

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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THE QUARTERLY: **informing, instructing, inspiring**



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Editor: Gerry Holden

FR MARK WRITES.

Welcome to this first edition of the *St Patrick's Quarterly* is an exciting new venture for us and we hope that from this small mustard seed a large shrub will grow (Matt 13:31-32).

Our weekly pew Bulletin gives us information about the coming week and future events in the parish. The *Quarterly*, it is hoped, will be filled with information about events and services in the wider Pastoral Area and, in time, events around Hayling Island. Hopefully, this will become a sought after "parish magazine" and will be available for all. But we start modestly and let the Holy Spirit do the rest!

As you all know, I have been away for a few months due to illness, but I cannot tell you how happy I am to be back. My health is, slowly, recovering and I am feeling my way back to full time ministry. At the moment, we are still working with Rosary on Tuesdays, Mass on Wednesdays and Thursdays and, of course, Sunday. By Advent I hope to be able to add Fridays to the weekday mass rota. Our family Mass in September will be on the Second Sunday of the month but, from October, this will take place on the Third Sunday.

There are some really exciting events happening in the life of our Parish over the coming months:

- On 6th September the Papal Nuncio will be visiting the diocese and there will be a mass at 12:30pm in the Cathedral.
- On 15th September, at St Patrick's, there will be an evening Service of Adoration as part of a National Event in preparation for the Pope's "Year of the Eucharist".
- On 13th October, a "Parish Holy Spirit Day" at which individuals can discern their calling from God for our Church and the community.
- There will be a healing Mass on Saturday 19th October for those who wish to receive prayers and grace for any ailments (body, mind or spirit).
- On 2nd November, All Souls' Day, in the morning a "Blessing of Graves" service in our graveyard and an evening mass for The Departed.
- Remembrance Sunday this year is on the 10th November and, as well as the Act of Remembrance after mass in the morning, there will be a reflective service of prayers and hymns for peace called "Abide With Me".
- The Church is hosting a Christmas Tree Exhibition held by the Rotary Club on 22nd, 23rd and 24th November.
- Also, on 23rd November will be having a mass of thanksgiving celebrating the Diamond Anniversary of our Catholic Women's League here on Hayling Island.
- Advent starts on 1st December this year and on Advent Sunday as well as the morning mass there will be an ecumenical Taizé service with participation from all the Christian churches on the Island.
- Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight will take place in the evening of 22nd December making us ready to greet the Lord at His coming this Christmas.

Hopefully, the above will really invigorate us all as we joyfully continue to praise together, pray together and work together to bring the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the wonderful parish that is St Patrick's, Hayling Island.

Father Mark

ST TERESA OF AVILA

In modern parlance, a feisty woman! But living between 1515-1582.

I cannot write **much** about her, as she really can only be known through her own writings. Her Autobiography or Life, written under Obedience, is, I think, the most readable for a lay person. It is an extraordinary tale, telling of God's working in the soul of an ordinary woman, who was not a saintly child by any means. It is an entertaining read which also shows her humour, I think. She appeals to many, both men and women, Catholics and others, and many have been converted by her writings.

She was proclaimed together with St. Catherine of Siena as the first two women Doctors of the Church in 1970. In Teresa's case it is due to her sound teaching on Prayer and all its stages in the spiritual life.

As a child she was always lively, and full of romantic ideas about running away to be a martyr, at a time when there was much Islamic influence in parts of Spain.

The ancient Carmelite Order, founded on the spirituality of the Prophet Elijah and early hermits on Mount Carmel, had been in existence for a couple of centuries, but the monastery of nuns in Avila had grown to about 150 women and very far from its origins, and had become lax to the extent of many bringing their servants with them, and liberally breaking enclosure. Teresa was many years there, without any great religious awakening.

She had entered there in 1535, but in 1537 became seriously ill. This lasted for 3 years, and during this time she developed her prayer life. In 1555, she had sudden deep religious awakening; something that happens with very many people. She became dissatisfied with the laxity at her Convent of the Incarnation and wished to get back to the original austerity of the early hermits, with much more solitude for prayer. She spent the rest of her life working at this with permission and under her priest Spiritual Directors, eventually founding her first monastery of Discalced ("shoeless" but with canvas home-made espadrilles) Carmelites in Avila. She decided this and later foundations should never have more than 21 nuns, to keep them like small families, and to this day this is still the rule worldwide.

