

BEMA

The Parish Magazine of St Bernardine with St Martin

No: 28

Easter Season

2012

Easter Joy



“A seed had been planted in the dark cold earth, waiting for the Resurrection on Easter morning.”

BRACKLEY

BUCKINGHAM

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LENT LUNCH SPEECH

As usual, here is a copy of my Churches in Brackley Lent Lunch Speech, for those unable to be there:

VIA DOLOROSA

The Via Dolorosa is the modern remnant of one of the two main east-west routes through Old Jerusalem, as built by Hadrian. Unlike most Roman built cities, where the main routes ran through the centre, this was not possible in Jerusalem because the steep Temple Mount was at its centre, where the Dome of the Rock now stands; so Hadrian built two east-west routes which ran on either side of the mount. The Via Dolorosa is the southern of these routes and unlike standard Roman practice does not run in a straight line because of existing buildings in its path. Today, the route is narrow, more restricted than it would have been as built by the Romans, because their roads had to allow passage for a chariot. To visualise how wide that is, think of the width of our railway tracks – the distance between our railway lines is the same as that of Roman chariot wheels.

Old Jerusalem, the city of biblical times, was rather different from what it is like today. In AD 66, open warfare broke out between the Jews and the Romans, which led to the Jews occupying places like Jerusalem, to which the Romans under Titus successfully laid siege and defeated the Jews, many of whom fled to Massada, where the infamous mass suicide was later to take place. The Romans then set about destroying Jerusalem, including its famous Temple; razing it to the ground in AD 70. Over many years, Jews returned to the site of the wrecked city and rebuilding was started, the identifiable blocks from the old Temple being used to build what is now known as the West (or Wailing) Wall. The old Roman routes were still apparent and retained in the reconstruction to some extent and in the Byzantine era, Christians were able partly to use the route of the Via Dolorosa to attempt to pin-point where Christ was crucified; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre being built there. This church then became the destination for pilgrims, who processed from the summit of the Mount of Olives, via Gethsemane, the Lions Gate and the Via Dolorosa. Modern day reconstructed “Old Jerusalem” is considerably larger than the original, so the place of Christ’s crucifixion is now within its walls. Inevitably, there has been much debate and historical argument over the centuries as to how accurate some of these details are, but as indicators for reflection on Our Lord’s Passion and Death; the precise historical accuracy hardly matters.

The term Via Dolorosa is Latin and translates as “Way of Grief” or “Way of Suffering.” The Romans always imposed their will with an extreme harshness and detractors from their demands were punished in as brutal a manner as possible as an example to keep other potential waverers in line. Consequently, every aspect of the crucifixion process was intended to be as harsh as possible. It followed therefore, that the condemned would be laden with as much of their instrument of execution as they could carry, which for practical

purposes, was probably only the crossbar and not a whole cross as is traditionally depicted. It was usual for the condemned to be flogged before their execution, this inducing in the victim, a state of weakness and shock, which would later ensure that death on the cross was not excessively extended. The crucified died from shock, dehydration, exposure and slow asphyxiation as the weakened person was unable progressively to pull himself up into a position, where he was able to breathe properly. This slow death could last from a matter of hours to several days. So, having been loaded with his cross – probably just the crossbar tied across his extended arms and shoulders – Jesus was made to suffer the pain, humiliation and indignity of his journey from the central courtyard to Golgotha. Laden as he was, with his arms strapped to the cross, if he fell full length, along the Via Dolorosa, he would have been unable to prevent himself from falling straight onto his face. It would have been necessary for guards to surround the condemned man to force a way through the crowds along the narrow congested road, so inevitably there would have been much jostling as the escort sought to impose their will.

As a means of prayer, respect and self abasement, the early pilgrims followed the route mentioned from the Mount of Olives to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre reverently, but without the pauses which later came to be observed. These stops or pauses were later introduced to allow for reflection upon the events that happened on Christ's journey to his place of execution. Most of the details about his crucifixion were not written down and it was not until many years after, that some of the details were drawn from tradition and written into the Gospel narratives. One such prominent detail is that we only know Jesus was nailed to the cross because Christ refers to the wounds that the nails made when he was speaking to Thomas after the Resurrection. Consequently, we still rely on tradition for some of the details in the Stations of the Cross for our devotions.

