

JUBILATE

The Magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd,
Poitou-Charentes



January 2023

A PRAYER AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR

Dear God, help us to be a church
that:

Loves

Welcomes

Protects

Listens

Learns

Serves

Repents

Restores

Transforms

Values

Cares

Believes

God of justice and compassion,

hear Our Prayer.

Help us, Heal us, Guide us

We pray in Jesus name, Amen

Sermons

One of the advantages of being an Editor (albeit retiring) and an organist, is that I can choose which sermons I listen to attentively and those that will just pass me by. (You may do the same, but nobody can see me!)

Recently I've heard two Advent sermons that the preachers have kindly allowed me to share with you – for me, there was something special about each one.

The first Carol Service of the Season was held in Cognac, where Pastor Cyrille Payot delivered a thought-provoking sermon in French, but kindly produced the following translation:

Throughout the Biblical readings, the story is centred around a place of birth – the small town of Bethlehem, about 10 kilometres from Jerusalem. Jesus is said to have been born there No archaeological trace has been discovered in support of this. Specialists consider that it is perhaps an attempt, on the part of the Evangelists, to reconcile the Judean countryside with the capital city. But it doesn't really matter to us whether Jesus was born in one stable or another.

Do you know what 'Bethlehem' means in Hebrew? *Beith-Larem*, literally the "House of Bread".

Recently the French '*baguette*' has been classified as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.

In the Bible, **bread** receives a much better press than that other French symbol, the cock whose cry tolled the *Brexit* for the disciples. In a similar way, in the Bible, God has inscribed Bethlehem, the 'House of Bread', in His intangible cultural heritage as the symbolic location where the whole history of the Son of God begins.

But, on reflection, it is a contradiction to consider that the materials used to make bread are immaterial. The explanation lies in the fact that the *baguette* is not just flour and water, kneaded then cooked, but the result of a tradition, a way of life. The same applies to our life as believers. All the material things are part of a living tradition which is much more than a simple assembly of elements: a tradition which paves the way to peace, to sharing, to the love of the neighbour which represent together the heritage of God and the Gospels.

In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God for our 'daily bread', today's bread – not yesterday's or tomorrow's. Bread becomes immaterial when it is available for sharing, when it enables us to surpass ourselves, to open ourselves to an immaterial world heritage.

It's a strange heritage which we ask for *each day*. Not a legacy which clutters up our attics, but an inheritance which is shared, which lasts for only one day. Our prayer is that the bread, like the sharing, is to be renewed regularly in our daily lives. The life of Jesus, from Bethlehem to the Cross, is a permanent illustration of this.

Here we have our Christmas present. We in turn appreciate this present all the more when we pass from words to action. That is why I propose to replace "*the word which dwelt within us*" by "**the shared bread**". Let's take this further to see what it gives. "*In the beginning was the Baguette, and the Baguette was with God and the Baguette (or the Daily Bread) was God. It was in the beginning with God. Within it was life and life was the light of mankind. The light shone in the darkness and nor did the darkness stop it;*" Nothing can stop a ray of light as it passes through a house when it is a question of sharing what is best in us. It is there that lies the immaterial cultural heritage which we can offer man as daily bread.

When we experience a "Brexit" in our lives, this Advent-tide can be a present, a gift of bread and wine which are shared in unique fashion, as ever loaf is unique.

The theologian psychoanalyst Denis Vasse wrote "It is not true that man or the community show their real value only in action;" An action has meaning only when it opens up on "something more", on a presence which cannot be simplified to satisfy a need. This is where the immaterial becomes involved in the material of bread. In the Gospel, Jesus breaks bread into crumbs in front of a crowd in the desert. When bread is broken, there is no limit and there is something for everyone. The Gospel says that the bread is not multiplied but reduced to crumbs. Hence the miracle that the hunger of the crowd is assuaged by crumbs you may not believe this, so I will end with this true story, which is both concrete and material, but is also immaterial.

Miguel Brun, a pastor in South America, told me that when he was imprisoned in his home country because of his opposition to the oppression of the dictatorship, he was one day asked to prepare a Holy Communion service. The prisoners were waiting for judgement at the hands of their torturers. The pastor accepted. The liturgy was prepared but when the service began, he realised that he had forgotten the bread and the wine. Not easy to improvise a Communion service in a prison!

