# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, TIMBERHILL with ST JULIAN, NORWICH

MAY 2019



The Lord is risen indeed!

## Let us keep the feast: alleluia

## Dear Minds,

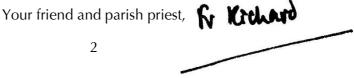
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The subdeacon finished intoning the names of the holy men and women on whose prayer and friendship the People of God were calling. There was a rush of water – perhaps like that rushing noise in the Upper Room when the Spirit descended. The Bishop spread his hands wide and prayed, calling upon the God who created water, whose Spirit had hovered over the waters, who had led the children of Israel dry-shod through the Red Sea, whose Son, baptised in the Jordan, gave forth water and blood from his pierced side on the Cross. The People of God affirmed their baptismal faith in this God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The candidate stepped forward and declared that this is her faith, too. She approached the font, the fountain of new life, and the Bishop poured water, generously, three times, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. She stepped away, newlywashed, and was clothed in white, as the assembly began to sing:

> NOW is eternal life. If risen with Christ we stand. In him to life reborn. And holden in his hand: No more we fear death's ancient dread, In Christ arisen from the dead.

And it was Easter.

Such was our Easter Night at St John's Timberhill this year, not to be forgotten by many of us who were there, I imagine, for some time to come. Baptism is the Easter event: it is Christ, dying and rising in those he is bringing to new birth. You and I, when we were baptised, passed with Christ through the 'grave and gate of death to our joyful resurrection'. Our challenge is to uncover, in the daily living of our lives in the world, what this baptism means for us. These wonderful days of Eastertide, which we're now celebrating as we approach the Feast of Pentecost, are an invitation for each of us to recover the grace of our baptism, to walk thankfully with the Risen Lord, and to rejoice that we – yes, you! - yes, me! – have been chosen to proclaim the mighty acts of him who has called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light.



### The Risen Life • Eastertide 2019

An Eastertide sermon series at the 11am High Mass

28 April	Octave Day of Easter	The Living One
5 May	Third Sunday of Easter	Facing life
12 May	Fourth Sunday of Easter	One life
19 May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Life after death
26 May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	A way of life
2 June	Seventh Sunday of Easter	The Lord of Life
9 June	Feast of Pentecost	Life in the Spirit

We proclaim Jesus as the Living Lord, the one who died and rose again. What does this mean for us today? How can his New Life make a difference to our life now? What is this Risen Life? During the weeks of Eastertide, we're exploring this in a series of sermons at the High Mass: 11am each Sunday.



## The May Devotion

Sunday 5 May • The Third Sunday of Easter • 11am

High Mass, May Procession and Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary

followed by drinks

'O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today: Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May'

## Juliantide

Celebrating the Lady Julian of Norwich • May 8 to 11 The Parish in association with the Friends of Julian of Norwich

Wednesday 8 May • Feast of the Lady Julian of Norwich

10am Low Mass in the cell

10.30am – 1pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

silent prayer, concluding with Benediction

7pm Sung Mass in St Julian's (Preacher: Fr Richard)

followed by drinks

**Thursday 9 May** 

12 noon Low Mass in the cell

1 – 5pm 'Why Pray?' A Prayer Workshop

in St Julian's and the Julian Centre

led by Denise Treissmann, featuring Fr Robert Llewelyn's work and his posthumous book 'Why Pray?' Tea served.

Friday 10 May

10.30am Julian Meeting in the cell

11am Morning coffee in Julian Centre

11.30am Talk by Richard Norton

'Contemplative Ethics in Julian of Norwich and Teresa of

Avila', followed by book signing and drinks

5pm Low Mass in the cell

6 – 8.30pm History walk: Norwich in the time of the Lady Julian

led by Nick Groves, author of *The Medieval Churches of the City of Norwich*, followed by supper. £10: booking

essential (via the Julian Centre).