In fourteenth century, Pope Clement VI achieved some consistency in the route with the Papal Bull, "Nuper Carissimae," establishing the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, and charging the friars with "the guidance, instruction, and care of Latin pilgrims as well as with the guardianship, maintenance, defence and rituals of the Catholic shrines of the Holy Land." This continues through to this day. Beginning around 1350, Franciscan friars conducted official tours of the Via Dolorosa, from the Holy Sepulchre to the House of Pilate – in the opposite direction travelled by Christ in Bible. The route was not reversed until c.1517 when the Franciscans began to follow the events of Christ's Passion chronologically; setting out from the House of Pilate and ending with the crucifixion at Golgotha.

In time, the stops along the route occurred, aided by scholarly understanding of where the pauses or "stations" should occur. The first and second stations commemorate the events of Jesus' encounter with Pontius Pilate, the former in memorial of the biblical account of the trial and Jesus' subsequent scourging, and the latter in memorial of the Ecce Homo speech,

attributed by the Gospel of John to Pilate. On the site are three early 19th-century Roman Catholic churches, taking their names from these events; the "Church of the Condemnation and Imposition of the Cross," the "Church of the Flagellation" and the "Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man) Church; the large area of Roman paving, beneath these structures, being traditionally regarded as the pavement described by the Bible as the location of Pilate's judgment of Jesus.

However, as mentioned above, scholars are now fairly certain that Pilate carried out his judgements at Herod's Palace at the southwest side of the city, rather than at this point in the city's northeast corner. Archaeological studies have confirmed that the Roman pavement, at these two traditional stations, was built by Hadrian as the flooring of the eastern of two Forums. Prior to Hadrian's changes, the area had been a large open-air pool of water, the Strouthion Pool mentioned by Josephus; the pool still survives, under vaulting added by Hadrian so that the Forum could be built over it.

The three Falls of Jesus are depicted by stations three, seven, and nine. Although no such thing is recounted by the canonical Gospels, and no official Christian tenet makes these claims, popular tradition has it that Jesus stumbled three times during his walk along the route; this belief is currently manifested in the identification of the three stations at which these falls occurred. The first fall is represented by the current third station, located at the western end of the eastern part of the Via Dolorosa, adjacent to the 19th Century Polish Catholic Chapel. The second fall is represented by the current seventh station, located at a major crossroad junction, adjacent to a Franciscan chapel, built in 1875. In Hadrian's era, this was the junction with the main north-south road. The third fall is represented by the ninth station, which is marked to one side of the Via Dolorosa route.

Four stations commemorate encounters' between Jesus and other people, in the city streets; one encounter is mentioned in all the Synoptic Gospels, one mentioned only in the Gospel of Luke and the remaining two only exist in popular tradition. The New Testament makes no mention of a meeting between Jesus and his mother, during the walk to his crucifixion, but popular tradition introduces one. The fourth station, by the 19th Century Armenian Orthodox oratory, commemorates the events of this tradition; a lunette, over the entrance to the chapel, referencing these events by means of a bas-relief carving. The fifth station refers to the biblical episode in which Simon of Cyrene takes Jesus' cross, and carries it for him. Although this narrative is included in the three Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not mention Simon of Cyrene, instead it only emphasizes the portion of the journey during which Jesus carried the cross himself. The current traditional site for the station is located at the eastern end of the western part of the Via Dolorosa, adjacent to the Franciscan Chapel of Simon of Cyrene. Built as recently as 1895, an inscription, in the architrave of one of the Chapel doors, makes reference to the Synoptic accounts.

A medieval Catholic legend viewed a specific piece of cloth, known as the Veil of Veronica, as having been supernaturally imprinted with Jesus' image by

physical contact with Jesus' face, when Veronica encountered Jesus and wiped the sweat from his face with a cloth. No mention of this is made in the bible, although a similar "Image of Edessa" is mentioned in "The Epistles of Jesus Christ and Abgarus King of Edessa," a late piece of New Testament apocrypha. The current sixth station of the Via Dolorosa commemorates this legendary encounter between Jesus and Veronica, the location being identified as at the Church of the Holy Face and Saint Veronica built where Veronica is said to have encountered Jesus outside her house, positioned at this spot. The eighth station commemorates an episode described in the Gospel of Luke, in which Jesus encountered pious women on his journey and was able to stop and speak to them. It is adjacent to a Greek Orthodox Monastery and is marked by the word "Nika" (a Greek word) carved into the wall and an embossed cross.

