot be seen or described in his own nature and in all his greatness by any of his creatures. Yet he is certainly not unknown. Through his Word the whole creation learns that there is one God the Father, who holds all things together and gives them their being. As it is written in the Gospel: *No man has ever seen God, except the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father; he has revealed him.*

From the beginning the Son is the one who teaches us about the Father; he is with the Father from the beginning. He was to reveal to the human race visions of prophecy, the diversity of spiritual gifts, his own ways of ministry, the glorification of the Father, all in due order and harmony, at the appointed time and for our instruction: where there is order, there is also harmony; where there is harmony, there is also correct timing; where there is correct timing, there is also advantage.

The Word became the steward of the Father's grace for the advantage of men, for whose benefit he made such wonderful arrangements. He revealed God to men and presented men to God. He safeguarded the invisibility of the Father to prevent man from treating God with contempt and to set before him a constant goal towards which to make progress. On the other hand, he revealed God to men and made him visible in many ways to prevent man from being totally separated from God and so cease to be. Life in man is the glory of God; the life of man is the vision of God. If the revelation of God through creation gives life to all who live upon the earth, much more does the manifestation of the Father through the Word give life to those who see God.