Saturday 11 May • Festival Day

11am High Mass in St Julian's

12 noon The Julian Lecture: 'Companions in Solitude'

given by Fr Bruce Batstone CJN, OJN

1pm Lunch (Bring your own picnic;

drinks, cakes and biscuits in the Julian Centre)

1.50pm Friends of Julian Annual General Meeting

2.30pm Future Forum chaired by Shirley Buxton; panel includes

Canon Andy Bryant, Howard Green and Sally-Anne Lomas

3.30pm Julian Liturgy

## The merry month of May

#### PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Of all the images of Our Lord in the Gospels, one of the most appealing is the Good Shepherd – the Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep, who came that we may have life and have it more abundantly. The Fourth Sunday of Easter – this year on **12 May** – always has the Good Shepherd as its dominant theme. Because of this, it has become a day of particular prayer for Vocations – to the Priesthood, to the Religious Life and to the many forms of lay ministry which the People of God share. We all know the huge need of vocations today. We'll have a special hour of prayer for Vocations Sunday: a **Holy Hour** in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament Exposed from 5pm to 6pm in St Julian's. At 6pm the *Regina Coeli* will be sung, followed by a hymn, and Benediction will be given. Come and pray.

#### **COME TO THE CATHEDRAL**

Our parish will be remembered in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer on **Wednesday 22 May**. We're particularly invited on that day to go to Evensong at the Cathedral at 5.30pm; Fr Richard will be robed and in choir, and it would be lovely to see you there, too.

#### HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE: ALLELUIA!

Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, is one of the great festivals of the year, and we celebrate it this year on Thursday 30 May. It's a wonderful feast on which we give thanks that the Risen Jesus has been exalted over all things as Lord and King, and has taken our very humanity into the heart of God. You should be at Mass on Ascension Day. So that as many of us as possible will be able to mark the day, there will be Low Masses in St John's at 10am and 12 noon, and the 7pm Mass on Wednesday at St Julian's will be the Vigil Mass of the feast. In the evening, as is the Deanery's custom, all the churches of the Deanery are invited to a united Eucharist, which will be celebrated this year at St Francis, Heartsease (NR7 9UQ) at 7pm. The celebrant will be the Vicar, the Revd Heather Cracknell, and the preacher will be the Rt Revd David Court, Bishop of Grimsby, who is himself a Heartsease boy, having grown up on the estate. A Deanery party follows the Eucharist.

#### SHE ENTERED THE HOUSE AND GREETED ELIZABETH

The last day of Mary's month of May is the Feast of the **Visitation of Our Lady** to her cousin Elizabeth, recorded in St Luke's Gospel (1.39-56). On that feast, **Friday 31 May**, there will be an additional Mass at **12 noon** in St John's, as well as the usual **5pm Mass** in St Julian's. *Magnify the Lord!* 

## St Julian's garden

Sheila Tolley has been undertaking some work in the beautiful, hidden garden at St Julian's. We've asked her to share in this issue of the Newsletter some of her story and her work for the garden.

had been visiting Norwich and have known of Julian of Norwich since childhood through my mother, who had been given a copy of the *Revelations of Divine Love* by her father. So on my very first visit to Julian's Cell in St Julian's Church I just knew that I had "come home".

I now live in Norwich and was made a Companion of Julian of Norwich alongside Fr Luke in Julian's Cell in 2016. After the lovely candlelit ceremony, I walked round to the back of St Julian's Church, and under Julian's Cell window, I noticed a small garden border that did not appear to have any particular plants growing except lots of



self-seeded forget-me-nots, a few dandelions and two rose bushes, one at each end.

It was not until I visited Norwich in the Spring of 2018 that I asked Fr Christopher (our previous Rector), about the unused border. He explained that (at that time), there were Ashes of two Priests buried in the border, one being the very loved Fr Robert Llewelyn. I was deeply guided to enquire further, but as I walked away from the garden, I reached inside my jacket pocket for a hankie and out dropped a little hazelnut. I walked back towards the border and thought, well, surely no one would mind if I planted this tiny round thing, and so I said a prayer, made a hole with my finger and popped the little hazelnut into the hole, covered it well with soil, made the sign of the Cross on the soil and walked out of the garden.