Since the late 15th Century, there have been fourteen Stations of the Cross, so in addition to the nine stations on the Via Dolorosa, the other five, relating to Christ's crucifixion, are to be found in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Calvary.

Deacon John

CHUCKLE TIME



The collection always increased dramatically when John was sidesman

God wants spiritual fruit – not religious nuts

Ethel Wilcox

More Church Newsletter Hiccups

"Eight new albs are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

ST. BERNARDINE'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Over the last few months, life in the parish has been continuing much as it has in the past. The Pastoral Council has held its meetings and the various groups in the parish have carried on as usual – Catechism classes, Confirmation classes, Children's Liturgy, Lenten study group, Youth Group, etc.

A few stalwarts have decided to step down and some new volunteers have taken their places. This is a continuous process and more help, with fresh ideas is always welcomed. Speak to Fr Dan or Deacon John if you feel able to help.

In the last edition of BEMA I wondered whether we would have any fresh ideas for fundraising...

In February, Deacon John held an interesting evening about how to start researching and recording Family History.

Unfortunately illness and bad weather prevented the Youth Group from presenting the play "Papa Panov's Special Christmas."

This year the parish is entering a team for the Relay for Life – they are trying some traditional and some new ideas for fundraising – and we are organising a Barn Dance in May.

There will be celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games in the coming months, but I hope you will also find the time to support the various parish activities that are being arranged.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find details of the Race for Life activities, but here are some dates for your diaries for Pastoral Council events. Watch out for details of each event as it approaches.

Saturday	19 th	May	Barn Dance & Social – Akeley Village Hall
Sunday	1 st	July	Barbecue in the Church garden after Mass
Sat-Sun	15 th -16 th	September	Parish Gift Day – Cake and plant stalls
	<i>TBA</i>	October	Wine tasting in aid of CAFOD
Sunday	23 rd	December	

Margaret Vince
Chairman

ST. MARTIN'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

We duly returned to our refurbished Church just before Christmas. The work was carried out by the Contractors, A. P. Lewis, who do a great deal of work for the Diocese. James and Andrew were in contact each week with David Raleigh, from the surveyors Wilde Spooner Raleigh.

Una Garvey and several members of our Parish were also involved in the aesthetics (look and feel) of our Church. On behalf of all of you, I pass on our very grateful thanks.

You may have noticed that our Organist's are now playing on a new organ. This one does play the notes in the right order and does not have a mind of its own, like the last one!

At the time of my writing this, Father Dan and Deacon John are leading us towards and preparing us for Easter.

On Sunday 25th March, St. Martin's held an Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service at 6pm, to which all the other Churches in Brackley were invited. It was well attended and a great success. Many thanks to all involved in its preparation.

We hope that by now you are getting used to the Revised Text of the Mass. Can any one remember when the last changes took place?

Now we have returned to our premises, the Council have resumed holding regular monthly Pastoral meetings with Father Dan and Deacon John. As in the past we would like some new volunteers to step forward to support us. If you would like to know what we do, please let us know. We do not bite!

We wish all of you a Happy and Peaceful Easter, and look forward to the summer.

David Connolly
Chairman

CAFOD

In the period since Christmas there has been activity on several fronts with CAFOD. Again there was a very good response to the Christmas greetings in December issue of BEMA raising £423. Meanwhile, we have maintained contact with two schools in our area:

Thornton School

A presentation on CAFOD was given at a Senior school assembly on “water for life”. Information packs on CAFOD Fast Day and Lent were discussed with the school. They had organised fund raising activities for the Lent fast day.

Bishop Parker School

A presentation was given by Ron at the School to pupils from 5 to 9 age range where there was a lot of involvement by the pupils and many good questions. The Lent Fast Day was covered in this presentation.

CONNECT2 ETHIOPIA

During April the newsletter we are producing to send to Biera will be displayed in the churches for parishioners to read. Copies of the newsletter will be available when it has been sent, through CAFOD, to Biera.