She met St. John of the Cross in 1567, and then helped him found the male branch of her reform -the Friars.

Teresa's monasteries are strictly enclosed, but she herself had to spend years "gallivanting" around Spain having to establish them, something no Carmelite wants to do! She had a volatile personality and would get impatient with God. Once on her travels her mule and cart were pushed into the watery mud whilst crossing a river, and she shook her fists at God saying, "No wonder you have so few followers when you treat your friends like this" or words to that effect.

Much is often made of her mystic visions which she received throughout her life, and these are accounted for in detail in her writings. St. Teresa's teaching, however, is always to pay as little attention to them as possible, but to ask the advice of a LEARNED priest, knowing that although these are from God, they are not God Himself. The Carmelite goal is always to learn to be more and more detached from all that is not God, to get ever closer to Him. She was very down to earth. She would say that God is present among the pots and pans and teach the practice of the presence of God at all times.

One well known teaching of hers is: "Let nothing disturb thee, let nothing frighten thee. All things pass. God does not change. Patience wins all things. He lacks nothing who possesses God, for God alone suffices."

The two branches of Carmelites, both Calced and Discalced are very much united today, though still slightly different, and had new Constitutions from Rome just a few years ago reflecting this. They cover the male and female religious, and the lay, or Secular Carmelites to which I belong and consists mostly of married people.

St.Teresa's other main writings are her Way of Perfection, and The Interior Castle (not to be attempted by beginners in the spiritual life!)

Wendy Field OCDS (in Carmel Mary Cecilia of the Incarnation)

DON SANTE ORSANI – A MUCH LOVED ITALIAN PARISH PRIEST

Some of you may know that we own a home in Italy too and thus we also belong to the small country Parish of Costa in the Diocese of Imola. Whilst there this summer, our dear parish priest, Don Sante, passed away and we were privileged to attend his funeral (not only was the church packed but there was barely room in the square outside). Don Sante had served our little parish for over 60 years (latterly also acting as PP to the neighbouring parish of Valsenio where my wife Elizabeth's parents were married). He has left a huge hole in our local community.

This leaves me with two reflections

- 1) How much we parishioners owe to the dedicated service of our priests and how we should always help and support them in their vital mission.
- 2) Who will replace Don Sante? The bishop pointed out that when Don Sante first came to Costa there were over a dozen priests in our valley, now there are only four. (He also added that this shortage of clergy was not entirely unexpected as even in his own family, his grandfather was one of eight, his father one of four and he himself only had one sibling - an unmarried sister who only had a cat [and the cat had been neutered!!])

So, please pray for Fr Mark and all priests worldwide, for new vocations to the priesthood and a short prayer for the repose of the soul of a wonderful priest.

Rest in peace, Don Sante, and thank you for your inspiration.

Tony Martin

HEALING AND SACRAMENTAL GRACE

This year through personal experience I have been powerfully reminded of the importance and power of sacramental grace. A sacrament is an outward physical sign of inward grace. That which we call grace is the dynamic action of God's love, a gift which is completely unmerited and unearned. The good but shocking news is that there is nothing that we can do to make God love us any more, and likewise nothing we can do to make him love us any less. In God's love we are completely whole and healed, with Jesus coming to us from the Father to reveal the truth that the Kingdom of God is already here and we are living in it. It is not something that happens after we die, but an ongoing consummation of right relationships in the here and now. Learning to see the Kingdom is the true meaning and actualisation of repentance (metanoia) which is not a behavioural, punishment and reward approach to sin, but a confession that Jesus is Lord. God has not promised us justice but mercy, and the Kingdom is built on the basis of each of us becoming Jesus (co-heirs with Christ) and forgiving others. The sacrament of reconciliation then is not for God's benefit but ours so that we can realise our healing. We confess (vocalise) the fact that God's love and mercy is greater than our sin enabling us to go out and exercise forgiveness in our everyday lives.