Meanwhile, I had sold my flat in Dorset and just before my moving date to Norwich, I made a quick visit to check out the flat that I had bought. I also wondered what had happened to the little hazelnut that I had planted.

2018 was a very hot dry Summer with hardly any rain and no one to water the border at the back of St Julian's Church.

I walked to the garden and searched, and imagine my excitement and overwhelming joy when I discovered this funny match-stick looking twig, and barely an inch tall, peeping through the hot soil. It was so amazing that the life-force of this tiny hazelnut was so strong that it had broken through its hard shell and forced its way upward through the hot dry soil and emerged into the light. As Julian had so sensitively written, "God made it and loved it".

When I finally moved to Norwich, Fr Christopher very graciously gave me permission to dig over the little border, after praying and respectfully and with much love, making the sign of the Cross on the soil before touching the ground with either garden spade or fork. It was decided to name this little garden border 'Julian's Garden', after Blessed Julian of Norwich.

Earlier this Spring, Julian's Garden was filled with the sweet scent of Hyacinths and a lovely mixture of other Spring bulbs, and recently having pruned the roses, I have now planted violas, primroses and pinks and a few more herbs, that Julian herself would have certainly known. The little hazenut tree is flourishing. Fr Richard, our new Parish Priest, has also graciously given me permission to continue the work in Julian's garden.

So when you come to St Julian's Church and Julian's Cell, a truly holy place, please, do pop round to the back of the church and take a look at Julian's garden, and I am sure, that when you see it, you will feel as I do when I tend it, that you will hear the echo and whisper through the trees of Blessed Julian's own words from her beautiful *Revelations* that "God fills the heart with the greatest of joy".

Sheila Tolley CJN

### Book launch

ne of Fr Luke Penkett's books that were published last month is being launched at the Revelation Cafe, St Michael at Plea Church, Redwell Street, NR2 4SN, on **Wednesday 15 May** from 5.30-7.00pm. This is titled **Touched by God's Spirit** and is on the subject of compassion. Rowan Williams wrote the Preface for it and it's already received high praise from the critics. Books have 10% off their price on the evening, so cost £13.50. Come along, be refreshed (free alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles), buy your copy of the book, and get your book signed!

M	May 2019					
1	Wed	St Joseph the Worker				
2	Thu Fri	St Athanasius, Bp & Dr SS Philip and James, Apostles				
4	Sat	The English Martyrs				
	Sun Mon Tue Wed	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> . May Procession & Crowning at HM. St John before the Latin Gate. <i>Bank Holiday</i> . <i>of Requiem</i> <b>The Lady Julian of Norwich</b> 10am LM; Exposition 10.30 – 1pm; 7pm SM				
9	Thu	Easter feria. The Julian Festival. 12 noon LM				
	Fri	Easter feria. The Julian Festival.				
11	Sat	Easter feria. The Julian Festival. 11am HM; 12 noon Lecture				
12	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Easter: Vocations Sunday 5pm Holy Hour for Vocations. <i>Christian Aid Week begins</i> .				
14 15 16	Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat	Our Lady of Fatima St Matthias the Apostle Easter feria Easter feria Easter feria BVM on Saturday.				
20 21 22 23	Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat	Fifth Sunday of Easter St Bernadine of Siena, Pr. St Christopher Magallanes and Companions St Rita of Cascia. 5.30pm Evensong at the Cathedral Easter feria Our Lady, Help of Christians St Bede the Venerable, Pr. & Dr				
26	Sun	Sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday				
27	Mon	At HM: Litany of the Saints in Procession. St Augustine of Canterbury, Bp (Rogation Day) Bank Holiday. National Pilgrimage to Walsingham today				
28	Tue	Rogation Day				
29	Wed	Rogation Day. 7pm Vigil Mass of the Ascension <b>ASCENSION DAY</b> . 10am and 12 noon LM.				
30 31	Thu Fri	7pm Deanery Mass at St Francis Heartsease.  The Visitation of the BVM. 12 noon and 5pm LM				