LENT FAST DAY

CAFOD presentations on fund raising, in the lead up to Lent, were made at Mass in St Bernardine’s and St Martin’s. There was a great response, when £2004 was donated, which was a brilliant effort by the Parish. This money will be doubled through a government initiative.

The Frugal Lunch was again being organised by the Youth Group which raised £280 (which will be matched by the Government)

Mrs. Davies held a coffee morning in Brackley raising a brilliant £250 (again to be doubled).

The CAFOD “Water for Life” envelopes can be used for donations until 17th May 2012 to qualify for the £ for £ matching.

NEXT EVENT

Our next fundraising event is a “Wine Tasting Evening” in October in the Parish room at St. Bernardine’s and we look forward to an enjoyable evening and I hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your continued support.

Do you wish to be more involved in Cafod activities at St. Bernardine’s or St. Martins?

Please contact **Ron** on 01280 815600 (roncockayne@btinternet.com)

Ron Cockayne

Bring Flowers of the rarest...

An Easter Prayer

Lord,
the Resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

Wishing you an Easter full of peace and celebration

The Flower Alphabet



Xanthostemon chrysanthus is commonly known as the **Golden Penda**. It is a popular garden plant in North Queensland, Australia and has showy yellow blooms. It grows in open forest or rainforest often along the banks or creeks and rivers.

There are very few plants that grow in the UK and begin with the letter 'X'. As we reach the end of the alphabet there are fewer plant species!

Veronica Barnes

Bring blossoms the fairest...

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2012

On Friday, 2nd March at St. Peter's & Paul's Church, Buckingham, the women from the Churches of Buckingham and the surrounding villages joined, with over 3 million people world wide in prayer and worship in a service prepared by the women of Malaysia. The theme was "Let Justice Prevail."

The first services take place on the Pacific Island of Tonga and sweep round the world involving some 170 countries, finally ending on Western Samoa, again in the Pacific Ocean. People from all the Churches were involved in the preparation of the service, and St. Bernardine's provided some of the readers.

The service began with the beating of a drum, ringing of a bell and a gong, which is a common practice in Malaysia. Candles were carried to the altar and lit to represent women united in prayer around the world.

We joined with the women of Malaysia in thanking God for the early traders that brought the Christian Faith to them and for the ongoing work of Missionaries. They rejoiced in the rich heritage of their cultural diversity and wonders of nature. They asked for our prayers in pressing for justice for all, particularly the plight of immigrant workers and the poor of Malaysia. The women are seeking to improve their place in society.

Our speaker, Barbara Toft who attends the Evangelical Church in Buckingham, lived in Malaysia for 37 years. She and her daughter demonstrated the traditional Malaysian greeting and went on to tell us that Malaysia lies north of the equator and consists of Peninsular Malaysia, and is separated by the South China Sea from East Malaysia – the northern part of the island of Borneo. The country consists of nine states with hereditary sultans, and four states with governors. One of these acts as "king" for a term of five years, before being replaced by one of the other eight heads of state. The "king" appoints, on the advice of the federal Council of Ministers, a Prime Minister and Cabinet. They are all collectively responsible to a democratically elected Parliament.

The Malaysian State is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country – modern with traditional ways. It is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. It has many natural resources and is rich in the diversity of its flora and fauna. Much progress has been made in education at primary level, but only 60% of children go on to non compulsory secondary education. Although Malaysia is a democracy, women face discrimination and violence at many levels. Even to-day a girl child is seen as less valuable than a boy. Sadly human trafficking is a sophisticated and organised operation.

Towards the end of the service a collection was taken which raised £452.66, over half of it being Gift Aided. Among the many organisations to benefit from the world wide collections, is one of our own favourite charities – Cafod. Next year, the service will be prepared by the Women of France.

Christine Rayner.

CATECHETICS

Presenting young people from a more enlightening perspective

Lent is a busy time for catechists. When we resumed our Saturday classes after Christmas, we were immediately into preparation for the forty days of extra prayer and acts of kindness and service. The children's thoughts and efforts are directed towards the suffering areas of the world where there is a shortage of water and basic necessities of life. CAFOD's campaign has particularly caught their imagination this year and we are grateful to parents for their donations. We explain and follow The Stations of the Cross, which help the different groups, according to their age and maturity, to understand the passion and death of Jesus and his great love for us all. The Mary and Joseph groups also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that they are in a state of spiritual readiness to welcome the Risen Christ at Easter.

