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ST. BARNABAS ROSENEATH BULLETIN

AUGUST 2020

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TO ALTER AT THE ALTAR?

Greetings St Barnabas Family

During Lent, and our extended Lent, the altar rails were removed. They were removed for Kat and David's wedding at the end of February, to make room for all that was happening then, and a decision was made to leave them out for Lent as a trial period.

Lent was extended by the Covid-19 Lock-down, and discussions about the altar rails have been varied and ongoing. It has been a good discussion, about the meaning of the altar rails, their purpose and their practical use.

The first reference to an altar in scripture is Noah: *"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose."* (Genesis 8:20). This is in the context of an altar being a place of sacrifice throughout Hebrew tradition. Altars were also built in places where an encounter with the Lord occurred, as a place to give thanks and to worship God.

Jesus talks about the altar with reference to these Hebrew traditions: *"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."* (Matthew 5:23-24).

Bosco Peters (liturgy.co.nz) says *"Sacrifice, in the Hebrew Bible, is not so much about giving something up that is valuable; it is much more about a God-given means that draws us near to God,*



The Reverend Cath Growcott

that gives us intimacy with God. Sacrifice is the word that applies to God taking into God's possession; about growing union with God."

We come to the altar to offer our lives to God anew, and to receive the sacrament as a means of grace - to enable us to grow in union with God and to live out our God given purpose in the world. The sacrament is a visible sign of God's invisible grace.

In the Eastern Orthodox church, the entire wall is covered with icons, and the priest comes out a little door for the liturgy of the word, and goes behind the wall for the sacramental liturgy. In the tradition of the church, the rail/rood screen was to provide a clear designation of the area that was holy, and to prevent desecration of the sacrament.

Over the years, rood screens have disappeared, the altars have been moved out from the East Wall, so that the priest is facing the people, rather than with their back to the people. Altar rails have remained, to continue to designate the

space as holy, and to allow for kneeling at the altar. In some places the altar has been moved down into the nave or a second nave altar has been installed (eg in our St Paul's Cathedral), or the altar rails have been removed so that the community can gather around the altar for communion (eg St Michael's Kelburn).

In our community here at St Bs, there are varying viewpoints to balance the theology, the practicality of the space we occupy, and the needs of our people.

Some thoughts for removing the rails have been:

- People can stand in the presence of God, because they are forgiven
- The community gathers around the table, all being equal

- The altar rails create a barrier between the people and God
- The altar rails create a barrier between the priest and the people
- Removing the altar rails creates more space for the ministers to move about

Some thoughts for restoring the rails have been:

- It reminds people that this is holy space, and people take time to acknowledge the holy space
- The act of kneeling facilitates adoration and reverence
- Kneeling is an act of penitence
- Kneeling gives more time and focus for praying while waiting for the sacrament to be offered
- Whether standing or kneeling the altar rails provide a physical

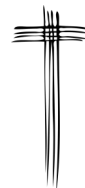
aid for balance

The vestry have listened to the ideas, and have decided to restore the altar rails - primarily because what we do is serve the needs of our people. We need the altar rails as a physical aid for worship in our tradition and in our place. I hope you have felt listened to throughout this process.

Perhaps our discussions have been very focussed because we have returned from our period of lockdown - we have realised how important our worshipping life is at St BS, we like our worship to be familiar in this changing and unpredictable world.

Whether standing or kneeling at the altar: we come to God and God comes to us.

Love and blessings
Rev Cath



BISHOP'S WARDEN'S MESSAGE



A notable date in my family's diary was last Saturday 25 July, being Saint James' Day.

My paternal grandparents were married on this day back in 1936. The brand new house into which they settled shortly afterwards is still to this day inhabited by my father's brother, my Uncle Robin, who was born in the front room and has lived there for almost 75 years. For the first five years of my own life, we lived next door to granny, grandad and Uncle Robin here in Flixton, Lancashire.

Saint James himself is reputedly buried in Catedral de Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. This enormous Cathedral was completed in the year 1211.

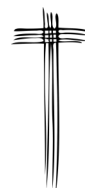
In 1851, the famous thurible, known as the Botafumerio, was made by goldsmith José Losada. It is reputedly the largest thurible in the world at 80kgs, and is removed from exhibition in the Cathedral's library, filled with half its own weight of charcoal and incense, attached to a pulley mechanism, and swung by eight red-robed servers pulling on ropes in the Jubilee Years, whenever Saint James' Day falls upon a Sunday. It swings across the transept at speeds of up to 80kph; needless to say there have been a number of incidents with it over the last 170 years.