	We pray for
God's blessing on our work Theologians and teachers Norman and Alan our bishops Those persecuted for their faith	1 2 3 4
Our Parish and People Witness to the truth Year's Minds for May The Julian Shrine	5 6 7 8
The power of prayer Our witness to the Gospel Pilgrims to the Julian Shrine	9 10 11
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Shrines of our Lady Thanksgiving for the teaching of the Apostles Refugees, the poor and the needy Peace between and within nations Sufferers of mental disorders The sick of the parish	13 <b>14</b> 15 16 17 18
Our Parish and People Preachers of the Gospel Worldwide freedom for Christian worship Sufferers of incurable diseases Those living in refugee camps The people of Australia A deeper study of Holy Scripture	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
Our Parish and People this Rogationtide	26
Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury (preaching today at	Walsingham) 27
Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life Workers in the Health Service That we may live in love and peace with all people	28 29 <b>30</b>
Our friends and relations	21

### Thoughts during the Watch before the Most Holy

Tapered golds, melting like wax In the depths of the Body, Stand gently sentinel About the unapprehended Presence, The dull, passing motor-roar, radio-beat beyond Sinking into the silence While cherry-blossom quick-cut Reposes coat-like at the feet, Nearing their piercing. The deepening silence, Lengthening and strengthening The stakes of that invisible kingdom Coming into the world, Quiets the clamoured heart, Its worldful conference Dimmed, hushed, While the shadows are held at bay And the Presence aches and breaks Into this ordinary realm, this ordinary night, An ocean distilled to a tear-drop Which quavers, wavers On the threshold of glory. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. I am not alone, for Thou art with Me.

> Timberhill Maundy Thursday 2019

#### HIGHWAY TO THE MOST HIGH

ary was most blessed, because for her the natural love of parenthood would run on unbroken into the love of that Son whom God had supernaturally given. And so Christians have desired to have her prayers, not because special virtues are recorded of her, but because she has a path of incomparable simplicity into the heart of God's love.'

Austin Farrer

#### Heaven-scent

A homily preached by Fr Richard Stanton at the evening Low Mass on Monday of Holy Week 2019

**The lections:** Isaiah 42.1-7: *My chosen one in whom my soul delights* 

St John 12.1-11: She had to keep this for the day of my burial

'The house was full of the scent of the ointment.' (St John 12.3)

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Your parish priest, when he was just a 'fair young curate' elsewhere in this Diocese, was sometimes sitting of a morning in the parish office, which was through the church and up a flight of stairs in the church hall complex, when a parishioner would come into the office and say something like, 'Ah! I knew you were here: I could smell you in the church!' This I think was a reference to aftershave rather than anything more derogatory, but maybe it was actually a subtle encouragement to better personal hygiene and I just never took the hint.

Our sense of smell can tell us a lot. There are the sweet smells which recall us powerfully to particular people or places; when I smell certain perfumes I remember memories of my mother which would elude me at other times. There are the hospital smells of tea and antiseptic and sterility and sickness. There are the smells which hover on the Norfolk air as we drive through the countryside which tell us that the farmers have been about their work. In Attleborough there was a poultry processing plant on the edge of the town and when the wind was in the wrong direction (well, the wrong direction for us) a most horribly foul smell would blow across the town. We all know what it's like to go into a church on a Sunday afternoon or weekday and detect something of its churchmanship from the lingering odour of incense which has risen during worship like the prayers of the saints before the Lamb.

