
NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - February 2020

Another year begins...

Bishop Martyn recently sent a letter to all clergy, as is his custom at the outset of a new year. In it he reminded us of Archbishop Michael Ramsey's 'Five Helps for the New Year.' Michael Ramsey was one of the great spiritual leaders of our church and I think his words are applicable to all, not just clergy, so here they are:

1. **Thank God. Often and always.** 'Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.'
2. **Take care about confession of your sins.** 'As time passes the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realise.'
3. **Be ready to accept humiliations.** 'They can hurt terribly but they can help to keep you humble.'
4. **Don't worry about status.** 'There is only one status that Our Lord bids us be concerned with, and that is our proximity to Him.'
5. **Use your sense of humour** 'Laugh at things, laugh at the absurdities of life, laugh at yourself.'

For us, living as we do in difficult, perplexing times, in which so much of that which we took for granted has shifted or disappeared, these are timely words to encourage us to be a people who look forward to the rest of this year with hope and as those who realise that the ways of the world can so often be very, very different to those of God.

Ramsey's 'five helps' remind us of this so clearly. As a society we so often adopt a sense of self-congratulation in our own achievements - for us, as Christians, we need to remember to thank **God** for all we are able to do. The topic of 'sin' is not one that seems to have much credence in a society that seems to ignore bad behaviour as long as we get what we want - however, as disciples of Jesus we need to be looking at ourselves often, to make sure we're still on the right track. Celebrity has been the word of the decade it seems, but if we are to follow Our Lord's example, this necessitates humility and an ability to point away from ourselves. So being in the limelight and having ourselves known for who we are and what we do is to get caught up with our ego - but it's not about us, it's about God and his love for us.

The final 'help' is, though, incredibly important, because in a way it affects all the others. The gift of humour and the ability to take ourselves a little less seriously is such an important gift. Life is tough and we, human beings are a complex mix of the physical and emotional which can often lead us to anxiety, depression and to question whether certain things are worth it. Being able to laugh - and sometimes especially at ourselves - is a real gift and is to be treasured.

So I hope you can approach 2020 with room for thankfulness, reflection, humility and humour, knowing that the One who is important loves you with all His being.

Father T. G. G. G.

Calendar - February

- 1st 10.00am Coffee Morning
- 2nd **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST**
10.00am Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Candles
- 4th **St Agatha**
7.30pm Eucharist
- 8th 10.30am Messy Church
- 9th **3rd BEFORE LENT**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 12th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 15th 10.00am Coffee Stop
- 16th **2nd BEFORE LENT**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 19th 7.30pm Eucharist
- 23rd **SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
10.00am Sung Eucharist
- 25th **Shrove Tuesday**
7.00pm Pre-Lent Party
- 26th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
7.30pm Sung Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

Lent Study Groups

There will be two groups this year, one on Monday afternoons at 2.00pm and the other on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm - both at the Vicarage.

We will be following the new Diocesan Course - **Everyday Witness** - which is focused on taking our faith with us every day of the week into any situation we find ourselves.

If you want to come to one of these sessions, please sign up on the list in Church.

There will be a Course Booklet to follow and this is FREE!

Daily Inspirational Bible Readings

“Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.”

- 1st Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- 2nd 1 Corinthians 2:9
- 3rd Psalm 59:16
- 4th Psalm 18:1-2
- 5th Psalm 33:4-5
- 6th Proverbs 21:21
- 7th Psalm 97:10
- 8th Matthew 5:43-45
- 9th 2 Thessalonians 1:3
- 10th 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- 11th 1 Corinthians 13:4-5
- 12th 1 Corinthians 13:6-7
- 13th John 3:16
- 14th John 13:34-35
- 15th 1 John 4:10
- 16th 1 John 3:11
- 17th Romans 8:35
- 18th Romans 8:38-39
- 19th 1 John 4:11-12
- 20th Proverbs 17:9
- 21st Romans 13:9-10
- 22nd 1 John 4:18
- 23rd Proverbs 14:22
- 24th Jeremiah 29:11-13
- 25th Matthew 22:37-39
- 26th 1 John 4:9
- 27th 1 John 3:18
- 28th 2 Timothy 1:7
- 29th Psalm 120

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

and Dedication of a new Icon



29th February - 12.00pm

Celebrant and Preacher:
Rt Rev'd Norman Banks
(Bishop of Richborough)

St Chad, Leicester