By the end of August, we might even have enough new volunteers through Michael's impending tui-



tion, detailed elsewhere in this Bulletin, to send a team over to Spain to deputise on this incredible device. In the meanwhile, we shall make do with one thurifer at a time, not collecting any speeding tickets.

With all my love,
David



On behalf of the Parish the Vestry gave a great round of applause to Mark Williams for managing the project to take up and get rid of the old carpet in the hall, and lay new carpet tiles, and to both Mark and Dave Growcott for taking on the task of most professionally! Laying the carpet tiles and thereby saving the Parish funds a considerable expense. Our grateful thanks for a job very well done.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR THURIBLE FROM YOUR CHASUBLE?

Well, one is worn and the other is swung! Still a bit confused, or thoroughly happy in your knowledge of matters liturgical? When was the last time you had an opportunity to learn about our faith tradition? I remember for me, it was during my confirmation classes as a 11-year old, and I hate to admit how long ago that was!

One of the lessons of the Lock-down taken on board by Vestry is that everyone needs a back-up, that

the Parish, the Church, and the Mass all involve a lot of people offering their time and talents to undertake a wide variety of tasks and missions.

As part of the Vestry's focus on building Parish resilience and serving each other in and outside the Parish, Michael Doherty has offered to lead a programme of training for six volunteers to train as Liturgical Assistants, and other supporting members of the Altar

party. The programme's sessions will be held over three Sundays for an hour after Mass, 1130-1230.

Michael also welcomes ANYONE in the Parish who might like to attend any or all of the sessions of the training programme. To this end, below is an outline of the Programme's sessions. Please consider coming to the sessions for your own interest or to join the other volunteers.

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMME

Session 1: Introduction: 09 August 2020

Introduction and Course Outline

Why are we here?

What will we learn?

Am I allowed to have my own opinions?

The Nature of the Anglo Catholic Liturgy of St Barnabas

Why are we Anglo-Catholics at St. Barnabas?

Is this nature of our Catholic heritage fixed or changeable?

Is the use of Te Reo allowed in the Catholic liturgy?

The Role of the Liturgical Assistant

Why does the LA do the dismissal?

Why does the LA wear those robes?

Is the most important thing that the LA does is holding the book?

Can we have a mass if there is no LA?

What else does the LA do?

History and Structure of the Mass

Where does the name Mass come from?

How old is the Mass?

How does this fit into a protestant denomination?

Which is the most important part of the Mass?

Why do we do things in the order we do?



Session 2: Sacred Vessels and Garments: 16 August 2020

Alb Amica Cincture; Stole, Chasuble, Dalmatic Tunicle, Biretta, Mitre, Cape, Veil

Chalice, Ciborium, Pattern, Pyx, Stock, Monstrance, Luna, Corporal, Burse, Cruets, Lavabo

Bells, Gong, Thurible, Bot, Candles

What these things are called?

How these vessels are to be handled

What these vessels are used for

How these garments work

Session 3: Liturgy and Sacred Drama : 23 August 2020

Servant leadership in liturgy

Speaking from the altar and the lectern

Preparation and Pronunciation

Pacing, diction, projection and eye contact

When and how to move

Nods, Bobs, Bows and genuflections

Where to put your hands

Making marching look holy

Traps and pitfalls



LOCKDOWN STORIES

Dogs, Dogs

By Judith Doyle

Dogs and more dogs during lockdown. One of the things I'll remember about lockdown were the dogs. I didn't know there were so many dogs in Wellington – till then. Along the footpath from town, they came. Out of the apartments, they came; down the zig-zag path from the Monastery and from Roseneath, they came. Small dogs, tall dogs, some with fluffy coats, others smooth- and silky-coated. They often wore smart little jackets in a variety of colours and styles.

It was heart-warming to see them enjoying the beach – swimming for balls thrown into the sea; jumping for sheer joy on the sands; dashing after sticks thrown for them. (As an aside: have you read the story by Roald Dahl about a bunch of dogs breeding humans for their stick-throwing abilities? Did you see the cartoon of a snarling dog with the caption, "Not another walk!")

