



Together London

Late Summer 2019

www.forwardinfaithlondon.weebly.com



Welcome !

Welcome to our Late Summer Newsletter.

Since our last edition of the newsletter (Fr) Mike Still, a long-standing member of the London Committee has been ordained deacon. Congratulations to Fr Mike, and we are grateful that he will remain as a member of the Committee.

Since the death of our former treasurer, Joan Hooton, we have not had a treasurer in place. If that's something you could do, please get in touch with me. There really are just a few transactions a year, so it's a simple task.

Fr Mike's ordination also leaves us without a LAY representative from the Willesden Area (and we also lack lay representatives from the Stepney and Edmonton Areas). If you think you could fill any of these gaps, or you can think of someone who might, please be in touch.

We're looking forwards to a Pilgrimage to Charterhouse on Saturday 19th October. Apologies that the notice for this is quite short. Please note that this visit to Charterhouse will be a devotional activity, rather than an historical tour. We are grateful to the ordained 'Brothers' of Charterhouse for their help with this Pilgrimage. See details below. The National Assembly of Forward in Faith will take place at St Alban, Holborn on Saturday 16th November. Each Forward in Faith registered parish is entitled to send one clergy and one lay representative. It would be good to see more FiF parishes making sure that they are represented.

Forthcoming events

Pilgrimage to London Charterhouse



The origins of the London Charterhouse derive from a graveyard and mortuary chapel for the victims of the Black Death in the 14th century, but from 1371 to 1538 it was a Carthusian monastery.

The Act of Supremacy issued by Henry VIII declared that all who refused to take an oath recognising him as head of the Church of England committed an act of treason.

Between 1535 and 1540, eighteen Carthusians were martyred for refusing to take such an oath. In 1886 they were beatified by Pope Leo XIII and three of them were canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

It is these martyrs we shall honour during our pilgrimage, praying at parts of the site associated

with them, celebrating the Mass and joining in other devotions.

Pilgrimage to honour the Carthusian Martyrs of Charterhouse

Saturday 19th October 2019

10.30 a.m. to 12 Noon

Lunch at a nearby pub for those who wish to join us.

**Meet at the Gatehouse, Charterhouse Square
at 10.30 a.m. prompt.**

**Please book a place :
Call Fr Wakeling on 020 7837 4228
or e-mail : forwardinfaithlondon@gmail.com**

There is no charge for the pilgrimage, but a collection will be taken for 'Aid to the Church in Need'.

Tools for Mission : Practical Ideas for Parish Ministry



This event is a follow-up to last year's Fulham Lay Congress. It will take place at St Alban, Holborn, on Saturday 26th October, beginning at 10.30 a.m.

Come and join Bishop Jonathan and Christians from across the See of Fulham for workshops, advice and encouragement designed to help parishes take a fresh look at how we share the Gospel.

Workshops will include :

- Working with children & young people
- Refreshing your parish music
- How to use digital media for your parish
- Planning for Stewardship
- Ideas for serving your community

All are welcome to this free event. Be in touch with your parish priest to book your place. Further details on the Bishop of Fulham's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Guild of All Souls Annual Requiem

The Annual General Meeting & Annual Requiem for the Guild of All Souls will take place on Thursday 7th November at St Stephen, Gloucester Road. AGM at 6.00 p.m. Mass at 7.00 p.m.

Bishop of Fulham's Epiphanytide Festival

This will take place on Saturday 11th January 2020 at Southwark Cathedral. Details to be confirmed.

Forward in Faith Pre-Lent Quiet Afternoon

This ever-popular annual event will take place on Saturday 22nd February 2020. Details to be confirmed.

Pilgrimages 2020

The National Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Monday 25th May 2020.

The Glastonbury Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 11th July 2020

Christian Meditation



Meditation seems like a dirty word for many "born again" Christians. But many are now seeking something deeper than the initial experiences of new

life in Christ. They want to mature and go deeper. They will look wherever they find deeper waters. We need to present the depths and wealth of our own tradition if we do not want people leaving the Christian faith in droves.

Meditation is really part of the ancient Christian heritage of contemplative prayer. Scripture says to, "meditate on the law of the Lord day and night." Jesus spent long hours in solitary meditation and prayer, and teaches on the connection between the mind and the rest of our spiritual life. St. Paul also teaches clearly that the spiritual renewal of the mind is intimately connected with the quality of our entire spiritual life. As scripture also says, "Whatever you think, you will become."

But what does "meditation" mean? There are two words often used together when speaking about this kind of topic: Meditation and Contemplation. These two can sometimes get confused, and have been used in different ways throughout history.

Meditation meant the state of spiritual intuition beyond thought or emotion by the Greek philosophers. Eastern religion also usually means this when they speak of meditation, or Samadhi. Contemplation means to "contemplate" something in a way that involves the thoughts of the mind and the emotions of the heart.

In the Christian West we usually mean the exact opposite by the English words! For us meditation means what the philosophers and the Eastern mystic mean by contemplation. When we speak of contemplation we mean what they mean by meditation. For us meditation is really pondering the things of God with mind and heart. Contemplation is going beyond thoughts or emotions into pure union of spirit in the Spirit. Meditation speaks of God and creation's knowable and perceptible energies. Contemplation speaks of God and creation's

essences beyond the beyond. It is pure union of being in Being. As God is simply I AM, so we simply ARE in him when experiencing contemplation.

In the early Christian West meditation is part of a process of prayer that leads to mystical union with God. The monastic tradition speaks of "sacred reading, vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplation." It begins with reading a sacred text in a prayerful way. This is not like doing a Bible study! It may only involve a short passage, or a sentence, from the sacred text. The source may be scripture, or the writings of a master or saint. The text is taken into the soul, and there it is ruminated. With Mary we, "ponder these things in" our "heart." Here we almost effortlessly pass over into meditation. We use our mind to stir our imagination and our emotions. We visualize the events of the text. We experience the text on an emotional level as we relive the life of Christ, or a saint, or the personalization of their teachings through promptings of the Spirit to greater spiritual life. We may even find our senses experiencing the scene we visualize, as we are transported back to the Palestine of the time of Christ, or the era of a saint. Often I was sure that I could feel the sands of the mid eastern deserts between my toes! This all is God's way of getting our whole being involved in the process of conversion, or turning back, to God through Christ.

It is interesting that the ancients actually recited a text out loud even when they read in private. Thus, "vocal prayer" also is a venerable part of the tradition. When we take the time to even just mouth the words of the text, the temptation to "speed read" the Word of God is minimized, and the opportunity to really meditate is maximized.

As we find ourselves caught up in this meditation, we soon enough realize another change has occurred. We have almost effortlessly been transported over into a passive "contemplation" beyond thoughts, emotions, images, forms, or words. This is the place of pure spiritual intuition. Here we simply experience He who IS as we ARE. We simply be with the ultimate Being. Our body and soul have been appropriately used to ramp us over to pure experience of the Spirit of God. This process includes senses, emotions, and thoughts, but goes beyond them all, in a way that fulfills everything.

This is all possible through the authentic experience of Christian meditation.

(Article found on the internet)

Contributions & Contacts

Contact us by e-mail to submit newsletter contributions or make enquiries :

forwardinfaithlondon@gmail.com.

or call Fr Wakeling, Clerical Chairman
on 020 7837 4228

Next newsletter deadline : 31st December 2019