Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU

PARISH NEWS

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

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A Very Warm WELCOME This Sunday is Trinity XVIII Comm: St Hedwig 16th October 2022

The **Propers** of the Mass are on **page 631** of the **Book of Common Prayer**

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 Dew friends back in Jesus' day, there were a lot of people who were trying to trip him up up. He was constantly encountering people who wanted to test him, and see if they could outwit him or better

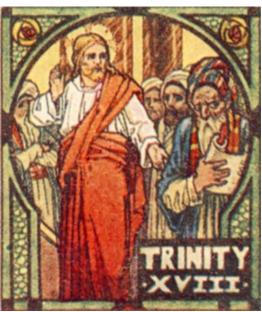
The Sadducees, the Pharisees the Herodians, they all had agents goading Jesus and trying to provoke him in different ways. Of course it was after they failed in doing that, they then decided they had no choice but to kill him. You see they didn't like His message because it was a threat to what THEY believed God wanted.

We who follow Christ, and that MEANS following his example, can also meet people who try to trip us up. There are even, on the internet, websites established by Atheists and anti-Christians to help equip people to undermine and challenge our faith.

Unfortunately too often we don't actually need very, much help in that department - we are often our own worst enemies, and can trip ourselves up.

God's We can never earn acceptance; Jesus has done that for us, and in his great love and mercy for us He has given us a free gift of grace. Simply obeying rules wouldn't do it. Only the Cross could pay that debt. However, If the devil can't keep you from pursuing God, then he'll try divert vou by you to making Religious without the "religious". living, fresh relationship and intimacy with God.

There are heavenly principles like sowing and reaping (Gal 5). But there is not a single rule that you can obey that will make you acceptable in God's eyes. It's still all about grace, a



free gift from Him to you. Stop trying to earn it, and just accept it. When you begin to understand that you are not as close to God as you want to be, you'll be tempted to do some good, godly things as a means of getting closer. Careful. Go ahead and do good, godly things. But understand this: God doesn't run to meet us because we obey rules well. He runs to us because He sees us loving Him and trusting Him. Obeying rules will never compensate for sin in our life; only the death of Jesus can do that.

The first thing that Adam and Eve did, after sinning, was to look at themselves; they became desperately self centred. We have this same spiritual sickness today. We spend much of our thought life obsessing about how great or how rotten we are. Both perspectives lead us into a deadly trap. The only way out is to fix your eyes upon Jesus, the One who is pure and true. It's always about Him, not us.

As we "draw near to God" He will draw nearer to us. If we stop drawing near to God, then guess what that





means.

If you are wise, you will do whatever it takes to find and maintain a daily, consistent intimacy with the Lord. Protect it like you would protect your air tanks when scuba diving; it's that critical. Don't believe the little lie that you can go a day or so without filling up with God; if you go there, pretty soon you will lose your hunger and you won't have any desire to fill up.

In society, pride is often a good word. In God's Kingdom, pride is self exaltation, and that opens the door to all kinds of deceptions and spiritual dangers. "Pride comes before a fall." Pride is what tripped up Lucifer, and pride is what the devil tries to use against every believer. Humility is a must if you want to grow in the Lord, because "God gives His grace to the humble, but resists the proud."

You cannot trust your feelings. You may go through a honeymoon stage with God, and your feelings may overwhelm you for a time. But a time may come when God calls you to seek Him and trust Him when feelings don't come. You may not get a 'buzz' by coming to Mass or you may feel distant. There will be times when nothing in you feels like God is on your side. You will have to choose which you will believe: your feelings, or His Word.

If you continue to trust in Him and seek God even harder during these 'dry times', and put your trust in what He says about you, you will come through this season with a deeper faith that no one can steal.

With love and every blessing.

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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 Cameroon, Bishop Ordinary Rt Rev Alphonse Ndutiye;
- Our Lady and St Edward, Bolton, Greater Manchester, Fr Howard Marsh;
- The Holy Land and the neighbouring countries in the Middle East.

And we remember the recently departed: especially Keith Thompson and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Diana Gillian Parry.

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