The pastor then had the idea of a **symbolic communion**. The participants went through the motions of receiving the bread and the wine. For a few brief moments those prisoners lived a deliverance from their condition, watched by the guards who could not believe what was happening.

On that day, that prison became the **House of Bread**, that immaterial element of the intangible inheritance of God.

It is true for the bread as it is true for the Magnificat, the immaterial song sung by Mary as she felt her Baby move in the womb. A song for children of the world over, as in the Yves Duteuil song – “Pour les enfants du monde entier.”
Let it be so each time we sing Christmas and we share our daily bread – God gives it heritage to the world.



AMEN

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L'esprit
de paix

The ecumenical group in the Jarnac/Cognac area is organising a series of events for 2022-23 entitled "Artisans de Paix dans notre Monde" - "Blessed are the peacemakers", to which all are warmly invited.

Thursday 26th January 2023, 8pm, Hôtel Renard, 14 quai de l'Orangerie, 16200 Jarnac

Conference on "Praying for Peace" by Laurence Freeman osb, of the WCCM (Worldwide Centre for Christian Meditation) which is based in Bonnevaux Abbey, 86370 Marçay.

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But what if we didn't have any calendars to tell us what day Christmas was coming on? We knew Christmas was coming, but didn't know the *exact* day? We wouldn't be able to procrastinate, would we? We would have to be *always ready* for when Christmas was announced!

Our Gospel Reading (Matthew chapter 24, verses 36 to 44) speaks of being prepared. If we are not ready for Christmas, the worst that can happen is someone goes without a present or two, and you may have to have a 'makeshift' meal.

But Jesus warns us here in this passage that if you are not ready for His Second Coming, it will be too late, and the thing is, that we don't have a calendar to tell us when He is coming again.

SO, WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST?

We are told in Matthew 24 verse 44 "You must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST IS GOING TO BE A PRETTY BIG EVENT, if I can put it that way, and we will need to be ready. In many ways, we are used to people turning up unexpectedly, many of whom we would be pleased to see, and the fact that we weren't expecting them by having the place spic and span wouldn't be an issue; we would shrug our shoulders and simply say, "Ah, if they can't take us as they find us, tough!!"

The question is, how would that approach be when Jesus Christ returns, that, "**Ah well, He'll take me as He finds me?**"

JESUS USES AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE, NAMELY THAT OF BEING BURGLER. He says, that "*if the homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would have kept watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You much also be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.*" (Verses 43 & 44)

The thing is, a burglar comes unexpectedly, he takes our valuables that doesn't belong to him, BUT **when Jesus Christ comes unexpectedly, He is collecting the valuables that already belong to Him, you, and me as His redeemed people!!**

THE QUESTION IS, THEN, WHAT CAN WE DO TO BE READY?

Well, one important point to make first is, don't believe what is written in various books and pamphlets or get mentioned on the TV God channels about the Second Coming.

As Scripture makes clear, the Angels don't know when Jesus Christ will return and neither in fact, does Jesus Himself know when He will come the Second time, that is SOMETHING ONLY HIS FATHER KNOWS!!

Matthew 24 verse 36 says, "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE CHRISTIAN'S BLESSED HOPE – not in the vague way that we use the word 'hope', but rather more in definitive and confident manner. Let's look at Titus 2:11 to 15

¹¹For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. ¹⁴He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

¹⁵You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them.

In the Bible, there is absolutely *nothing* vague about it. Biblically it means 'absolute confidence, optimism, expectation and faith'.

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The final part of Roy's Advent sermon will be published in next month's *Jubilate*
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Information to share - courtesy of Zoom

Our internet ZOOM link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3145287597?pwd=UVJDNTVpZzJXSnFWYTk2ZFhBMW5Zdz09>

The Meeting ID is **314 528 7597** The Passcode is **CGShepherd**

Prayer Meeting: Takes place on the first Monday of each month at 3.00p.m.. This month, it's Monday 2nd January

Quiz: The first Quiz of 2023 will be held Monday 30th January at 3.00.p.m
Question Master is David Hawken

Service of worship on Zoom: This continues to take place on the third Sunday of each month at 10.30.am This month on Sunday 15th January.

