



E C C E

The Newsletter of S. John the Baptist Anglican Church
Marshall, Virginia

Issue 49, December 2011

In this issue...

- Old News ii
- Vestry Notes ii
- Kudos iii
- A Look at the Liturgy iii
- Upcoming Events iii
- Ordo Kalendar iv

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please email:

Ecce@st-johnthebaptist.org

**The Anglican Church
of
S. John the Baptist**

4107 Winchester Road
P.O. Box 550
Marshall, VA
20116-0550

Office: 540.364.2554
Rectory: 540.364.2134

www.st-johnthebaptist.org

Dear Family and Friends of S. John's,

We find ourselves once again at the beginning of a new Church year. While the secular culture busies itself with "holiday" shopping and "end-of-year" parties, the Church calls us to look inwardly and assess the spiritual quality of our hearts and minds. Are we better prepared to receive the King of Kings this year than last? Or are the same besetting sins preventing us from moving forward spiritually? Have we made progress in the spiritual life or have we become stagnant or even regressed?

Advent reminds us of our final destiny. We reflect on the Four Last Things - death, judgement, heaven and hell - not to be morbid or to quash the "holiday spirit" but because we know that we will not appreciate the true meaning of the Christmas season without such introspection.

I hope that we will want to take on a special discipline this Advent so that we might be able to evaluate more accurately our progress in the spiritual life. Some of us are facing almost insurmountable challenges in personal life that test faith daily. Others are simply coasting along, counting more on the generosity and mercy of God than admitting to His justice and hatred of sin. This presumptive attitude prevents us from engaging life as God intends for us. Only when we conform our lives to God's will do we enter into that "abundant life" Our Lord promises in the Gospel. This is, after all, the primary reason for the Incarnation.

Anything short of following God might bring short-term pleasures but will prevent us from ever attaining our true potential as creatures in God's own image. Advent calls us to "look up...for your Redemption draweth nigh," rather than looking around at all the diversions of life. As the dawn signals the rising of the sun, so Advent signals the return of Our Lord at the end of time. The Gospels are replete with warnings to "watch," to remain alert, anticipating at any time Our Lord's Second Coming. The best way in which we can remain alert is to live in each moment as a gift from God, choosing the good and rejecting the evil. Only then, by conscious acts of a will infused by grace, can we build a character receptive to the One who comes not only as a Child in the crèche but as the Judge at the end of time.

Affectionately, your Friend and Pastor,

Old News But Still of Interest



Did Papal Visit Signal an End to the English Reformation?

by Edward Pentin Sunday, September 26, 2010

A week after Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Scotland and England and its historical significance is still reverberating.

The first state visit by a Pope to Britain was remarkable in many different ways, not least because of the graciousness and generosity shown by Queen Elizabeth II.

Here was a Pope coming to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Her Majesty, the supreme governor of a church that violently split from Rome 500 years ago. Yet she gave him free rein to address her subjects as he saw fit – even beatify one who left her church to come over to Rome.

For the first time, a ruling English monarch allowed the Successor of Peter to address her Parliament, attend a liturgy in the church of her Coronation, and even to pray with her archbishop at the tomb of the Royal Family's patron saint. Her government also hosted unprecedented formal bilateral talks with Holy See officials.

It was a kind of surrender, a giving up of the Reformation and all it had stood for in terms of rebellion against the papacy. But this shouldn't be seen as a defeat for the Crown; rather the opposite. It was as if the Queen had finally come to the realization that Rome was right after all, that the Catholic Church offers something which her subjects

need – even “thirst for” in the words of Benedict – and which her own church and state leaders have been failing to provide.

It was a remarkable turn of events and a highly significant moment in British history. Were they alive today, the Queen's Tudor predecessors would have been flabbergasted and probably summoned her executioner. More, Fisher and Campion, on the other hand, would be rejoicing.

True, Catholic-Anglican relations have been amicable for 50 years since the two first opened an official dialogue. John Paul II also visited Elizabeth II in 1982, and the Queen has made two state visits to the Vatican.