The house was filled with the scent of the ointment when Mary of Bethany broke open her jar of pure nard to anoint the feet of the Lord. Nard, or spikenard, the root of an Indian plant found growing on the Himalayan mountains and imported to the Middle East from Arabia, India and the Far East. It was a perfume favoured by ancients for showing off at baths and banquets. There is something exotic, almost sensuous about this fragrance which filled the house, the scent which Jesus told them she had saved for the day of his burial. We come across it again in Vespers of the Blessed Virgin

Mary, in one of the antiphons taken from the Song of Songs: 'While the King sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the perfume thereof.'

You and I, as Christians, are called to be fragrant too. This is not some fanciful interpretation of mine; this is just the plain teaching of the New Testament. St Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were the fragrance of Christ: 'We are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.' It's possible he had Roman victory parades in mind: the Romans ensured everyone knew that had been victorious in battle by burning incense on altars throughout the city, an aroma pleasing to victors but striking fear into the hearts of the vanquished. Christ our King, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection, goes at the head of his pilgrim people as they declare his salvation and the coming of the peaceable kingdom. So Paul rejoiced: 'Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him.'

What perfume do Christians bring with them when they walk into a room? Do we break open the Gospel box to share its contents lavishly and generously, or do we have that miserliness of spirit which marks the life of too many Christians who have not discovered that our God is a God of abundance who in his Son invites us all to 'have life, and have it abundantly.'

If you have the misfortune to follow the ecclesiastical press, you'll know that from time to time Pope Francis exhorts the pastors of the Church to have 'the smell of the sheep': by this he means that priests should spend time with their people, rubbing along together, as one who looks after animals begins to smell of the animal after a while. You can see what he's doing with the image, although I'm not sure it's very flattering to anyone involved. Perhaps it's better to ask us all if we have the smell of our Shepherd; do we spend enough time in the company of Jesus to have acquired his distinctive fragrance, that quality which can't be put into words but which means, when we walk into a room, when we encounter a situation, that people know we are members of the Body of Jesus Christ.

It was said of the apostles, so Acts tells us, that when the people in Jerusalem 'saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.' Could people tell that we have been with Jesus, by his tell-tale scent lingering around us?

When St John in tonight's Gospel reports Judas denouncing Mary's use of the perfume as a waste, the evangelist is careful to make sure that we know not just Judas's criticism, but also the motivation for it – 'he said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he was in charge of the common fund and used to help himself to the contributions.' Judas did not suddenly become a traitor overnight; St John wants us to realise that there had been a long process of preparation for the final act, and the thirty pieces of silver were just the end of a deliberately-adopted attitude, a gradual hardening of heart, a refusal to see who Jesus really was and what he was really about it, and a fear about what Jesus might mean for Judas.

In these days of the Lord's Passion, that insight into the motives of one who became a traitor is a powerful challenge to each of us to pull back from the small habits and little indulgences which we know are gradually hardening our hearts or weakening our faith, and to turn again to Jesus with the repentance, humility and love of Mary at his feet, grateful for his mercy, and lavishing her care on the dear body of the Master, which was so soon to be given up for her and for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Amen.

## Pilgrimages to Walsingham

- 1) The National Pilgrimage: Monday 27 May. Some of our priests will be concelebrating Mass in the Abbey grounds at 12 noon and it would be lovely to see lots of our Church Family there. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be preaching after lunch. If you'd like a lift, speak to Fr Richard and we'll try to get ourselves organised!
- **2) Parish Day Pilgrimage:** Saturday 20 July. We're experimenting with a summer date for our day pilgrimage this year. There'll be a coach and we'll leave Norwich at 9am. A list to 'sign up' will appear soon!
- **3) Parish Weekend Pilgrimage:** Friday 4 to Sunday 6 October. For the first time in some years we're offering a weekend pilgrimage to the Shrine. If you haven't made a weekend pilgrimage before, you might not know what fun they are, how spiritually powerfully and refreshing. The cost for accommodation and all meals is £138. Take a leaflet with details from the back of church and return your booking form (and £10 deposit) to Fr Richard by Sunday 19 May.