AFTERNOON TEA a **“THANK YOU!”** from Wanda McKerchar

Almost a month has passed since we held the afternoon tea and mini-marché de Noël in Salle Raymond Quiard, Chef-Boutonne. It proved to be an excellent venue (once Simon had turned up the heating) and was a huge success on many counts.

First, we raised around 1200€ (final figure to be announced as soon as all receipts have been counted) which will prove a welcome boost to Chaplaincy funds. However, the major satisfaction for me, personally, was the fact that it was so well supported by not only members of the Chaplaincy but also friends and others, French and British, who were not members of our congregation. We achieved the fellowship and outreach we had hoped for in a warm, friendly atmosphere. The team and I received very positive comments and lots of people asked when the next event would be !!! ?

It could not have been as successful without teamwork, so many, many thanks to:

- * everyone who helped provide food, cutlery, crockery, tablecloths and who donated raffle and tombola prizes
- * everyone who ran stalls so successfully and made them look so attractive
- * everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes, filling plates and washing up, especially our waitresses, Sally, Carole, Pamela and our waiter, Chris!
- * everyone who helped setting the tables and the refreshment buffet, particularly Sally, Valérie and Henri
- * Alex at Le Pommier Salon de Thé (12 Rue du Logis, 79190 La Pommeraie) for her generous donation of cakes and scones
- * and to those of you who came along with friends and family to support the event.

* Special thanks to Angela, Pamela, David and Jane for their support throughout the weeks of planning and preparation and to Valérie and Henri, Simon and Sally for their multi-tasking on the day!

* Finally, very special thanks are due to my husband, Andy, who is not a member of the Chaplaincy, but who worked tirelessly (and mostly with good humour!) for weeks before and after the event, helped me bounce ideas around, drove round Poitou-Charentes collecting donated items, set up the tables the night before, prepared notices and other paperwork, worked on the day, cleaned the Salle with me afterwards, ironed all the tablecloths and aprons after the event, sorted the cutlery and crockery and delivered the remains of the day (non-edible!) to the cellar in the church.

2nd Sunday of Christmas (1st January 2023)

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(8th January 2023) 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



15th January 2023 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

3rd Sunday of Epiphany 22nd January 2023

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

4th Sunday of Epiphany 29th January 2023

Collect

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Here's an alternative version. You'll only get the full benefit if you SING it
– go on: you know you want to!

- * On the First Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me:
Salvation, full and free
- * On the Second Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me:
Everlasting Life, and **Salvation**, full and free
- * On the Third Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Peace in my heart, **Everlasting Life**, and **Salvation full and free**
- * On the Fourth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Love for all people, **Peace in my heart**, **Everlasting Life**,
and **Salvation full and free**
- * On the Fifth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
JOY FOR MY SOUL, **Love for all people**, **Peace in my heart**,
Everlasting Life, and **Salvation full and free**
- * On the Sixth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Power from on high, **JOY FOR MY SOUL**, **Love for all people**,
Peace in my heart, **Everlasting Life**, and **Salvation full and free**
- * On the Seventh Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
A body glorified, **Power from on high**, **JOY FOR MY SOUL**,
Love for all people, **Peace in my heart**, **Everlasting Life**,
and **Salvation full and free**
- * On the Eighth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
A robe and a crown, **A body glorified**, **Power from on high**,
JOY FOR MY SOUL, **Love for all people**, **Peace in my heart**,
Everlasting Life, and **Salvation full and free**

- * On the Ninth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Mansions above, A robe and a crown, A body glorified,
 Power from on high, **JOY FOR MY SOUL**, Love for all people,
 Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free
- * On the Tenth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Streets of pure gold, Mansions above, A robe and a crown,
 A body glorified, Power from on high, **JOY FOR MY SOUL**,
 Love for all people, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life,
 and Salvation full and free
- * On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
A thousand tongues to sing, Streets of pure gold, Mansions above,
 A robe and a crown, A body glorified, Power from on high,
JOY FOR MY SOUL, Love for all people, Peace in my heart,
 Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free
- * On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me
Eternity to praise
 A thousand tongues to sing,
 Streets of pure gold,
 Mansions above,
 A robe and a crown,
 A body glorified,
 Power from on high,
JOY FOR MY SOUL,
 Love for all people,
 Peace in my heart,
 Everlasting Life,
 and Salvation full and free



Together in Prayer - January 2023

These prayers are offered for your use,
to supplement your own, personal devotions.