But those were times when the Anglican Communion was stronger and looked as if it would last as a united body. The encounters were between two distinct Christian entities, united in common Baptism, and which in some ways complimented the other.

Today that's no longer quite the case. Some say that Anglicanism has run its course. The advent of the new Ordinariates and their expected long term popularity is a consequence of its decline (though leaving behind a distinct patrimony that still has much to offer the universal Church). Benedict XVI called the new structure for receiving large numbers of Anglicans into the Church a “prophetic gesture” during the visit, one that will restore “full ecclesial communion.”

A corner has therefore surely been turned and a new chapter of Christianity in Britain, and possibly globally, may be beginning.

Elizabeth I was the English sovereign who gave momentum to the English Reformation (what Chesterton called the “shipwreck of Christendom”) that would last half a millennium.

Elizabeth II may well go down in history as the monarch who – with the help of a Pope passionate about Christian unity – didn't quite end it but has courageously helped draw it to a close.

Vestry Notes

Present at the November Vestry were Fr Ostman, Bob Ashcom, Dr Dale Forrester, John Hagan, Jim McGee and Bill Stevens.

The primary topics discussed included:

Signage: Fr Ostman relayed that the sign vendor reduced the cost for two signs for our streetside signposts using different materials. He will re-send designs for Vestry comment/approval. The Vestry was in agreement that given our current finances, we would pay for these signs outside of current pledged offerings.

Old Main Street Theatre: The possibility of expanding parish activities to the theatre building next to the 7-11 was dropped after investigation into the state of the building revealed the need for extensive repair.

Finances: Extended discussion of our current finances and strategies to grow our parish. No specific plan or strategy was discussed in depth but the need to continue to confront our challenges was emphasized.

Stewardship: The Stewardship mailing will be sent out in early December and will include a letter outlining our present financial challenges.

Ordinariate: The Vestry discussed at some length the potential of the Ordinariate. Cardinal Wuerl has indicated that it will in place by the end of this year. Once the Ordinary is announced and as it unfolds over the next several months, the parish and Vestry will be able to determine its applicability to our situation.

Next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for 18 December when all Vestry members are expected to be able to participate.

A LOOK AT THE LITURGY

The Season of Advent begins the liturgical year, and along with Lent is one of the two penitential seasons that mark the Church kalendar. Advent is not as penitential in character as Lent: the *Alleluia* verse remains part of the Sunday liturgy, although the liturgical colour is purple and flowers do not adorn the altar except on the third Sunday of Advent and Christmas-eve.

Advent Sunday is the Sunday closest to the Feast of S. Andrew (30 Nov). There are always four Sundays in Advent, though on occasion the fourth might fall on Christmas-eve.

Advent comes from the Latin word, "adventus," meaning "coming." In Advent we look for the coming of Our Lord both in His Nativity and at the end of time when He "shall come to judge both the quick and the dead." Thus Advent is a preparatory season as we ready ourselves for such momentous events. We want to examine our consciences and so make ourselves vessels worthy to receive Our Lord as He comes to us on the anniversary of His birth. We also want to make ourselves open to receive Our Lord worthily in the Blessed Sacrament as well as make ourselves ready to meet Him when He comes as Judge at the end of the world.

Our Lord comes to us at all times and seasons, and in fact, lives within us. But the season of Advent intensi-

fies this sense of Our Lord coming to us, making us aware of His desire to be with us. Most importantly, it adapts us better to the intimacy He offers.

If we were to summarize the intent of this season with one word, it would be "Come." This is the prayer with which the Revelation to S. John the Divine ends: "Come, Lord Jesus." During Advent, we attempt to pray this simple prayer with greater fervour and deeper sincerity, driving out those things that are incompatible with the presence of Our Lord. This simple prayer "Come" purifies us and inflames our love for Our Lord. It also makes us more deeply aware of Our Lord's presence within and increases our desire for others to have that same knowledge of His presence.

Not only do we focus on His coming in the flesh but we also see in Him the light of God, "God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God," the One who dispels the darkness and opens to us the light of truth.