Aaron Pycroft

A PRAYER

The basis of prayer is to show we care
The plea or thanks we invoke is the main fare of prayer
The mind can transcend its enclosed space
The prayer takes us to a peaceful place
Its simple thoughts that start the process
Its this that leads to the true quest
Its a meditative state of mind
Its like being a child seeing something for the first time
We can now enter a zone that feels sublime
We can forget earthly time
We can float like an unsinkable boat
We feel wrapped in Christ's heavenly cloak

"WHAT A LOVELY HOUSE!"

Written by a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous.

'What a lovely house!' Are you an avid watcher of the TV programme, 'Grand Designs'? People get their chance to design and build their dream house. From underground bunkers to shipping containers on top of one another. From old meeting new to weird looking structures, they've all been on. Come the great reveal after years of work, it's either, 'Wow! What a lovely house', to 'What!' The majority of us never have the opportunity to build our dream house and home. However, if you did, what would it be? Traditional country house, at one with the environment. Or maybe a steel and glass structure reflecting modernity. Maybe you'd go for the bunker style? If you had designed it, it would reflect you as a person. Traditional and safe, or outward thinking, an eye to future possibilities. The Book of Proverbs informs us that "Wisdom has built her house, she has set it on seven columns". Sounds a little ostentatious? Then an invitation is sent out. "Let whoever is simple, turn in here." The house that Wisdom designed is built on perfection, seven being a perfect number. This perfection is what keeps the house standing. It is to this perfection that everyone is invited. Not to ogle and say 'Oooo what a lovely house'. It is to come and be nourished and taught in the ways of life. This house designed by Wisdom is the house of God. Forget your local church. The house of God is a dwelling like no other. It encompasses every style, tradition and culture. It is never ostentatious but always simple. It is a house that can weather anything hurled against it, mighty storm or conflict, because it is built on and with perfection. It boasts an ambient temperature throughout and is secure, yet with an air of openness. On entering there is an immediate feeling of being at home. 'Yes, this is what we've been searching for.' Its furnishings reflect peace and justice. Compassion, tolerance and understanding. Just being in the house, one wants to emulate these aspects. Outside there are beautiful grounds containing an environment specially created by its designer. It contains a natural array of plant, insect and animal life. There is even room for greater development. It's yours for the asking. This house is not up for auction or sale though. A stipulation made by its designer highlights that all comers are welcome and that they can invite others. 'What a lovely house!'

As told to Janet Lynch by a friend.

BOOK AND PODCAST REVIEWS

THE STORY OF A SOUL, OR LIFE OF ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

A first book I would suggest is the Story of a Soul, or Life of St Thérèse of Lisieuxvery well known and loved as “The Little flower”, recently declared as a Doctor of the Church for her teaching of her “little way” of total trust in God. Amazon has copies, and since her death at the age of 24 of TB in a Carmelite monastery in France she has been known as a Patron of the Missions because of the many thousands converted by her hidden prayer life. But I think few today among the young have read this. It is not a large book, because it is from a set of notes found after her death by her Prioress. A good idea to go for a translation from the French by a Discalced Carmelite (OCD), and there are several, I think. It also gives a good idea of the life of a French Carmelite nun 100 years ago.....not very far different from today!

Wendy Field

‘THE SURPRISING REBIRTH OF BELIEF IN GOD’ BY JUSTIN BRIERLEY

I think all need more hope and faith in the future. There is a series of podcasts by Justin Brierley to be found on Spotify, or wherever you receive your podcasts, which might just do that. Brierley takes a deep dive into our western culture and the trends which are causing a good number of intellectuals to move from atheism/agnosticism towards accepting the truths of Christianity. You might find some of the episodes interesting. (Frankly the associated book I found a bit thin but the podcasts were much more substantial.)

<https://justinbrierley.com/surprisingrebirth/>

John Meacham

PARISH ACTIVITIES – REPORTS.