1st *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus the Christ.* Almighty God, whose blessed Son was circumcised in obedience to the law for our sake, and given the Name that is above every Name; give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit, and to proclaim him as Saviour of the world; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

2nd Father God, we thank you that Jesus brings Joy and Peace to the world. Help us as Kingdom people to reflect Your Joy and Peace in all we say and do.

3rd Father, we pray for all who have asked for our prayers. We ask that they may know your presence and comfort as they face the challenges of their circumstances.

4th Father God, we pray for all facing difficult and challenging circumstances, as they seek to meet the demands of the cost-of-living increases.

5th We pray for all working in the care professions. Father God, we pray that you will give them the strength to continue in their roles, and that Your will is done regarding the awarding of fair wages and working conditions. Father God, help us always to value those who sacrificially give so much in the caring professions. We pray that their good-will is valued and not abused.

6th Epiphany – O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your Son to the peoples of the earth. Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your holy presence, where we may see your glory face to face through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7th Father God, we pray for all world leaders. Father God, we ask that Your Will be acknowledged, and that your beautiful creation be protected from those who seek to destroy and abuse all you care for. We pray for the perpetrators of acts of evil intent.

8th The Baptism of Christ – Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son; inspire us your children, who are born of water and Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, so we may rejoice to be called son and daughters of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

9th Father God, we lift to you the Nation of Ukraine. We pray for their protection against Russian evil intent to destroy their assets and abuse their citizens. We pray that you will guide the leaders of the nations to make wise and honourable decisions.

10th Father God, we pray for the church world-wide. We pray for unity of prayer against those who would seek to be destroyers and have no respect for others.

11th Father God, we pray for those working to ensure that there is sufficient food for all.

12th Father, we pray for the Leaders of all the EU Countries and Baltic States. Be their wisdom and guide in their decision-making.

13th Father God, in love you created us in your own image, and desire us to know you as Father God. Help us to surrender our will to yours, today and always.

14th Lord Jesus, we thank you for the completed work of the Cross. Our sins and wrong-doings have been dealt with. Lord, help us to forgive others, as we have been forgiven.

15th Father God, we pray for all those who have been imprisoned in Iran. We pray that your will is done to resolve the tensions that are currently being expressed.

16th Father God, we pray for all seeking to help those who have mental health challenges.

17th Father God, may we be always willing to help those in need, We thank you that we receive bountiful blessings every day. Give us generosity of spirit to share our many blessings with others.

18th *'Make us worthy, Lord to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world, who live in opverty and hunger. Through our hands, grant them this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy. Amen'*

Daily prayer of the co-workers of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

19th Father God, help us to find you in quietness and listening.

20th "Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord"

(Psalm 150)

21st 'The Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, he is a great King, ruling over all the world.'

from Psalm 47

22nd Father God, we thank you for the beauty of your creation. Help us to always be good stewards to treat our world with respect.

23rd Father God, we thank you for the joy of family and friends.

24th Father God, we pray for all, especially in farming communities, who are struggling to feed their animals and themselves. Give them your wisdom to know how best to manage their circumstances,

25th Father God, help us to always value your creation.

26th Father God, we pray for all who take a leadership role in the management of fuel and food supplies to the most vulnerable in our society.

27th Father God, we pray for the farming communities in all countries.

28th Father God, we pray for all who are managing food banks.

29th Father God, we pray for all involved in the provision of aid and medical care.

30th Father God, may we encourage one another, and build each other up with love and joy.

31st 'My dearest Lord, be thou a bright flame before me, be thou a guiding star above me, be thou a smooth path beneath me, be thou a kindly shepherd behind me today and for evermore'.

St. Columba (531-597)



WANTED

New Editor for "Jubilate"

= to take over from Easter 2023

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