

# RCIA Newsletter touch.

# Keeping in

**No.3**

**9th April 2020**

Dear Friends,

Normally we don't have a session of RCIA in Holy Week as there is so much else going on in church. This year is, of course, very different so a newsletter will help us to "keep in touch". I am sure you will appreciate Nick's power point on the Easter Vigil - just click on it and follow the links. It also appears on the parish website - click on the icon and it should download the power point to your computer where you can access it. There is an immense treasure trove of spiritual knowledge and understanding contained in Nick's power point. It could be the source of great value to us all. Also on the parish website you will discover that the Easter services are being live streamed from OLR - a great blessing.

It is usually the time in the Church's year when we welcome many into the Church through Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Raj was anticipating his Baptism this Saturday but circumstances have made this impossible. Also on the parish website under parish reflections is a news report from the A & B Newspaper about Raj and his fascinating and moving faith journey. I recommend you read this. I am sure we will all keep him in our prayers and look forward to a full celebration of his Baptism as soon as possible.

I hope you are finding these newsletters interesting and useful. If you have any questions/comments please don't hesitate to send them to me by email at : [madewaal@hotmail.com](mailto:madewaal@hotmail.com)

Wishing us all good health and a blessed Easter!

John de Waal

**A Reflection on Holy Week and Easter.**

John Kimberley

Just four days before Christmas I did something which I had never done before. I stood in front of the gates of Buckingham Palace and witnessed the scale and splendour of a building which has been very much part of my life as a British citizen. All the major events that had happened there, and that I had witnessed on TV, flashed through my mind as I stood there right in front of the gates, conscious that I was in the centre of our busy and rather important capital city.

I was so pleased that I was there and, in a mysterious sense, was having the opportunity to marvel at such a distinct and indeed glorious part of my heritage.

On Christmas Day I was reminded once more of the scale and splendour of Buckingham Palace when we visited the birth place of the “King of Kings” and “Lord of Lords”. Of course, not a palace of any description, but a small, smelly stable in a scruffy and insignificant village, represented by a model of the stable at Bethlehem. Quite a difference between the two, and it forcibly reminded me that God’s ways are so different from our ways, and His perception of what is important in life is so totally different from ours.

These thoughts have become a regular part of my quiet time every day. As human beings we look for glory, prestige, respect and, I suppose, recognisable honours, whereas what we see of the Divine points us in another direction, to the realisation that service, not power, is far more important. God’s ways are so different from ours.

This Holy Week and Easter we are reminded of these differences once again, as in human terms it is impossible to reconcile what happened to Jesus then with how we would have wished it to have taken place.

In Holy Week we do not see the unfurling before of us an uplifting story of nobility, triumph and victory, as we understand these words. Instead there is a history of betrayal, desertion, public rejection, public humiliation, and a savage dehumanising punishment, which results in death.

A horrible, depressing story, yet we do not hear condemnation. What we do hear quite clearly is “not my will but Thine be done.” God’s ways are so different from ours - His understanding is so different from ours.

For the obvious reasons caused by the outbreak of Covid-19, this Holy Week and Easter are going to be a challenge for all Christians around the world, and nothing will be as it normally has been. As we ‘gather’ in isolation, we will still be one in God as we walk with Jesus along His path, and we will have

many chances to reflect on His ways and on His purposes, even though these are so opposed to what we would normally lean towards.

Holy Week and Easter lead us to God's way - so that we can proclaim together :

ALLELUIA CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!



Jesus has risen (Urantiansoiourn).

***"He is not here; he has risen..." - Luke 24:6***

***"Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live,"  
- John 11:25***

The Easter celebration is much more than a memorial to Christ, who died for our sins. It's a celebration of thanks for the greatest gift ever bestowed upon mankind.

We have the gift of eternal life with our Heavenly Father and benefit from a loving God who doesn't just tell us about his love - he shows us.