ST PATRICK’S GARDENERS UPDATE

A group of sprightly (we like to imagine) parishioners, male and female, with a variety of gardening experience and none, come together most Thursdays for a couple of hours. Obviously, people come along as commitments allow. We tackle gardening and minor maintenance issues relating to the church grounds, presbytery, and cemetery. If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. Please contact John Meacham if interested by phoning or texting 07743936862

John Meacham

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE - HAYLING ISLAND SECTION DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 2nd December 1964 a group of St Patrick’s ladies decided to form the Hayling Island Section of the Catholic Women’s League and so at the end of this year it commemorates its Diamond Jubilee, (60 years). The present section ladies often wonder why their predecessors thought that the beginning of December was a good time of year to begin the CWL in Hayling, would not the lovely summer months have been a better choice, but we can only suppose they were, at that time, spending their time on the then sandy beaches.

Having had an aunt and uncle retiring to Hayling in 1973 and Liam and I having a baby son that year, we personally experienced the sandy beach as we stayed with them for a week’s holiday in their maisonette in Bembridge Drive and my aunt would walk down the pathway and bring us coffee on the beach. We experienced this for 2 summers but

then in the Spring tides of 1975 my aunt woke up in the early hours of one morning and found herself paddling in sea water and so began the end of the sandy beaches.

However, to get back to the CWL. Ten years ago at the Golden Jubilee celebration, we still had 2 founder members - June Brunswick and Nelly Chester RIP who now lies in the cemetery along with several other past members. June remains a fully paid-up member, but has moved off the Island to a Care Facility in Waterlooville where she is very well looked after and does join us for various occasions during the year; she will certainly be in attendance at the celebration accompanied by one of her daughters. At the Golden celebration, June reported on how it all began. Some of her words are below:

The Section was first inaugurated in December 1964 after a somewhat prolonged period of negotiation between Mrs Germaine Pearcey, a charming and determined French lady, and Fr Carey, Parish Priest at the time. Fr Carey had profoundly held reservations regarding an organisation of women in his Parish. Perhaps he thought they would try to tell him how to run his Parish! Mrs Pearcey, however, dealt successfully with his doubts and the first members of the Section met at her home in Alexandra Avenue on a certain Tuesday afternoon. Membership increased rapidly and meetings were held in various places large enough to accommodate the increasing numbers, there was no Hall at that time. They continued to make themselves known in the Parish, forming a choir, singing at Masses, arranging the flowers, raising money, and collecting postage stamps for Reaching the Unreached. Always with various charities in mind, giving donations and gifts at Christmas time. Much the same as we are doing today.

This important occasion will be celebrated over the weekend of Saturday, 23rd and Sunday 24th November. Beginning with Mass at 11.30 am on Saturday 23rd, for all members of the Catholic Women's League and followed by a light lunch in the Hall. After a few words by the Committee the afternoon will end with a slice of a celebration cake and a glass of fizz, both alcoholic and non. Attendance at this event is strictly by invitation only. Invited guests will comprise the CWL National President, Portsmouth Branch Officers and past members of Hayling Section. The present section of 14 ladies will, it is hoped, all be present. It is hoped also that Fr Mark will join us and say grace. Bearing in mind the time of year there is an option on the invitation for all the ladies to bring a guest with them. On Sunday 24th the Mass intention will be for deceased members of Hayling CWL. Parishioners are invited to join us in the hall for the usual coffee after Mass which will be accompanied by a piece of the celebration cake and a glass of fizz. We thank all the Parish for the support they continue to give.

It is hoped that a report and photographs of the event will be in the next issue of 'Quarterly' due out in Advent!

Pauline Brice

HAYLING LUNCHES : THE IMPACT OF OUR GIVING

Dear friends at St Patrick's church

As we come to the end of the school summer holidays, we want to thank you all for your generous and regular giving of food items and your financial support. Your monthly food donations are such a blessing and help us to bless some 96 families with bags of food each week of the holidays. We have delivered each a bag of tins - meat, fruit, vegetables, tuna, baked beans, spaghetti, soup along with pasta and pasta sauce or rice and curry sauce. We also give a bag containing bread, cheese, spread and yogurt and a bag of fruit from Hayling Fruiterers. We have delivered on five Saturdays in the summer

holidays and in September we will contact the schools and update our lists ready for the new school year; so our collections will continue.