The New Year heralded the start of the Confirmation Programme with an introductory meeting in our Parish Room for all 34 candidates and their parents from the three parishes of Buckingham, Brackley and Winslow. Quite a cosy few hours! We catechists received an excellent impression of the girls and boys in those crushed circumstances and this has been enhanced in the two subsequent Thornton Days, which have been productive and good fun. They are an enthusiastic, energetic, willing group as you can hear from their responses in their celebration Masses at St. Bernardine's. The welcome and support of the parish has given them an appreciation of the responsibilities and opportunities for service which the Sacrament of Confirmation offers; they threw themselves heart and soul into the Frugal Lunch for the Parish and, thanks to your generosity, raised £280 for CAFOD, which will be doubled by the Government.

The Youth Group has been no less busy and although the play, Papa Panov, had to be postponed because of the single evening of severe weather we have had this year, the cast is determined to share its brilliance with you next Christmas. They are an extremely talented bunch so put it in the diary! No sooner had they accepted this disappointment than they were involved in the demands of rehearsing for the Stations of the Cross, which they will perform for the parish on Friday 30th March. This will be the second year that they have enacted the last hours of Jesus' life and they were so impressive last year that they were asked to repeat their representation for the Churches Together Service. From this has come an invitation to take part in the Good Friday Service outside the Old Gaol at 10.30 in the morning, where they will bear witness to their faith and fly the flag for St. Bernardine's. It will be an excellent experience for them and a valuable contribution to the town's remembrance of the events of that day. Members of the Youth Group have also participated in the Confirmation Programme, devoting their Sunday

afternoons to describing to the candidates their memories of the celebration and how the Sacrament of Confirmation has changed their lives.

As I write this, I am struck forcibly by the realisation of how blessed we are as a parish to have such wonderful young people as our future. They are too busy to riot! We catechists feel privileged to guide and teach them and we thank you, their parents and their parish, for your support and appreciation.

Maggie Shinkwin



RECIPE PAGE

Another cake recipe for our many cake fanciers, which is a favourite of Louise – one of our parishioners...

Whole Orange Spice Cake

Cake Ingredients

- 1) 10oz (300g) self raising flour
- 2) 15ml (3 level tsp) baking powder
- 3) 10oz (300g) caster sugar
- 4) 8oz (250g) softened butter
- 5) 4 medium eggs
- 6) 5ml (1 level tsp) ground cinnamon
- 7) 5ml (1 level tsp) ground mixed spice

Cooking time

20 – 25 minutes

Oven

180°C (250°F) Gas 4

Cake Ingredients

- 1) 2oz (60g) softened butter
- 2) 6oz (175g) icing sugar
- 3) 3ml (½ tsp) orange essence

Method

- 1) Place whole orange in saucepan – cover with boiling water – simmer till soft – about 1 hour.
- 2) Half orange when cold – remove any pips – place in food processor – whiz to medium pulp.
- 3) Add cake ingredients to pulp in processor – blend just until smooth – divide between 2 x 8”/9” sandwich cake tins, buttered & base lined.
- 4) Bake in oven until golden brown & top is springy – cool for a few moments – remove from tins – peel off parchment & cool completely on a wire rack.
- 5) For icing – cream butter – mix with icing sugar & essence till smooth.
- 6) Sandwich cakes together with icing & dust the top with icing sugar before serving

Thank you Louise!

Deacon John

ST. BERNARDINE'S & ST. MARTIN'S

200 CLUB DRAW

December 2011

DRAWN	No.	WINNER	PRIZE
First	200	Philip Vince	£45
Second	47	Betty Vidler	£15
Third	14	Anthony Coughlin	£10

January 2012

DRAWN	No.	WINNER	PRIZE
First	60	Denis M ^c Quillan	£45
Second	146	Rose West	£15
Third	58	John Lovelock	£10

February 2012

DRAWN	No.	WINNER	PRIZE
First	200	Philip Vince	£45
Second	22	The O'Reilly Family	£15
Third	72	Fr Dan	£10

Gill Craik

SUMMER EDITION *of* BEMA

Please submit your entries for the summer edition of BEMA by
Sunday 8th July 2012, at the very latest.

Many thanks,

Deacon John