The celebration of Our Lord's birth coincides with the lengthening of the day and the shortening of the night, revealing His victory over the darkness of our own lives. As we look for His coming again at the end of time, we are able to understand more perfectly the transitory nature of all that surrounds us, and to focus more intently upon the eternal verities.

Kudos

To Bill Stevens for his unsung work as Treasurer and for all who serve on the Vestry.

To Dale Forrester for his willingness to step in as acolyte Sunday mornings as needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Immaculate Conception: Thu, 8 Dec 6pm

While most of the Prayer Book Holy Days are celebrated at 10am during the winter months, Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated at 6pm to allow those who work to participate. On 8 December, we celebrate the Conception of the Blessed Mother of God, nine months before her nativity, giving thanks that being preserved from the stain of sin, she was able to share her human nature with her Incarnate Son and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thursday Night at the Movies: 15 Dec, 7pm

This month, we will meet for the much-praised film, **Of Gods and Men**. Here is the review: *Eight French Christian monks live in harmony with their Muslim brothers in a monastery perched in the mountains of North Africa in the 1990s. When a crew of foreign workers is massacred by an Islamic fundamentalist group, fear sweeps through the region. The army offers them protection, but the monks refuse. Should they leave? Despite the growing menace in their midst, they slowly realize that they have no choice but to stay... come what may. This film is loosely-based on the life of the Cistercian monks of Tibhirine in Algeria, from 1993 until their kidnapping in 1996.*

Christmas Services: 24-25 December

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. We will meet after Morning Prayer and Rosary to decorate the church. We would like as many volunteers as possible, so please set aside that time now so that "many hands can make light work." Those with greens to drop off may do so during that week, the later the better. We will have our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm, followed at 11pm with the Midnight Mass. As is our practice, we will have carol singing starting at 10.30pm. The Second Mass of Christmas will be at 8am and the Third Mass at 10.30am, with no Christian Formation planned on that Sunday.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">1</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Advent Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">2</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">S. Bibiana, VM (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">3</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Francis Xavier, C (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">4</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT II (S. Peter Chrysologus, BCD)</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">5</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Advent Feria (S. Sabas, Ab.)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">6</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Nicholas, BC (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">7</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Ambrose, BCD (Vigil, Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">8</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">9</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Of the Octave (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">10</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Of the Octave (S. Melchiades, PM Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">11</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT III (S. Damasus I, PM Of the Octave)</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">12</div> <p style="text-align: center;">OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">13</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Lucy, VM (Of the Octave, Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">14</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ember Day (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">15</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Octave Day of the Immaculate Conception (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm TNM 7pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">16</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">S. Eusebius, BM (Ember Day)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">17</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Ember Day</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>
<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">18</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT IV (Expectation of the BVM)</p> <p>L.M. 8am M.P. 9.00am SCF 9.30am Mass 10.30am</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">19</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Advent Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">20</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Vigil (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">21</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. THOMAS, AP</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Mass 10am Bible Study 10:30 E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">22</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Frances Cabrini, V (Advent Feria)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">23</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Advent Feria</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">24</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">Vigil</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm L & C 6.00pm Carols 10.30pm Mass 11pm</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">25</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</p> <p>Mass 8 am Mass 10 am</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">26</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">27</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. JOHN, AP EV (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">28</div> <p style="text-align: center;">HOLY INNOCENTS, MM (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm Mass 6pm</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">29</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Thomas of Canterbury, BM (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">30</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Of the Octave</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am E.P. 5.30pm</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">31</div> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Sylvester I, PC (Of the Octave)</p> <p>M.P. 9.30am Rosary 9:45 Confessions 5pm E.P. 5.30pm</p>

Ab=Abbot; Ap=Apostle; B=Bishop; C=Confessor; Dn=Deacon; D=Doctor; E=Emperor; Ev=Evangelist; K=King; M=Martyr; P=Pope; Pr= Priest; Q=Queen; V=Virgin; W=Widow; SCF = School of Christian Formation; TNM = Thursday Night at the Movies; SOC = Stations of the Cross