



NEWSLETTER ❖ 10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Dear friends

Homily at yesterday's Sung Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary

'O God, set her free from the chains of Catholicism that have bound her.'

This short prayer was spoken with some force by the writer Scott Hahn as he tore apart his grandmother's rosary following her funeral. She was the only Roman Catholic in his family and, as the only other practising Christian, her religious belongings were given to him and he looked at them with some horror.

He has described with candour his spiritual journey from being a Baptist minister, through conversion to Catholicism, and noted how a particular devotion to Blessed Mary remained a stumbling block until quite a late stage. Ironically, the simple belief in question is shared by many Christians - Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and Reformed alike.

A measure of irony hovers over this story, since the Catholic dogmas about the Blessed Virgin Mary are shared with neither the Eastern Orthodox nor Anglican traditions, at least officially. But the missing link for Scott Hahn, the step that allowed him to release the grip of a considerable amount of prejudice, is well illustrated by the statue of the Madonna and child in this church, carved by Hew Lorimer as a memorial to Annie Younger, the principal benefactor of All Saints'.

Lorimer is noted as an architectural sculptor whose work adorns many significant buildings in Scotland and, notably includes the larger scale Madonna, 'Our Lady of the Isles', on South Uist, but he worked in a manner little used before the 20th century. Traditionally, sculptors crafted preliminary designs that were scaled up to clay models, often then being passed on to technicians who transferred the designs into the stone. Instead, Lorimer carved directly in the stone himself, without models, since he believed that the stone and its unique features were an essential part of a process that would reveal the work of art within the stone.

Lorimer's deep faith was probably involved in this approach to his work, and he might have seen himself cooperating with God's creative will to reveal something that was already present, if latently, implicitly - free from the confusion of working with paper or clay that require radically different craft skills. That his inspiration here involved not just this beautiful building is illustrated by Lorimer's own words, found recently by Campbell Watterson during his research into the history of All Saints'.

My statue in All Saints' Church, St Andrews, of the Virgin and Child somehow had to convey my conviction that the Virgin was forgotten by Scotland, and that this neglect had had a hardening effect on our great Scottish character. I have always called the sculpture 'Ecce Mater Tua', 'Behold thy Mother', addressed both to the Royal and Ecclesiastical Burgh of St Andrews, where the statue stands - and to Scotland.

This provides the missing link for Scott Hahn and many for whom Mary remains either forgotten or a stumbling block. *Ecce Mater Tua - Behold thy Mother*. These are words from the scene of the Rood hanging overhead, spoken to the beloved disciple by the Lord and linked with the preceding words spoken to his mother, 'Woman, behold thy son'. These words from the Lord, in his agony, cannot simply be set aside, and nor can their symbolic significance be ignored, since St John is a figure for all who love the Lord, all who are loved by him, a relationship in which Mary would seem always to be involved.

In borrowing these words from the Rood scene and applying them to a representation of the Lord in his infancy, Lorimer invites us, and all the people of this town and land, to reappraise the way in which we relate to Mary as something implicit in our faith in God, if latent or forgotten. Directed by the Lord in his passion - *Behold thy Mother* - and with the Lord in his infancy, as he raises his arms to open her veil, inviting us to share his relationship with her blessed humanity as mother, and be directed by her back to his divinity, while his extended arms provide the link back to the cross, the source of salvation.

These two great symbols of our faith, the Passion and the Incarnation, are intimately intertwined and, if Lorimer's beautiful critique of the character of this burgh and nation was correct, the suggestion is that relating to Mary as mother will soften the hardness of our hearts and render us gentler with each other and ourselves, more open and more agile to God's will. Now that is something well worth setting in stone.

Fr Alasdair

THIS WEEK

		TRINITY 10
Sunday	8 am Mass 10 am Sung Mass 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm Mass	
Monday	8.15 am Morning Prayer 6 pm Evening Prayer followed by Mass	
Tuesday	6 pm Evening Prayer followed by Mass	
Wednesday	as Monday but with Compline at 9 pm	
Thursday	as Monday	<i>St Bernard of Clairvaux</i>
Friday	as Monday	
Saturday	11 am Morning Prayer followed by Mass 6 pm Evening Prayer	

Another Zoom meeting is scheduled for **1000 on Wednesday**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82546386442?pwd=Nklvc005SGlNVldDSlJTZEFlkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 4638 6442

Password: 4mkGii

Audio recordings of some services will continue to be placed on the website here:

<https://www.allsaints-standrews.org.uk/category/virtualservices/>

MALAWIAN RICE

A renewed supply of Malawian rice is available from Lil at the Rectory, should you wish to purchase some. With thanks to Margaret Duffy who first made us aware of this source of excellent, ethically-sourced food.

