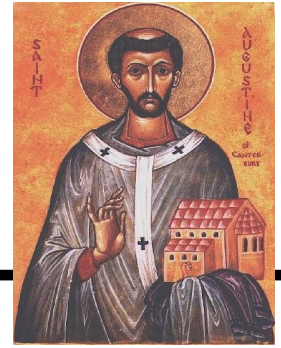




Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine
Eastling Road, Painters Forstal, Kent ME13 0DU

PARISH NEWS

1873 - Celebrating 150 Years of Christian Witness in Painters Forstal - 2023



WELCOME

Today is

Trinity VII

Comm: St Apollinaris

23rd July 2023

The Propers of the Mass are on page 596 of the Book of Common Prayer

HYMNS

378

76

384

418

At the end of Mass, we will conclude with The Angelus facing Our Lady's Altar.



Please Turn off Your Mobile Phones

Dear Friends, There are, I think, very many words which clever folk, or those who think they are clever, use in Church and in everyday life without really understanding their real meaning. To be sure, we may think we know, but really we need to be very careful because far too often we fail to really appreciate their significance.

Compassion is one such word! When that word is used, most people don't have any idea at all of what it really means. Some people think of compassion as almost a weakness, or that compassionate people are gullible.

Do you think Compassionate people are weak or soft or gullible? I think, rather, the truth, expressing compassion towards another person, reveals a strength of character that few people possess!

We live, sadly, in an increasingly compassion-less world. Most people place themselves, and perhaps their family, above any other consideration in the world. While secular, non-Christian's might see this as a logical pseudo commandment of "looking after number one", Christians are called, indeed they are commanded, to reject this notion.

Loving God and loving each other is the foundational principle upon which we are called to live and motivate all our thoughts, words and deeds.

In today's Gospel reading from St Mark, we hear that Jesus was moved to have "**compassion on the multitude**". The 4000 hungry people who had followed him into the wilderness to hear him preach and teach.

The word compassion, as it is used in the Bible means, "*To be moved inwardly; to yearn with tender mercy, affection, pity and empathy.*" It



refers to the deepest possible feelings. The phrase, "*moved with compassion*" means to be moved in the "*inner organs*". It has the same idea as our modern expression, "*From the bottom of my heart.*" Although how often do we hear that phrase uttered as a mere throw away line.

Compassion is "*sharing the feelings of others and possessing a desire to help them in their trouble.*"

When we read the Gospels, they tell us of Jesus and His great compassion for mankind. We see that our Saviour was moved deeply in His inner being by the needs of those around Him. We need to be very grateful for this. If Jesus didn't have such a deep Compassion, then we wouldn't be here today!

I don't know about you, but I surely need all the help in this area that I can get. Too often, I am selfish and self-centred. But even when I am immersed in that, I know, and in my more lucid and faithful moments, convinced, I want to be, and I need to be, more like Jesus.

This is after all what being a Christian is all about — it is all about

July

✘

**There will be no
week day services for
the time being**

✘

Sunday 30th

Trinity VIII

11am Sung Mass

✘

August

✘

Sunday 6th

*Transfiguration of Christ
(Comm: Trinity IX)*

11am Sung Mass

✘

Sunday 13th

*Trinity X
Comm St Hippolytus & St
Cassian*

11am Sung Mass

✘

Sunday 20th

*Trinity XI
Comm St Bernard & Octave of
the Assumption*

11am Sung Mass

✘

becoming Christ-like!

Compassion from the Christians in the Roman Empire demonstrated the love of Christ and also set the standard for our modern view of compassion. Rodney Stark in his book, *The Triumph of Christianity*, explains that *"in the pagan world, and especially among the philosophers, mercy was regarded as a character defect and pity as a pathological emotion: because mercy involves providing unearned help or relief, it is contrary to justice."*

When plagues broke out in the Roman Empire, the mortality rate among Christians was much lower than among the pagans. The pagans fled from the sick and tried to avoid any contact with the afflicted. When *"their first symptoms appeared, victims often were thrown into the streets, where the dead and dying lay in piles."* Christians instead ministered to the sick by giving them two things they needed: food and water.

Why did Christians respond differently? First, they were following

the example set by Jesus who taught mercy towards the sick. Second, the early Christians *"believed that death was not the end and that life was a time of testing."* They were willing to sacrifice themselves in ways the pagans never would.

Rodney Stark concludes *"that Christian nursing would have reduced mortality by as much as two-thirds!"* He also added that the *"fact that most stricken Christians survived did not go unnoticed lending immense credibility to Christian miracle working."* This most likely led to additional conversions.

We may take for granted the idea of compassion, but the concept was given fulfilled meaning from the sacrifice of the early Christians who ministered to others.

Let's pray for one another and renew our commitment to this end.



YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR ...

Canon Don Walker and his family; Chris Bosworth; Margaret and Laurence Mead; Diane Smith, Todd, David and Sheila; Colin Rumens; Ann Chapman; Margaret and Peter Martin; Dorothy Hipkiss; Fr Miles Maylor; Vickie Wall; Pat Johnson; Fr Ed & Liz Bakker; Deb Stuck; Sarah, David, Nicole and Corrina Winterburn; Deacon Jong; Malcolm Munn; Barbara Bowers; Isabella Ighodaro, Fr Howard Marsh, David Miller, John Sullivan, Roy Hipkiss, Don and Rhonda Contreras, Fr Robert McBride, Dr Roy Fidge, Michael Mead, Sophie.

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 Peace in Ukraine and Russia and throughout the World.

For those in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- Diocese of Christ the Redeemer, Bishop Ordinary - Rt Rev Solomzi Mentjies;
- The Victoria College of Music and the Diocesan Ministry Training Programme, Prof Stewart Thompson (Principal);
- The end of pandemic diseases. Those who have no access to medication or vaccination. For the fairer distribution of healthcare.

And we remember the recently departed: especially N and those whose anniversaries fall at this time Ronald Thompson

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

(Parish) www.staugustineacc.uk (Diocese) www.anglican catholic.org.uk



CHURCH FLOWERS

*To make a
donation for
Flowers in
Church—Please
see Mrs Margaret Mead*

Rector

Bishop Damien Mead

Tel: 01797 321704 & Ansaphone

Email: dmead@anglican catholic.org

Honorary Assistant Priest

Father Raymond Thompson

Tel: 07443 438465

Email: frraythompson@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Mr Roy Hipkiss

Parish Treasurer: Mrs Kerry Scott

Organist: Mr Louis Collins

Cantor: Mr Barnabas Sharp

Caretaker: Mr Tibor Veres

Tel: 07591 149352