



DURHAM CATHEDRAL

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 17 May:
The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

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.

This is particularly important to us at a time when, following the Church of England's instructions, public worship at the Cathedral has been suspended. The residential clergy are still saying the Daily Offices at home or from church, and they are being live-streamed via the cathedral website where there is a link that takes you to the Cathedral's Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account).

We hope that this pamphlet will provide you with important worship and prayer resources for use at home as well as a reminder of how to keep in touch with us, especially if you have particularly needs. Please be assured that you are firmly in our thoughts and prayers, and please pray for us at this very difficult and worrying time.

Gospel

John 14. 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Thought for the Day

by The Reverend Canon Michael Everitt

The first day I wore a cassock and surplice was Rogation Sunday 1976. It had taken a while for the combination of my growing and finding a cassock short enough to enable me to move up from being a probationer in our church choir. That evening the rogationtide procession took us up the hill behind my family home as we asked for God's blessing on the farms of the village.

The local newspaper took a photograph of the choir and I can gaze back on my earnest concentration! The point of the rogation procession was to intentionally and prayerfully visit the working places of our village. Historically this procession acted as a way of marking the boundaries of the parish, by the beating of the bounds.

One of the parishes I served in, was a former pit village on the Lancashire coalfield. There the tradition of Walking Days was still celebrated. These were tremendous events with banners and brass bands, young and old alike walking or watching as again the church intentionally and prayerfully through its area.

Immediately before coming to Durham in addition to other roles in Blackburn diocese I was also Vicar of Preston. Preston became a city in 2002 and in 2012 created a 22 mile circular walk around its boundaries with mile posts along the way.

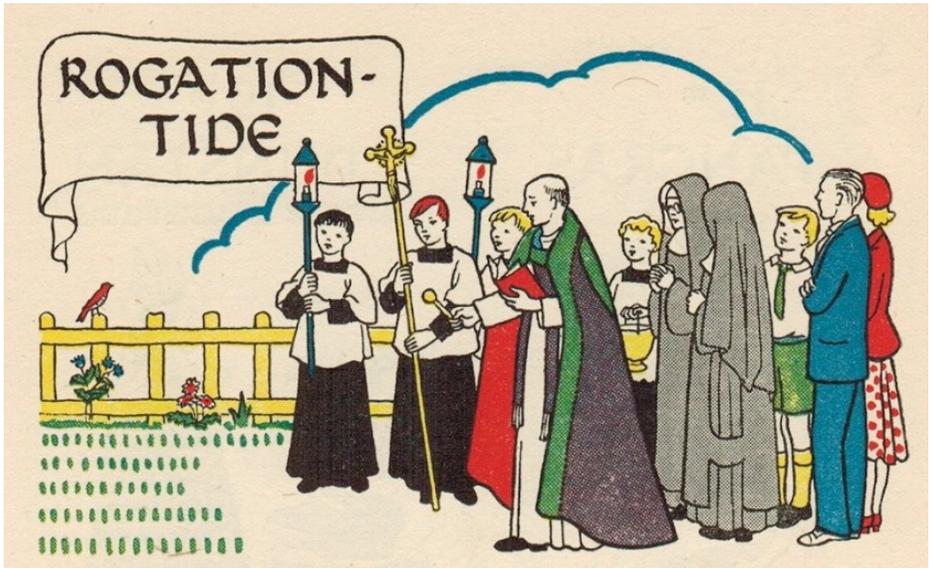
Two years ago I decided to intentionally walk the Guild wheel. Stopping at each of its milestones to pray for the city, its communities and challenges. This deliberate prayerful walk was seen to be revolutionary, generating local and national press interest and even the Archbishop of Canterbury tweeting a photograph of it. This time less cherubic and earnest, but bearded and Gandalf-like with stick.

Walking around a city, strolling down a street, hiking through a farm are all things that normally we do without thinking. The restrictions we all face at this time cause us to realise how much we take such things for granted. I have noted that I am noticing things in greater detail.

Rogationtide is when we ask God for his Holy Spirit and for his response. Whether physically or mentally we can still visit places and situations and deliberately ask God to act. Whilst my the physical dynamics of walking along with the extras like

my cassock, the banners, and stick have all helped me. This year it is more distilled, more spiritual, more focused because of restrictions. However the question is still the same in the open space (Areopagus) of our lives. Whilst we might not have our familiar supports around us to help, we still can fulfil the same action.

So the question is, "What do we need to ask of God for his world?" And then the action is to pray it!



Prayers of Intercession

United in the company of all the faithful
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,
let us offer our prayers to God,
the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord,
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, have mercy.

Bless Paul our Bishop and Sarah, Bishop of Jarrow,
and all ministers of your Church,
that by faithful proclamation of your word
we may be built on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ
from glory to glory.

Lord, have mercy.

Give to the world and its peoples
the peace that comes from above,
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.

Lord, have mercy.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love
in the service of the poor and needy;
all those who minister to the sick and dying;
and all who bring light to those in darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin
or disfigured by pain,
that, raised from death to life in Christ,
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.

Lord, have mercy.

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us,
who have been well-pleasing to you from eternity;
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,
guide us to your kingdom,
and grant us your peace at all times.

Lord, have mercy.

Hasten the day when many will come
from east and west, from north and south,
and sit at table in your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

We give you thanks
for the whole company of your saints in glory,
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;
by your grace may we, like them,
be made perfect in your love.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour and power,
be to our God for ever and ever.**

Amen.

A Hymn for Ascension Day: Thursday 21 May

Hail the day that sees him rise

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!
Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluya!
Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluya!
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!
Take the King of glory in. Alleluya!

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluya!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluya!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow Alleluya!
Blessings on his Church below. Alleluya!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluya!
Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!
Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluya!
Partners of thine endless reign; Alleluya!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluya!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluya!

*Charles Wesley and
Thomas Cotterill*

George Herbert: A Wreath

George Herbert (1593-1633), poet and priest, contrasts the fleeting beauty of a man-made wreath which wilts with the passage of time with a crown whose nature surmounts the temporary offering of memorials and which echoes the crown of life, the crown of kingdom, the crown of eternity.

A wreathed garland of deserved praise,
Of praise deserved, unto thee I give,
I give to thee, who knowest all my ways,
My crooked winding ways, wherein I live,
Wherein I die, not live: for life is straight,
Straight as a line, and ever tends to thee,
To thee, who art more far above deceit,
Than deceit seems above simplicity.
Give me simplicity, that I may live,
So live and like, that I may know thy ways,
Know them and practise them: then shall I give
For this poor wreath, give thee a crown of praise.

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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.

A Prayer for Ascension Day:

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.
This is your ascension,
your ascendancy over the whole universe.
You stand over and above all that is best in life
as its source.
You stand above all that is worst
as ultimate victor.
You stand above all powers and authorities
as judge.
You stand above all failure and weakness and sin
as forgiveness and love.
You alone are worthy of total allegiance,
total commitment.
You are Lord,
'My Lord and my God.'
Amen.

**The next issue of *Praying Together*
will be published on Monday 25 May**