

FAITH IN FOCUS: NOTHING SPECIAL HERE

There's a famous Latin phrase, attributed to Tacitus the Elder, that says "Omne ignotum pro magnifico". When roughly translated it means "Things we don't understand seem wonderful".

People are always impressed by things that are a bit exotic. They presume a French burger van is going to serve better food than a British one. They imagine even a one-legged ballerina will perform excellently just because she is Russian. They are convinced that since a Scandinavian scientist has a theory on black pudding being good for gout then it must be correct. And they are prepared to spend a fortune on a holiday to Burma on the assumption that it's bound to be better than Bognor.

We are easily impressed by out-of-the-ordinary things. We find them somehow more glamorous than what's on our doorstep or what's easy to understand. This is illustrated in today's gospel when Jesus returned to his home town and to the people that knew him. Despite his reputation and regardless of the fact that he's just performed a series of miracles his neighbours reject him. Why? Because we know who he is; he's Mary and Joseph's son. Nothing special. Nothing to start crowing about.

It's easy for us to sit in judgement on the people of Nazareth and accuse them of blindness and stupidity. But we can be as guilty as they are. We can fail to see what's good on our doorstep. We can fail to see the wood for the trees.

God uses people and situations of ordinary daily life to speak to us. Most of us will never be visited by an angel with a special message. But we will meet all sorts of people and situations week in and week out that are shouting the message of the gospel to us. These people may be our neighbours; they may be (and often are) people we don't like or find it hard to accept and get on with. But they're still the mouthpieces that God uses to announce his never-ending call. There are no people or places that we can write off.

So, how open are we to all the sights and sounds around us? God's voice is bound to be in one or other of them. Why not let yourself be surprised?

4th July 2021
14th Sunday Year B

(Prayer of the Church Week 2)



Sunday Masses

6:30pm(Vigil) 8:30am & 10:30am

Parish Clergy - Salesians of Don Bosco

Fr Michael Hynes

10 Highfield Road, KT16 8BU

Tel: 01932 562375

Web: www.stanneschertsey.org.uk

email: Chertsey@abdiocese.org.uk

Deanery website: www.veybridgedeanery.org/

Sunday

Vigil Mass Sat 6.30pm
8.30am, 10.30am Mass

Monday

9.30am Mass

Tuesday

9.30am Mass

Wednesday

9.30am Mass

Thursday

9.30am Mass

Friday

9.30am Mass

Saturday

10.00am Morning Mass

Next Sunday

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Year B. Collection for the
Apostleship of the Sea.

Death by Appointment: A Rational Guide to the Assisted Suicide Debate Monday 12th July 7.30 to 9pm

The assisted suicide debate will be centre stage once more with a Bill to legalise this in England and Wales recently tabled in the House of Lords. All prior attempts have failed but the pressure continues and we need to be ready to play our part.

You are invited to a webinar organised by the Bishops' Conference in which speakers

with key, relevant expertise will look beyond the headlines: from law, to clinical practice, social attitudes, end of life care, public safety and the experience of those jurisdictions which have already legalised it. This is our opportunity to get informed, to prepare to protect the vulnerable. Please join us.

For further information and to book your place see: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/death-by-appointment-a-rational-guide-to-the-assisted-suicide-debate/>

Bishop's Message to catechists

I would like to invite all our catechists to an event at Worth Abbey on September 25th.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the ministry of our catechists and enable the Formation Team to share a renewed vision for catechesis in the Diocese that is a part of a "Cradle to Grave" formation in Faith, supported by the new Directory for Catechesis.

I would be very grateful indeed if you could ask your catechists and anyone whom you think might be suited to this important ministry to e-mail Ruth Gerun at the St. Philip Howard Centre on ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk

Ruth will then be able to send out an invitation to what will be an important event for us as we move out of these times of the Pandemic and seek renewed ways to share the gift of Faith.

CCRS - The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

(CCRS) is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. For more information or to register your place please contact our Formation Adviser

NEW Colour and Shape website launch! Mass resources for families.

Colour and Shape developed over the pandemic providing a weekly video liturgy for families to use at home during lockdown. This video - Connect Sunday - has now changed into a new shorter format, along with a set of accompanying resources on a brand new website. Head over to

www.colourandshapeonline.com to

check out the resources reflecting on the Sunday Gospel each week, plus links to Spotify playlists, ideas on how to pray together as a family, and information on how to join the online community supporting families.

Are you aged 18-30?

CAFOD offers a gap year programme called Step into the Gap. As part of the 10-month programme, you will be based in either a youth retreat centre, university chaplaincy or a secondary school chaplaincy team gaining new skills, developing as a leader and gaining work experience. Accommodation and travel expenses are included. Full time placements include stipends. Find out more information including how to apply at www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear

Streamed Masses

Information about the locations of live-streamed celebrations of Mass is available on the Diocesan Website at:

<https://abdiocese.org.uk/livestrea>

Prayer Corner

The parish website now has a 'Prayer Corner'. Please look at it to see the people that we should keep in our prayers. You may want to add people to the list;- details on the website.