## From the Parish Registers

#### Communicants and collections

		Sunday	Weekday	Collection
Week beginning	3 March	72	60	£250.24
	10 March	67	22	£165.41
	17 March	68	27	£358.82
	24 March	95	51	£543.90
	31 March	69	46	£255.11
	7 April	67	51	£328.49
(Holy Week)	14 April	75	141	£536.49
	21 April	157	49	£612.11

#### **Holy Baptism**

'As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ'

20 April Melissa Holly SYMES

#### **Holy Confirmation**

'Be sealed with the Spirit'

20 April Melissa Holly SYMES

## Coming up in June

#### **Sunday 9 June: Feast of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**

Our preacher at the 11am Procession and High Mass will be Canon Peter Doll, Canon Librarian of Norwich Cathedral.

#### **Sunday 16 June: Trinity Sunday**

To preach at the 11am High Mass we'll be welcoming our new neighbour, Fr Edward Carter, Vicar of St Peter Mancroft.

#### Sunday 23 June: Solemnity of Corpus Christi

We rejoice in the gift of the Eucharist on this great feast, when our preacher will be Fr Geoff Dumbreck, Chaplain of Peterhouse, Cambridge. High Mass at 11am will be followed by an open-air Procession of the Host, Benediction and a BBQ.

#### Monday 24 June: The Nativity of St John the Baptist

For our Patronal Festival we'll have a great Procession and High Mass at 7.30pm. The Deacon of the Mass will be Deacon Joshua Bell, who is curate to Fr Adrian Ling at South Lynn, and for our preacher we're delighted to welcome back Fr David Stevenson, curate of our parish from 2008 to 2011 and now Vicar of St John's Watford in the Diocese of St Albans.



here to begin in expressing thanks to all who worked so hard for our celebration of Holy Week? By the time we arrived at the High Mass of Easter Day the atmosphere in the church was electrifying. The whole week was a wonderful celebration of our faith in the Lord who suffered, died and rose again for us. It was super to have the Bishop of Richborough with us for the Triduum: he preached four powerful and moving sermons, driving us back to the realities at the heart of our faith. He presided at the great Easter Vigil, baptising and confirming Melissa Symes, with and for whom we continue to pray. To each of you who made Holy Week and Easter what it was – with your planning, your working, your singing, your cleaning, your flower arranging, your playing, your cooking, your serving, your preparing, and above all your praying – thank you. *He is risen: alleluia!* 

#### **WORSHIP WITH US**

We warmly welcome you. Services are at St John's unless otherwise stated.

#### Sundays

9am Low Mass (St Julian's) ● 11am High Mass

#### Weekdays

The Mass Monday 10am (St Julian's) Tuesday 12 noon

Wednesday 7pm (St Julian's) Friday 5pm (St Julian's)

Saturday 12 noon

The Rosary Monday 10.30am (St Julian's) Morning Prayer

Every weekday except Thursday, 8.30am

Evening Prayer (St Julian's)

Every weekday except Thursday, 6pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) Saturday 11am to 12 noon, or by appointment with the Priests

St John's and St Julian's are both open all day, every day for prayer, quiet and visiting. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved on the High Altar in both churches.

#### **CONTACT US**

#### **Parish Priest**

Fr Richard Stanton The Rectory, 8 Kilderkin Way, Norwich NR1 1RD 01603 626104 richard stanton@btinternet.com

Fr Richard's rest day is Thursday.

We warmly welcome enquiries about baptisms and weddings. We will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

#### **Churchwardens**

Andrew Knights 102 Anson Road, Southtown, Great Yarmouth NR31 0EG 07464770764

Simon Owers Farthingale Hall, Tibenham NR16 1PB 07507681908

#### **The Julian Centre**

Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1QT 01603 767380 www.juliancentre.org Library and bookshop open 10.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Saturday

www.stjohnstimberhill.org