

## PARISH NEWS

Sunday: 11 am Sung Mass + Wednesday: 12 noon Low Mass + Holy Days: As Announced

A Very Warm WELCOME This Sunday is Trinity XVII Comm: (Comm: St Denys, St Rusticus & St Eleutherius)

9th October 2022

The **Propers** of the Mass are on **page 629** of the **Book of Common Prayer** 

## HYMNS

At the end of the last hymn, we will conclude with **The Angelus** turning to face Our Lady's Statue.



Please Turn off Your Mobile Phones

Our Organ doesn't like them

Dew Friends It will not have escaped your notice that the Church's Liturgical Kalendar is packed with commemorations of various Saints. Some, like St Francis of Assisi, whose Feast day was on Tuesday (4th October) are internationally known and venerated. Others, such as those we commemorate today, are perhaps less well known to the general public. Although I doubt that is the case in France for these particular holy men.

St Denys, the most well known of the three, was born in Italy early in the 3rd century, probably about 210 AD. Nothing is definitely known about the date or place of his birth, or his early life.

He became a priest and in 245 AD Fabian, the Bishop of Rome, consecrated him and six others as missionary bishops to work in Gaul (France) where many Christians had suffered terribly during the persecutions set in motion by the Roman Emperor Decius.

St Denys arrived in Paris as its first bishop with two companions, the priest Rusticus and the deacon Eleutherius. They settled on an island in the Seine and built a church there. From there they went out gospel. The local preaching the incited the people pagan leaders force the Roman to governor, Fescenninus, to stop their teaching. When St Denys and his companions refused to stop, they were seized, tortured and



beheaded on the hill of martyrs' Montmartre on October 9th 258.

A pious Christian woman, Catulla, buried them on the site of the present Basilica of St Denys in northern Paris and built a small shrine on the site. Later a Benedictine monastery was established there. In 475 Genevieve built a chapel on the spot on Montmartre where the three were executed.

By the 7th century the veneration of St Denys had become more and more devotion. а national Early in the 12th **Benedictine** century the abbot Suger oversaw the construction of the basilica on the site of St Denys' grave. It was the world's first Gothic cathedral and inspiration for Chartres was the Cathedral.

Almost every French king was laid to rest there, though all their graves were looted in the

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## French Revolution.

France is often called the "Eldest Daughter" of the Church and we can be grateful because we have a close link to the Frankish Church established through the hard work of men and women, a work that has been consecrated by the shedding of blood.

Some three hundred years after the events above, the Frankish Princess, Bertha, married King Ethelbert of Kent and came to live in Canterbury, capital of her husband's Kingdom of Kent. One of the conditions of the marriage, for conditions so often accompanied marriages of this sort, which initially at least, was a political and dynastic arrangement, was an assurance that Bertha would remain a Christian.

It was Queen Bertha's influence over her husband which, no doubt helped the Mission sent by St Gregory the Great to re-evangelise Angle-land – England – led by our own St Augustine of Canterbury in 597AD.

The Saints of God, all of them, are part of the family of the Church. Baptised into the Body of Christ we too are united with them and should remember to rejoice that this is so. These ordinary men and women, whom God called to do extraordinary things, also lived out their faithfulness in small ways.

We may not be called to make the ultimate sacrifice and be asked to die for the Gospel of Christ— but nevertheless we are called to make sacrifices in following Jesus. Putting Him first at all times and in all places is difficult—the measure of holiness is easy to assess if we think about how closely through our actions, our words and our thoughts, we conform to His expectations of us.

St Paul reminds us of this in his Epistle to the Ephesians we hear today at Mass; "I therefore ... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God

and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Canon Don and Di Walker; Chris Bosworth; Margaret and Laurence Mead; Paul and Sue Fletcher; Barbara Henderson; Todd, David and Sheila; Colin Rumens; Ann Chapman; Pauline Allison; Harrison and Edward Eckert; Margaret and Peter Martin; Dorothy Hipkiss; Fr Miles Maylor; Vickie Wall; Pat Johnson; Fr Ed & Liz Bakker; Deb Stuck; Angela, Barrie and Sylvia; Kathleen Dunford; Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn; Deacon Jong; Malcolm Munn; Barbara Bowers; Isabella Ighodaro, Fr Howard Marsh, David Miller, Graham Owen, John Sullivan, Jaine Meredith Kite, Roy Hipkiss, For the King and the Royal Family. For Peace in Ukraine and Russia, and throughout the World.

For those who read these Parish Notes on our Notice Board outside Church and all who receive email or paper copies.

- For our neighbours and the people of **Painters Forstal** and the surrounding countryside and villages, the **growth** of our **Church Family**.
- For **persecuted Christians** especially in Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Middle East and China.

For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Diocese of Caribbean, Father Jean Bien-Aime, Vicar General; All those who effected by Hurricane Ian in the Caribbean and Florida.
- Our Lady of Walsingham & St Francis, Rochester, Kent, Fr Andrew Scurr;
- Doctors, Nurses and all involved in Health Care.

And we remember the recently departed: especially Susan Allen-Blevins, Keith Thompson and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: John Thayer Cahoon Jnr Bishop

Rest Eternal Grant unto them, O Lord R/s: And let light perpetual shine upon them

(Parish) www.staugustineacc.uk (Diocese) www.anglicancatholic.org.uk