If anyone ever doubts that this help is needed, someone recently commented...'Thank you so much, this helps immensely, I am often out of food.....the shopping today was as if sent by angels...you have no idea the gratefulness I felt...' Such comments are humbling and make us more determined than ever to carry on with what we do.

Sarah Smith on behalf of the Hayling Holiday Lunches team

JOCULAR GEOFF'S JOTTINGS

Funniest Jokes at the Edinburgh Fringe:

I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it.

Mark Simmons (comedian)

I ate horse meat at a restaurant once – wasn't great. Starter was alright but the main was dreadful.

Alex Kitson (comedian)

On a gravestone – I was hoping for a pyramid

Anon.

I am ready to meet my Maker, Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter

Winston Churchill (Prime Minister, Statesman)

At a Baptist Church, some nuisance squirrels had taken an interest in the Baptistry, The deacons met and decided to put a water slide in and let the squirrels drown. They loved it and unfortunately knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels turned up the following week.

The nearby Catholic Church has a squirrel problem too but the priest there had a more creative strategy. He baptized all the squirrels he caught in his humane trap and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.

Dalai Lama (religious leader)

The more I study religions, the more I am convinced that man never worshipped anything but himself.

c Richard Burton (actor)

I always take my wife her morning tea in my pyjamas. But is she grateful? No, she'd rather it in a cup.

Eric Morecambe (comedian)

And finally.....

Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt.

Herbert Hoover (President USA).

Geoff Hartridge

FINAL THOUGHTS -

The purpose of this new publication is to instruct, to inform and to inspire. I am very grateful to all of those who have taken the time to write articles. This is not a "magazine" to be read in one sitting. My advice would be to read an article, take some refreshment and then go back to another article – you will derive maximum benefit from what is written, if you take time to reflect on the writings of our fellow parishioners [perhaps returning to the publication throughout the week]. Do also share with your family, friends and neighbours – that's all part of our evangelical mission. Please consider also writing something yourself - this is a parish publication, written predominately by the very good people of St Patrick's and I am keen to involve as many parishioners as possible, including young people.

**Date of next issue - Advent Sunday – 1st December.
Deadline for copy Sunday November 24th at 4:00pm
Gerry Holden**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

September

- Monday 1st - Church cleaning - from 10:00am
- Sunday 8th - Food Bank Collection
- Sunday 15th - Family Mass (now on 3rd Sunday of each month)

October

- Sunday 13th - Mass of the Holy spirit followed by a Parish retreat style day, discernment of individuals' Gifts of the Holy Spirit, leading to future formation of Parish Steering Groups.
- Food Bank Collection
- Sunday 27th 6:30pm Songs of Praise

November

- Friday 1st -Feast of All Saints - Mass at 7:00pm Holyday of obligation
- Saturday 2nd 11:00am Blessing of graves in our Cemetery Commemoration of All Souls - Mass at 5:00pm.
- Sunday 10th - Remembrance Sunday - Mass at 10:00am Abide With Me 4:00pm
- Sunday 17th Stewardship Sunday - Reflection on "The Widow's Mite" with Parishioners' opportunities to reconsider their giving.
- Food Bank Collection
- Saturday 23rd – 11:00am celebration of 60 years - Mass followed by Fellowship
- Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th 1:00pm – 7:00pm Christmas Tree Exhibition in Church (Rotary/ Lions)

December

- Sunday 1st Sunday of Advent - Churches on Hayling invited to join us for fellowship in the hall from 6:00pm, followed by 6:30pm Taizé style service in the church.
- Sunday 8th - Food Bank Collection
- Sunday 22nd – 6:00pm Candles by Candlelight - 9 Lessons and Carols
- Tuesday 24th – 6:00pm Family First Mass of Christmas
- Tuesday 24th – 11:30pm Midnight Mass
- Wednesday 25th – 10:30am Christmas Day