Barking often punctuated the days, but it was barking for the joy of being at the beach on a sunny day.

During those weeks and weeks of lockdown, I bemoaned the fact that I didn't have a garden and I don't have a dog. Both must have been great assets during that time – the weather was usually good for both activities. I had to comfort myself by taking photos of the dogs enjoying themselves over that strange time.



2 x Jigsaws

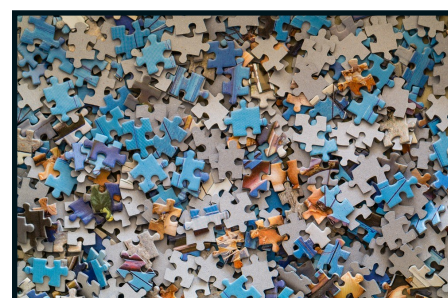
By Cathy Downes

I love a greatly under-appreciated song by Liza Minnelli, [Ring Them Bells](#). It is one of those great songs that tells a story, in this case of a single woman in New York who travels to Europe to find a partner and ends up meeting there her never met next door neighbour from her New York apartment building.

Well, during the Lockdown, a neighbour in my street set up a Street Facebook group. Through it we were able to learn of neighbours' needs, particularly our elderly folks who were sheltering in place, and everyone was able to help where we could when asked.

One day there was this message: "Help—we are out of jigsaws, puzzles, anything to keep the kids occupied. Has anyone got anything they could lend us?" I thought, I have a couple of jigsaws tucked away. So I sent a message back—"Yes I have two jigsaws. If you let me know your number I can walk them up the street and leave them in your letterbox."

A minute later the reply: "Oh, we will come to you. It doesn't matter if we are at the other end of the Street. So I replied: "I am at Number 7." The reply came back: "See you in 30 seconds.....We are....Number 10!" My new-found neighbours were just across the road who I had never met. It took a pandemic for two little boys to nip across the road, waving and laughing as they pulled the jigsaws out of my letterbox. It only took 30 seconds. There is a parable there somewhere there, I am sure.



Walks and Woolly Toys



Henry and Cath walked regularly to the Skyline Walkway (above Crofton Downs), to check if the South Island was still there (it was). Cath created a crochet polar bear for a new baby in the family (Dave's great niece, Sophie, in Christchurch.) The polar bear continues to be joined by others, and the polar bear hasn't made it to Christchurch yet.

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REMEMBER THESE DATES

SERVICES

Sunday Masses 08:30AM and 10:00AM

Tuesday Compline 8PM by ZOOM
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6977278408?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6977278408?pwd=MXIIN1dsTUZKaC9ITWpXYXp2cjV0dz09)
pwd=MXIIN1dsTUZKaC9ITWpXYXp2cjV0dz09
Meeting ID: 697 727 8408
Password: barnabas

Thursday Evening Mass 6PM at Church

SAINTS/ FEAST DAYS

13 Aug — St. Mary,
Mother of Jesus

28 Aug — St. Augustine
of Hippo



File-

filippo Lippi, Vision of St. Augustine (circa 1460)

RETREAT WEEKEND OPPORTUNITY 7-9 AUGUST

There will be a Retreat Weekend entitled “Art, Comtemplation Action” at Our Lady’s Home of Compassion, Island Bay, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay. The Retreat will focus on the “ability of art to bring people to an experience of God.” The weekend begins at 8PM on Friday 7 August with the Retreat Introduction and concludes with lunch at 12.30PM on Sunday 9 August. All are welcome to join the Compassion Community for a Taize Prayer on Friday 7 August at 7pm.

The Retreat will be led by Raymond Perry, an Anglican Priest with long experience in spiritual direction and prayer, to explore, in silence, and through music, art and story, our responses to God in the realities of life.

The Retreat fee of \$200 includes meals and two nights’ accommodation. Enquiries to: spirituality@compassion.org.nz, or phone: 904) 389 7769.

FOOD DONATIONS THE CITY MISSION

Many thanks for your recent donations of food. We are continuing to deliver food donations to the City Mission Foodbank. Please keep up the donations through winter, as there is still significant need.

Just a reminder: the foodbank will not accept dented/damaged or out-dated goods, so please check be-

fore you donate. Please direct any questions to Janet Brown (022 1761633) or Jane Hill (027 9797732.) Thank you.

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citymission 