



The Rock

Benedict of Nursia

Benedict of Nursia (Italian: San Benedetto da Norcia) (480 - 547) was a saint from Italy, the founder of Western Christian monasticism, and a rule-giver for cenobitic monks. His purpose may be gleaned from his Rule, namely that "Christ ... may bring us all together to life eternal." Benedict was canonized by Pope Honorius III in the year 1220.

Benedict founded twelve communities for monks, the best known of which is his first monastery, at Monte Cassino in the mountains of southern Italy. There is no evidence that he intended to found a religious order. The Order of St Benedict is of modern origin and, moreover, not an "order" as commonly understood but merely a confederation of autonomous congregations.

Benedict's main achievement is his "Rule", containing precepts for his monks. It is heavily influenced by the writings of John Cassian, and shows strong affinity with the Rule of the Master. But it also has a unique spirit of balance, moderation and reasonableness

(επιεικεια, epieikeia), and this persuaded most religious communities founded throughout the Middle Ages to adopt it. As a result, the Rule of Benedict became one of the most influential religious rules in Western Christendom. For this reason Benedict is often called the founder of western Christian monasticism.

Many scholars agree that Anglican forms of worship are greatly influenced by Benedictine practice.



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The Vicar Writes

In the western Church the Feast of the Transfiguration, which we will celebrate near the beginning of August, has been treated like a liturgical afterthought until very recently, while in the eastern Church it is one of the twelve Great Feasts, and a prime example of some of the most cherished teaching of Eastern Orthodoxy.



Son of God, a member of the Divine Trinity, was taking on himself a complete human nature - and not just for time, but for eternity.

The Eastern Orthodox, however, taking the divinity of Christ for granted in way that we could envy, are almost more interested in

the divinity of the Light which radiates from him. This Light is the Holy Spirit. It is not a light created by God with which he can manifest himself to us. This Light is God himself! Furthermore, the Orthodox insist, when someone sees this Light (as in a so-called Near Death Experience) they are actually seeing the uncreated God!

However, there are a few qualifications and elucidations to be made! One is that as well as existing in Three Persons, God also exists in his essence and in his energies without being in any way divided between them. He remains one God. Nothing other than God himself can ever know God in his essence. That would be to know him as he knows himself - and for that you would have to be God too! But in his energies, such as love, beauty, power and goodness, he fills the whole creation. One of these energies is light. As with the other energies, we mostly cannot detect it - only its very much less real created copies such as the light of the sun or the stars.

However, said St Gregory Palamas in the fourteenth century, we can be enabled by the power of God to see the Divine Light sometimes, not only spiritually but with our eyes, and this is the basis of much mystical experience in all religions. When we see the Light we are transformed

and so on - at least while the experience lasts. In 1653 the great French scientist and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, had just this experience for two hours on November night. St Paul on the Damascus Road was transformed in his ideas and in his understanding of the meaning of life by it. Many since have had the same experience.

There is a further consequence of this 'essence/energies' teaching, and it is to be found in the concept of *epektasis* as first expressed in the fourth century by another Gregory, St Gregory of Nyssa. The Light is infinite, and we will never see all of it either in time or eternity. Thus we will never exhaust the mystery of God. So life after death will not be static, but we will grow and develop and enter evermore deeply into the wonders of God for all eternity. No mere plucking of harps!

The Crucified and Risen God bless you!

Fr CARL

*NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS
NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS*

The Telegraph (London) reports how some parishes have attempted to attract men to church on Fathers' Day. At St Stephen's church in Barbourne, Worcester, for example, children will give men bottles of beer during the service. The bishop of Worcester argues that the free beer is symbolic of the generosity of God.

(Wow! We could do this on 'Back to Church Sunday.' Ed)



It occurs somewhat out of context in the ecclesiastical year near the beginning of August - right out of context, really, since it would better appear during Lent, when in fact it is also commemorated in the Eastern Churches as (very belatedly) in ours as well.

This out-of-context quality, however, seems not at all inappropriate, since the original event itself had just that characteristic for those who witnessed it. Indeed, it showed that the Lord's 'context' was very different from that of his disciples.

Orthodoxy calls the Transfiguration a theophany, a manifestation of God. And we might be inclined simply to see that manifestation in the voice of the Father saying "This is my beloved Son." We might even add the Holy Spirit showing himself in the divine radiance. But these alone will not do. Christ also is as much God as the Father and the Spirit - no more and no less. So the theophany is one of the whole Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one God in three distinct but indivisible Persons.

