

Work and Prayer

How would you answer if asked what you consider to be 'holy'? Perhaps some of the more obvious answers would include Scripture (we talk about holy writ) or God Himself, the Holy Trinity. Perhaps you would talk about holy Church, the holy Sacraments, holy men and women. I doubt very much that within that list you would think about, or even want to add, work; the work of our hands. And yet when we stop and think about it, our work is what takes up the bulk of the day. For many, work is drudgery; it is a means to paying the bills, to getting a pension in order to *retire from work*. Work gets in the way of doing the things we want to do with our lives, and within this mindset we soon discover that a large part of our lives are wasted in discontent and the idea that in some way work could be seen as holy is delusional.

St Benedict has some very sound teaching on the nature of work, and how we can raise it from the level of some sort of necessary inconvenience into the arena of the holy.

In the Prologue to his Rule, we are immediately alerted to the potential spiritual nature of work, when we do what we do, but we do it because Jesus with us in our work. St Benedict says, "First of all when you do a good work, you must pray to Him most earnestly to bring it to perfection." And then a little further he says, "Seeking His workman in a multitude of people, the Lord calls out to him and lifts His voice again." When we desire to be God's workmen, the work of our human hands can create gifts that sustain us and bless the world around us. For Benedict and the followers of his Rule, the tedium of the daily grind is lifted into the realm of the holy because he links the world of work with the need to constantly pray. There is a phrase that is associated with Benedictines, 'Ora et labora': pray and work (often work and pray). With this attitude, work not only draws us very close to a state of prayer, but it can become prayer itself.

Saints and Heroes

We know very little about Aidan's early life, except that he was probably of Irish descent, and from an early age was a monk on the island of Iona, in the monastery that had been founded by St Columba. In 633, King Oswald gained the crown of Northumbria and vowed to bring Christianity back. He requested that missionaries were sent from Iona. At first they sent Bishop Croman, but his methods were harsh and alienated many people, he returned to Iona and was replaced by Aidan. Aidan, with 12 other monks founded a monastery on Lindisfarne and Aidan was made bishop in 635. An Irish speaker, Aidan had to learn English as he went about his missionary work. His missionary work was inspirational; he would walk from one village to another, politely talking to the people he met and slowly interesting them in Christianity. He took an interest in their lives and communities and spoke to them on their own level. By doing this, he patiently and slowly restored Christianity to Northumbria. He built churches across the area and was known for his simplicity of life and care for the poor. Aidan died in the year 651.

From the Fathers

A great fullness of spiritual comfort and joy in God comes into the hearts of those who recite or devoutly intone the psalms as an act of praise to Jesus Christ. They drop sweetness in the men's souls and pour delight onto their thoughts and kindle their wills with the fire of love, making them hot and burning within, and beautiful and lovely in Christ's eyes.

Richard Rolle (1300-1349)

30th August 2020 The Twelfth Sunday
after Trinity
22nd Sunday
of the Year

Take up your Cross



There was once a very wise monk who had been taken ill in the monastery where he had spent much of his life, but was now hospitalised where he would spend his last days. Every day the Father Abbot would come to see him, they would say the Midday Office, the monk then received the Sacrament and afterwards the Abbot blessed the monk and left.

After many days and after the monk had received the Sacrament, he said very calmly to the Abbot, "Father, it is time for you to administer the Last Rites and give me your final blessing, because I hear the Lord calling me. The Abbot, somewhat taken aback, did exactly as he had been asked and then left the monk alone. About a half-hour later, he went back into the room and the monk had died and looked totally at peace – he was at one with God.

Whilst for that monk he was blessed with what can only be described as a perfect and beautiful death, such peace at the end is something most of us can only hope and pray for.

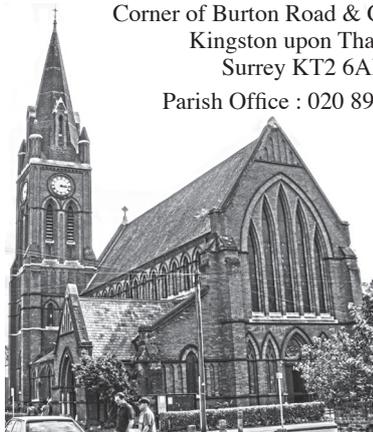
However much we prepare for death, inevitably we also, in some measure, are afraid of the day and all too often the passage from this life to eternity is distressing for those left alone.

When Peter rebuke's Jesus for upsetting them with the prediction of His suffering and death, it is the passage to glory with God's angels that upsets Peter, more than anything. But as Christ says, to achieve eternity we must take up the same cross as His to become His disciples, and that becomes our preparation for death and to be at one with God.

To be reconciled with our discipleship now can bring peace now, and lead to peace with God in eternity.



St Luke's Parish Church Kingston upon Thames



Corner of Burton Road & Gibbon Road
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey KT2 6AB
Parish Office : 020 8974 8079

We welcome you to St Luke's Kingston, a traditional Forward in Faith parish under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Fulham the Rt Rev'd Jonathan Baker SSC. His website is: <http://www.bishopoffulham.org.uk>.

As a community we are dedicated to making the love of Christ known through excellence in worship and active care and concern for others.

St Luke's Church is kept open most days during the daylight hours for prayer and meditation.

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am & 10.30am Mass

WEEKDAYS

9.00am Mass Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday & Friday

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ANTIPHON *Psalm 85(86):3-5*

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

The celebrant introduces the Mass.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The celebrant asks the people to acknowledge their sins.

After a pause for silence:

All: **I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done,
and in what I have failed to do;
And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

**but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is now given.

CONCLUDING RITE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *The people STAND*

Priest: Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**



THE ANGELUS

It is our custom, before we go home, to make this traditional memorial of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ:

v. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings unto Mary.

R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

All: Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

v. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it unto me according to thy word.

All: Hail, Mary . . .

v. And the Word became flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

All: Hail, Mary . . .

v. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The priest prays the Collect. The people respond: Amen.

Often our life dramas are not always interesting, even if we are playing the lead role. The key is to find the role that God has designed for us, even if it looks like a bit part. Sometimes, in a lengthy novel, a character who has seemed minor emerges as the fulcrum around which the entire narrative turns.

When we de-center the ego and live in an exciting and unpredictable relationship to God, we realize very clearly that our lives are not about us. And that's a liberating discovery.

Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal. And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**



The people KNEEL

During this prayer, by the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

After the Lord's Words of Institution:

Priest: The mystery of faith.
All: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The People STAND

THE COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command,
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven;
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation:
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of your mercy
we may always be free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you:
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Then is said:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,**

**therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.
Amen.**

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Priest: Kyrie eleison.
People: **Kyrie eleison.**

Priest: Christe eleison
People: **Christe eleison**

Priest: Kyrie eleison.
People: **Kyrie eleison.**

GLORIA

All: **Glorify to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world:
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

All: **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:7-9 (ESV)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

The Word of the Lord.

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM *From Ps 62 (63)*

R. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

THE SECOND READING *Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Word of the Lord.

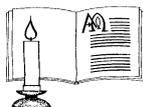
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ephesians 1:17-18*

v. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

v. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



THE GOSPEL *Matthew 16:21-27 (ESV)*

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY *The people SIT*

NICENE CREED *The people STAND*

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:**

All bow: **and by the power of the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

At the end of each bidding, silence is kept, followed by:
Lord, hear us.

People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end of the prayers:

People: **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right and just.**

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy

