



# Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 9 August*

*The Anniversary of*

*the Foundation of the Cathedral, 1093*

**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

*During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family. We are delighted that we have been able to reintroduce congregational worship here at the Cathedral and there is more information about that later on in this booklet. Durham Cathedral is also open for private prayer and quiet reflection.*

*If you'd like to come to the cathedral for worship and/or prayer, there are some important measures we'd like you to know about, to ensure the safety of members of the public and staff. You can find this information on our website: [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk) We will continue to live stream services as well so that, if you can't re-join us yet, you will still be able to engage with us online.*

## **Gospel**

**Luke 12. 13-21**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

# Thought for the Day

by the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett

Not exactly the most encouraging text for the anniversary of the foundation of the Cathedral: *'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'* Wiki tells me that 1093 was quite a year:

April 13 – Grand Prince Vsevolod I Yaroslavich, ruler of the Kievan Rus', dies after a 15-year reign.

September 22 – King Olaf III (**the Peaceful**) dies after a 26-year reign. He is succeeded by his son Magnus III (**Barefoot**).

March 6 – Anselm, Italian Benedictine abbot and theologian, becomes archbishop of Canterbury, succeeding Lanfranc.

But closer to home ...

November 13 – Battle of Alnwick: the Scottish King Malcolm III invades Northumberland, but is killed by English forces under Earl Robert de Mowbray while besieging Alnwick Castle.

And, of course, that's a lovely segue way into our celebration here today of the 927<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Cathedral in 1093, at which Margaret of Scotland – a saint herself and the wife of Malcolm III – is said to have been present, presumably as part of the precursor to the action in Alnwick a few months later.

Prior Turgot, who wrote a life of Margaret, was Prior of the Monastery and laid the foundation stone alongside Bishop William de St Calais. Apparently, the monastery paid for the foundations, and the bishop paid for the above-ground work. Perhaps I could revive the idea with Bishop Paul?

By any standards, the building of the Cathedral was an incredibly swift business – just 40 years to craft by hand this edifice which has stood for nearly a millennium.

But let's not forget what William de St Calais did before he got even close to laying a foundation stone.

The Community of St Cuthbert which tended the Anglo-Saxon shrine, those monks who came from Holy Island, Lindisfarne, were an inter-generational community, married, families, who handed down custodianship of the treasures of Cuthbert from one generation to another.

Ten years before the foundation stone was laid, Bishop William expelled the married clergy from the cathedral, in 1083 and moved a small community of monks from [Bede's](#) old monastery at [Jarrow](#) to [Durham](#), to form the new chapter. The expelled clergy were offered the option of joining the new monastic house, but only one actually joined.

So, not only did the newly-arrived Norman Bishop radically dismantle an entire religious community, who had been faithful to the inheritance of faith, and who could trace their roots in an almost apostolic succession to Cuthbert's community on Lindisfarne, but he then razed to the ground their Anglo-Saxon stone church, the famed *White Church*, in order to build this great Cathedral.

And in doing so he committed two of the most heinous of modern-day crimes, that of cultural appropriation and of discrimination. The cult of Cuthbert, long a powerful and unifying symbol of spiritual identity in Northumbria was taken over. And the celibate monastic tradition, with women excluded from the monastery, practised by the Benedictines of Normandy, was introduced here. Hence the infamous line at the west end, just before the Font. *'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'*

Jesus' words are a reminder that, however much we stand in awe of this great Cathedral; however delighted we are to be able to worship here once again; however much its solidity reminds us of the abiding and enduring love of God – nonetheless it is also a place of great challenge and destruction and desecration, before a new community could be rebuilt. The building we celebrate and cherish meant the dismantling of another faithful community.

And, of course, that's why that Gospel reading in Luke 12 of Jesus as the iconoclast is linked with Ephesians 2. 19 - 22

*You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

The point being made is that the foundation of our faith, builds upon the apostle and prophets, the saints and the souls who have gone before us, but that all of them are resting not on the edifice, the Temple built with stones, but on Christ alone. Christ Jesus himself the cornerstone.

And perhaps that is one of the gifts to us of this time of pandemic, namely, that in person prayer and worship is invaluable; a gift we should never take for granted; an enrichment of the Holy Spirit.

But God speaks to us, and we can speak with him and our sisters and brothers in Christ through other means. Whether that is listening to the voice of God in creation, or finding ourselves part of the rich Christian tradition of this region, or being able to join in worship remotely.

God is present among his people and listens to our prayers.

So: *You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints ... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

# A Form of Intercession

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.  
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church.

For the Church universal,  
of which these buildings are a visible symbol,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this congregation,  
as we remember your promise  
that when two or three are gathered in your name  
you are there in the midst of them,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For your blessings in the past and for a vision for the future,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom  
in the sacrament of the eucharist,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the blessing of our vows  
and the crowning of our years with your goodness,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the faith of those who have gone before us  
and for grace to persevere like them,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the benefactors of this place who have died in the  
peace of Christ  
and are at rest,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For a sense of our fellowship with the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Cuthbert, Bede, Oswald, Hild, Margaret, Aidan and all your saints,  
**Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

O God, from living stones  
you prepare an everlasting dwelling-place for your majesty.  
Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit  
those who serve you here  
may always be kept within your presence.  
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Anniversary of the Foundation of the Cathedral, 1093**

Following the demolition of the earlier Saxon Cathedral, known as the White Church, the foundation stone of the present Norman cathedral was laid on this day in 1093 by Bishop William of St Carileph, in the presence Prior Turgot (whose community the new Cathedral and Priory Church would serve) and King Malcolm of Scotland.

On the Sunday nearest 11 August, we give thanks for this holy and beautiful House, for the continuity of worship and prayer, for the saints of this place - especially Cuthbert, Oswald and Bede, and for the continued mission and ministry of the Cathedral, as we seek in our generation to make Christ known.

# Hymn

Ye that know the Lord is gracious,  
Ye for whom a Corner-stone  
Stands, of God elect and precious,  
Laid that ye may build thereon,  
See that on that sure foundation  
Ye a living temple raise,  
Towers that may tell forth salvation,  
Walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed  
Each to his allotted place,  
Kings and priests, by God anointed,  
Shall ye not declare his grace?  
Ye, a royal generation,  
Tell the tidings of your birth,  
Tidings of a new creation  
To an old and weary earth.

Tell the praise of him who called you  
Out of darkness into light,  
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,  
Gave you freedom, peace and sight:  
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,  
Strength renewed and hope restored,  
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,  
Praise and magnify the Lord.

*Cyril Argentine Alington  
Dean of Durham, 1933-1951*

## A Responsory for a Dedication Festival

How awesome is this place.  
**This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gateway of heaven.**

I saw a ladder which rested on the ground  
with its top reaching to heaven,  
and the angels of God were going up and down it.

**This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gateway of heaven.**

You will see greater things than this.

You will see heaven wide open,

and God's angels ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

**This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gateway of heaven.**

You are the temple of the living God,

and the Spirit of God dwells in you.

The temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

**This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gateway of heaven.**

## Calendar of Holy Days

Monday 10 August    Laurence, deacon, martyr, 258

Tuesday 11 August    Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clares, 1253

Thursday 13 August    Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667  
*Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910*

Friday 14 August    *Maximilian Kolbe, friar, martyr, 1941*

**Saturday 15 August    The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Almighty God,  
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:  
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood  
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;  
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. Amen.

## A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Collect of a Dedication Festival

Almighty God,  
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication  
of this house of prayer:  
we praise you for the many blessings  
you have given to those who worship you here:  
and we pray that all who seek you in this place  
may find you,  
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,  
may become a living temple acceptable to you;  
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.  
Amen.

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