Thus we need to recognise that the most important thing about Jesus Christ is that he was and is God himself. His humanity - though much stressed at the present time - is important because it is God's humanity. When we are conceived, a new person comes into being; but at the conception of Christ in his mother's womb there was no new person at all, but rather the eternal



Ladies Guild

Our June meeting was held at the Home of St Barnabas. Fr Carl celebrated the Eucharist. After a delicious meal Fr Carl told us of the origins of the Book of Common Prayer and why it came into being 460 years ago. An enlightening talk. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14 July at 2 pm in the parish lounge, when we will discuss business.

Mary Barton,
Secretary



THE VICAR'S BLOG

What is a BLOG. It is a written account of a person's thoughts and musings that are posted on the internet so that others may read them and make comment. Our 'tekkalojikal' vicar has joined the ranks of bloggers and his blog may be accessed at this address.

<http://gallicananglican.blogspot.com/>

Our website also provides a link.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER: 50% off Tithing. Get in quickly because an offer like this will not last.



French government decision on Moruroa workers unfair

Former workers and widows of Moruroa workers failed in their bid for compensation from the effects of nuclear testing from the French government.

Plea to New Zealanders to help Pakistani women in crisis

A Pakistani aid worker is pleading for New Zealanders to help women forced from their homes and living in fear.

CWS condemns NZAID announcement

Christian World Service has condemned Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully's announcement that NZAID will be absorbed into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

New Zealand urged to support Sri Lanka solution

New Zealand-based overseas aid agency Christian World Service has called on the government to

pressure its Sri Lankan counterparts to negotiate an end to the quarter century conflict.

Visiting Pakistan experts warn of growing humanitarian disaster

Fighting between government forces and Taliban in northern Pakistan has created a rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis, say the heads of a Pakistan relief agency visiting New Zealand.

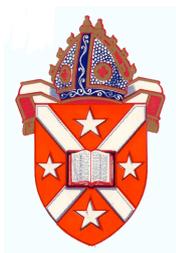


EMERGENCY APPEAL

Sri Lankan Refugee Casualties. The Anglican Diocese of Kurunagala in North Western Sri Lanka are doing all they can to provide assistance to the injured and displaced civilians that have been evacuated from hospitals in the north as a result of the recent violent conflict. They need your help



DIOCESAN NEWS



ELECTORAL SYNOD

9-10-11 October 2009

Information has been sent to parishes. Synod members will now be busy finding suitable candidates for nomination. Meetings are to be held in Archdeacons to give church members the opportunity to express their views about the sort of attributes that a new bishop will need to possess to successfully move the diocese forward.



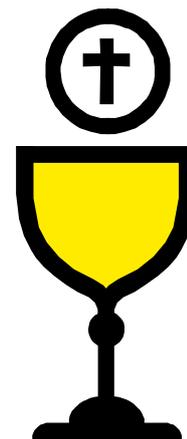
Receiving Communion.

The Bishop has advised " Please do not use intinction until further notice. Those who receive communion under one kind receive the whole sacrament. On the theology of communion in one kind, it is enough to say that while the symbolism of our participation in the Eucharist is impaired by receiving in one kind only, the fullness and substance of what we receive is not. Christ is always present in either kind. +George."

"If we Pray, we Believe;

If we Believe, we Love;

If we Love, we Serve".



St Peters Patch

- 7 Primary Schools
- 1 Intermediate School
- 2 High Schools
- 6 Rest Homes
- 4 Kindergartens
- 4 Childcare Centres
- 8 Care Centres
- 4 Shopping Centres

A Prayer for the election of a new Bishop

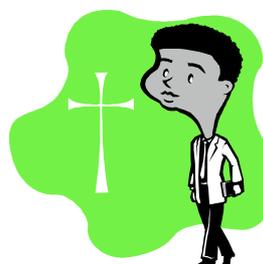
Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people. Grant us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth. So your Church may be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From A Prayer Book for Australia

VESTRY IN BRIEF

Heather is enjoying a visit to the United Kingdom so no report from the last vestry meeting was available at the time 'The Rock' went to print.

A sign outside a church in the USA (where else) reads "Salvation Guaranteed or your sins re-funded".



Hullo, will you come to the pictures with me.

That was easy.

Hullo will you come to church with me.

Not so easy....why?

Have confidence in:

- * who we are.
- * what we have to offer.



BEQUESTS "I GIVE TO THE DUNEDIN DIOCESAN TRUST BOARD, 1A HOWDEN STREET, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN, PO BOX 13 170, GREEN ISLAND, DUNEDIN 9052. (% OF MY ESTATE, OR THE RESIDUE OF MY ESTATE, OR A SUM OF MONEY, OR DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND/OR ASSETS) FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSE (OR FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE) OF ST PETERS PARISH, CAVERSHAM, FOR WHICH THE RECEIPT OF THE SECRETARY OR OTHER PROPER OFFICER SHALL BE FULL AND SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE TO MY TRUSTEES/EXECUTORS.



