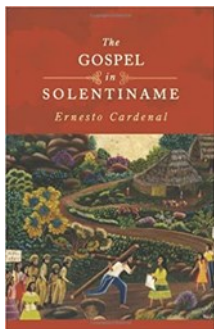




Postcard from Nicaragua!

One of the great joys and challenges of the last 18 months has been my contact with Fr Ernesto Cardenal until his death on March 1st this year. He was not only a great priest but a poet of the highest order, recognised throughout the world as one of Nicaragua's greatest poets. His Cosmic Canticle which took more than 30 years to write is regarded as an epic which Harold Pinter described as 'a towering piece of work, a quite extraordinary achievement.' (I have only managed a small part of it as yet!)



Another book I have is The Gospel in Solentiname. Solentiname, a remote archipelago in Lake Nicaragua is where people would gather with Ernesto to reflect on the Sunday gospel and from the recordings of their discussion this book was created. They put forward not what the Gospel should mean as suggested by scripture scholars, but what the words and deeds of Jesus did mean to them in their daily lives.

It is a great reference book to get a different insight into the Gospel from people in the midst of hardship and struggle. I also have The Gospel in Art by the Peasants of Solentiname which has paintings with scenes from The Annunciation to the Resurrection, but in a way that I had never seen before.

Ernesto had an ability to see into another person's soul and was never shy of saying what he thought should happen if transformation was to take place. We were in email contact on a regular basis, often twice or three times a week and I would always send him a copy of the homily.

One of his favourite phrases was 'Unite heaven and earth' and he would tell me if he thought there was too much heaven and not enough earth. We are still in touch though in a different way!



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Masses, Newsletter and Readings.

Newsletter during the time of the suspension of Public Worship

Fr Bernard will continue to celebrate Mass

IN PRIVATE without any people present at 9.00am each morning

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) 12th April 2020

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday:	People of the Parish
Monday:	Geoffrey Ralph Marshall
Tuesday:	Carol Smith
Wednesday:	Molly Matthews
Thursday:	Sr Carmel Fitzpatrick
Friday:	Ian Richardson
Saturday:	Leslie Osbaldeston
Sunday:	People of the Parish

There will be only **one** Mass each day. **The Church will remain closed until further notice.**

Confessions by appointment.

Contact Details:

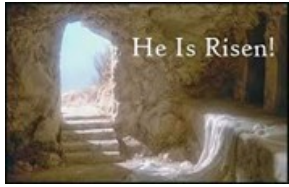
Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore

We are the Easter People and Alleluia is our song!



The week between Easter Sunday and the Second Sunday of Easter, which is this Sunday is regarded by the Church as one great celebration of the same reality, namely the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The scriptures for the week are wonderful. The first reading is taken from The Acts of the Apostles and really tells the story of the transformation that took place in the Disciples after the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. In John's Gospel the day of Resurrection and the day of Pentecost are the same.



Peter is the spokesperson and he pulls no punches, reminding his listeners that they have to bear some responsibility for the death of Jesus, but also that they did not fully understand what they were doing. When asked what they should do, Peter says, "You must repent, and everyone of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." It is not all plain sailing by any means as the readings on Friday and Saturday demonstrated. They are arrested and warned not to speak in the name of Jesus, something they refused to do. The Gospels each day have been the different resurrection stories which follow a similar pattern, namely devastation at the death of Jesus, fear of what might happen, an initial failure to recognise Jesus or to accept that it is Jesus, and finally amazement at what they are experiencing.

The two I find most helpful are **Luke 24:13-35**, the story of the two disciples



on the road to Emmaus; and **John 21:1-14**, Peter deciding to go back fishing and taking 6 others with him. Jesus appears on both occasions though in different contexts. A good way of reading these accounts is to imagine ourselves as one of the characters. We might be surprised by what happens!

Bishop Marcus has asked us to make the following know through the

Newsletter:

Online Retreat and Catechesis from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



Mgr John Armitage, the Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, is offering an Eight Day Online Retreat opportunity (starting this Sunday, 19th April) and a programme of Catechesis (starting Monday 27th April) via the Walsingham Shrine website www.walsingham.org.uk. Please visit the site for further information.



The Parish would normally be having a special collection for Cornerstone but due to the pandemic this is not possible. If you would like to support Cornerstone go to their website, cornerstonecds.org where there is facility to send a monetary contribution. In the Latest News section, just scroll down a bit, they have put on an Amazon wishes list. This lists various things for sale on Amazon that they require. You buy them and put the delivery address as Cornerstone Day Centre, 104 Denmark Road, Manchester, M15 6JS. They will distribute the goods as appropriate. (Information sent by Philip and Celia. Thank You)

Inevitably in these days of lockdown and social isolation and distancing there is little parish activity to report! This is why the newsletter has a more reflective look to it than normal with the invitation to look up the Resurrection stories.



A real 'Feel Good' TV programme for me is The Repair Shop BBC1 Wednesday at 8.00pm. If you haven't watched it I really suggest you give it a try.



If anyone needs assistance please contact Fr Bernard
01457 872603

or bernard.bickers@sacredheartparishorg.uk in the first instance. Several parishioners have volunteered to help.