CHURCH OPENING

With the church open for public services, the significance of reopening for private prayer a few weeks ago has slipped from our memories a little. Vestry discussed the issue last week, particularly whether we wish to continue opening the church each day ostensibly for private prayer but also for those who wish to come inside and have a look: people are naturally moved towards prayer in churches like All Saints', where tourists perhaps become pilgrims rather easily. We were mindful of the amount of time that is involved for those who supervise these daily openings, but Vestry concluding that it was an important thing to keep doing.

So far, this responsibility has been fulfilled by members of Vestry but your support would be very welcome, should you be willing to spend a couple of hours in the church every so often. Sometimes several people come in during those hours, sometimes none; some are chatty, others are silent. However, the Government asks that we supervise the building to encourage people to observe protocols to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission taking place.

If you are able to help - once or twice a month would be splendid - you can use the online rota to book times here: <https://bit.ly/allsaintssupervision>

Alternatively, if you would prefer to book a time by 'phone or email, please contact the Rector.

MARMALADE & OTHER PRESERVES

Jill Cameron has produced a good supply of items that would normally be available at the produce stall, which we cannot arrange at present due to restrictions on gatherings. If you would like to receive some jars of preserves to support church funds, please let Jill know your requirements and she will bring it to church. If you are not coming to church at present, other arrangements might well be possible. Jill can be contacted by email jillcameron38@yahoo.com or telephone 01334 474474.

GIVING TO ALL SAINTS'

Our Treasurer, Ian Palfrey, will be at Church on Monday 17th August between 4 and 6pm on Supervision duty. The Free Will Offering Envelopes for the next financial year commencing 1st October have arrived and Ian will have them available for members to collect if they wish. Any new members are welcome to join the scheme and Ian can be contacted about this matter. If anyone wishes to hand in donations or ask any questions regarding the church finances, you are most welcome to visit during this time.

A reminder for any who would like to support All Saints' financially, our bank details are:

Bank:	Royal Bank of Scotland
Branch:	113 – 115 South Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QB
Sort Code:	83-26-28

Account name: All Saints Episcopal Church – St Andrews
Account number: 00104363

Treasurer's contact details: Mr Ian Palfrey, 8a Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL
01334 472358 treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk

RESTORATION

Although it has been a quieter week for the church, what has occurred contrasts markedly with the recently completed replacement of the lead on the chapel roof.

When we planned the restoration, a contingency was built in for unforeseen work, the need for which would only be apparent with closer inspection from scaffold platforms or once specific work had commenced. Various items have been found requiring additional attention, but we were advised a few weeks ago that sufficient funds existed to exploit the access provided by the scaffolding.

While there is nothing structural at all about the weathervane, such items are usually decorated to be eye-catching. All Saints' weathervane is unusual, being a fish rather than a cockerel and, very suitably for the historical fishing quarter of this town, a herring - with a smile on its face. We're not certain whether this happy herring was ever designed to be free to move with the wind, but it has now been repaired and gilded along with the cross just underneath it. On a sunny day with blue sky behind, this will look very fine indeed. The fish and the cross are, of course, two of the earliest symbols for the Christian faith and highlighting them and their significance does not seem a bad idea.

Fr Alasdair

INTERCESSIONS

In particular need

Debbie & Priscilla White, Eleanor Ross, David McLean, Anne Zweers, *Priest*, Amy Cox, Robyn Seenan, Anne Clayton, Ian Sadler, Andrew Mate, Robin White, Berenice Smith

Continuing need

Lenora Mahoney, Effie Keracher, Jonah & Chris Andrews, Gareth, Jenni & Rosalie Saunders, Judy, Ashley & Kathleen Cummins, Charles & Thomas Ware, Ann Noltie, Lawrence Reynolds, Sally-Marie Gardner, Edie, Alice Bullough, Joan Day, Janet Reid, Catherine Rowe, Bill Hyland, Samantha, Steve Scott, Angela Allaway, Lori-Mark Quate, Elizabeth Talbot, Lucy White, Rebecca, Beatrice & Alexander

Residential care

Catriona, Fiona Ingham, John Shillaker, *Priest*, Marie-Louise Moffett, *Priest*, Charlie Mather

Recently departed

Juliet Davey, Rosalie Saunders

Year's mind

17/8 Lillas Maitland, 1932
18 Albert Sidney Reed, 2013
19 Robert Ross, 2006
22 Louisa Mary McEwen, 1929, Hugh Christison, 1979, Gertrud Deas, 1992