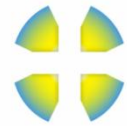




Together London

Autumn 2016

www.forwardinfaithlondon.org



FORWARD IN FAITH
DIOCESE OF LONDON

Welcome !

Welcome to the fourth edition of 'Together London'. Last year, our teaching day on prayer was a great success, so we're having a similar event (with different workshops) on **Saturday 12th November** at S.Cuthbert, Earls Court. More details are further in the newsletter. The following week, the Forward in Faith National assembly takes place on Saturday 19th November at S.Alban, Holborn, Registered parishes are encouraged to send clerical and lay delegates, who need to register in advance with the Forward in Faith office.

Fr Rayner Wakeling
Clerical Chairman

The Bishop of Fulham writes :



One of the lecturers at the Fulham clergy conference, which took place in early September in Merville in northern France, made the striking observation that the great majority of Christians who were now in heaven with

Jesus had never read the Bible. He added – lest there was any misunderstanding that knowing Scripture is unimportant in the Christian life – that most of these were almost certainly more biblically literate than people alive today. His point was that, being unable to read, they had absorbed the contents of the Bible by other means – through visual images, paintings, icons, stained glass and so on, and through the Liturgy.

It is always helpful and salutary to be reminded that we who are alive, we who constitute the 'Church militant here on earth' in the traditional language of the Prayer Book, make up just a tiny fraction of the whole Church of God. Countless millions upon millions have gone before us. In a few weeks' time, in early November, we are reminded forcefully of this truth through two great celebrations in the Christian year which fall on consecutive days, All Saints Day (1st November) and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, more commonly known as All Souls Day, on November 2nd.

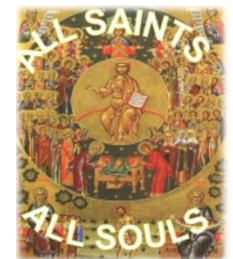
The fact that there are two celebrations, as it were back-to-back, is very helpful. Those who have gone before us in the faith, who have lived and died as Christians in this world and have now left it, are not simply lumped together in the Church's consciousness as one undifferentiated mass. On All Saints Day, when white or gold vestments are worn,

we rejoice in the fellowship of those, known and unknown, who (though their bodies still await the general resurrection on the Last Day) enjoy that state of beatitude, that vision of God face-to-face, which means we call them Saints. Because we believe that there are many more Saints whom the Church has not formally 'raised to her altars,' All Saints Day gives us the opportunity to call to mind this great 'cloud of witnesses.' The Saints offer us inspiration for our own lives as Christians, and we can confidently strive to follow their examples of discipleship and heroic faith: even more importantly we can ask for their prayers. Just as we ask our Christian brothers and sisters in this world to pray for us, so we can ask this of the Saints, who are our brothers and sisters in Christ still.

The mass on All Souls Day is one which many priests celebrate wearing black vestments, although violet is also permissible. The point of our prayers and our offering of the Holy Sacrifice on this day (as at any Requiem Mass) is not to seek to persuade God to change his mind about the eternal destiny of someone who has died – that would be impossible – but to assist those whose salvation is ultimately assured, but who do not leave this world in a state which fits them immediately for the bliss of heaven and that vision of God face-to-face. When we stop to think about it, we realise that this category is likely to include within it the great majority of the dead – of the 'faithful departed,' in the useful phrase we often use in our intercessions. It will almost certainly include ourselves, when our time to pass from this world to the next comes. Prayer for the faithful departed is more than a duty to which we should pay lip service; it is the most important thing, the greatest work of charity, we can perform for our loved ones who have died, and for those who – in another telling familiar phrase – 'have none to pray for them.'

I always look forward to, and enjoy, the observances of early November. All Saints Day and All Souls Day teach me that I am not alone; that I belong to that great company, too numerous to count, of all who are in Christ: triumphant in heaven, expectant in purgatory, and 'militant here on earth.'

In the words of the collect for All Saints Day from the Book of Common Prayer, with them, we are all 'knit together...in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body' which is Christ our Lord.



+Jonathan Fulham

Choral Evensong for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels

This will take place at S. Augustine, Kilburn,
at 3.00 p.m. on **Saturday 1st October**.

Sung by St Mary's Singers.

Introit *Let my prayer* (John Blow)

Responses in G (Richard Ayleward)

Setting *The Short Service in G* (John Blow)

Anthem *Praise the Lord* (John Blow)

S. Augustine's is in Kilburn Park Road, NW6 5XB
(Tube : Kilburn Park; Overground : Kilburn High Road)

'Lord, teach me to pray'

A day of encouragement in prayer

will take place at S. Cuthbert, Earl's Court,
on **Saturday 12th November 2016**

12.00 Noon : Mass

12.30 p.m. Lunch

(bring sandwiches, drinks provided)

1.30 p.m. Afternoon workshops

Ignatian Meditation : Scripture & Imagination
(Fr David Cherry)

Praying when you don't feel like it
(Nicola Mason)

3.30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Fr David and Nicola are both experienced
in spiritual direction.



All are welcome. There is no charge, but donations
welcome on the day.

S. Cuthbert's is in Philbeach Gardens, SW5 9EB
(Tube : Earl's Court)

For planning purposes, please book a place
for this event organised by FiF London.

Call Fr Wakeling on 020 7837 4228

or e-mail : forwardinfaithlondon@gmail.com

Pre-Lent Quiet Afternoon

Details are yet to be finalised, but the annual pre-
Lent Quiet Afternoon organised by Forward in Faith
London will take place on **Saturday 25th February**
2017. Please put the date in your diary. The
afternoon usually begins with Mass at 12 noon.

Useful resources

The Big Picture Bible Course

This book and accompanying DVD course have
been produced jointly by Catholic Faith Exploration
(CaFE) and the Bible Society. There are 12
sessions to be used by groups meeting weekly, but

the material could be used by individuals and in
other ways. Daily Bible study reflections follow each
session. In the 12 sessions, participants are taken
through salvation history by watching the DVD. The
filmed sessions are very high quality, filmed on
location in the Holy Land, Ephesus, Patmos and
Rome. There are contributions from a variety of well
known ecumenical contributors and input from
ordinary people talking about their faith.



Each hard-backed book with DVD is £14.95
(discount for 10 or more). There is a dedicated
website with downloadable resources :
www.thebigpicturecourse.org

Other CaFE Resources

Catholic Faith Exploration produces a number of
other good quality resources for small groups.
'Saints helping us today' and 'Believe' are excellent.
The course DVDs are usually very good quality, but
there is not much in the way of Leader's material
and the resources can be quite expensive. See the
website : www.faithcafe.org

What can I say ?

This helpful leaflet, produced by an ecumenical
group in Scotland, can be downloaded from the
Church of Scotland website. It offers brief responses
to nine things that people say about Christianity.

Examples include :

How do we know there is a God in the first place ?

You can live a good life without being a Christian

Church is boring

We each one of us desire
to live with God in blessedness,
but we have the opportunity here and now
to live in happiness with him.
In order to live in happiness with him
we must love as he loves,
give as he gives,
help as he helps,
touch him in the poorest of the poor,
be in their midst
a sign of his presence,
of his love, of his compassion

St Teresa of Calcutta

Contributions & Contacts

Contact us by e-mail to submit newsletter
contributions or make enquiries :
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or call Fr Wakeling, Clerical Chairman
on 020 7837 4228