THE ANGLICAN WORLD



Archbishop of Canterbury calls for commitment to sustainable peace in Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has issued a statement in support of today's 'Sudan Day of Action' which calls for a renewed commitment to sustainable peace in Sudan. The Sudan Day of Action, organised by Baroness Cox and the Sudan Action Group, aims to raise awareness for the desperate plight of the people of Sudan.

Scotland - New Primus for the Scottish Episcopal Church



The Rt Rev David Chillingworth was elected Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church at an Episcopal Synod held during the annual meeting of the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Bishop David was the single nomination and his election was supported by all other six bishops. Bishop David has been Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane since 2005 and succeeds the Most Rev Dr Idris Jones, Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway who stepped down as Primus.

Editorial

Investment has become a dirty word. Not surprising considering the losses suffered by investors. But investment is not just about profits or even money.

We all can and do invest in many things like our children's education or in a wildlife sanctuary or in social services or in a sports club. We invest time and money in such things not for our own personal gain but for the benefit of others and our wider community.

Our parish, having been blest with many resources, can choose to use those resources to sit back and enjoy a comfortable, do little sort of existence or it can choose something different and exciting about being Christ's presence in our community.

We could choose to invest in :

- A community garden
- A children's choir
- Education via the Web
- An adult choir
- Visiting the house-bound
- Feeding the hungry
- Supporting Christian art
- Caring for refugees
- Spiritual direction
- Worship workshops

Theological workshops

Etc Etc Etc
Etc Etc Etc

Only our attitudes limit the scale and variety of ministries that we could invest in. Both time and money.

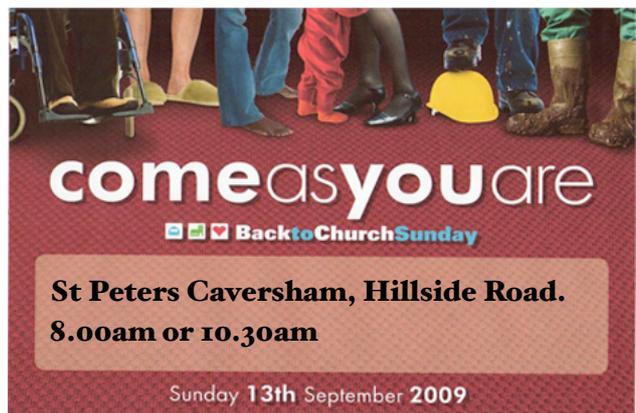
And there are returns. A children's choir for example would bring with it the children's families and their friends and supporters and so the wider church community grows. Oh! I know 'Where are the children?' Well seven primary schools and one intermediate school seem like good places to start. But then nothing would be the same would it. So.....Oh well.

Ray Sisley

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY IN NZ 13 SEPTEMBER 2009

Why Back to Church Sunday. It's an amazing outreach - from the 44 parishes in the Diocese of Wellington that participated last year they had 834 people come back to church. How often does a parish get 20 new people through their doors? The challenge is to feel confident that the welcome to the new faces is warm and sincere. Parishioners are given cards like that shown below to give to neighbours and friends. Six Anglican Dioceses in NZ and 17 in Australia will all be involved in 2009. The theme is 'Come as you are'....

LET US ALL GET BEHIND THIS!





WARDENS' WARBLE



Excuse me this month, for writing about a subject with little apparent relationship to St Peter's but late last month Averil and I had the opportunity to have a conducted tour through the Otago Corrections Facility near Milburn, often referred to as the "Milton Hilton". Let me first of all make it quite clear that there is no way in our minds that this facility should be thought of as a "Five Star plus" hotel. Sure, they may have under floor heating, that is if they have a cell on the ground floor, (simply the most economic method to heat such a complex) We actually found the temperature inside rather cool and yes, they may have a TV, supplied by themselves or family, not by the prison but in any event, is that unreasonable as a means of preventing boredom and it's accompanying problems from setting in during the sixteen hours when locked in their cell at night, many of them, through no fault of their own are not even able to read a book. They can purchase a newspaper but it will be a day old when they receive it.

First requirement was to apply for Authorisation to Visit. Once this had been approved you front up at the Reception Area, first thing to happen is that you have a tag applied to your wrist, you then proceed to the area where your photo ID is checked, then each person is checked by a "sniffing drug dog" before passing through a metal detector similar to what is used at the airport, if you happen to set that alarm off (as I did) you are then checked by a wand until the security team are satisfied that you do not pose a security risk. The two main problems in any of this countries prisons are cell phones and drugs and particular care is taken to ensure these items cannot be passed to prisoners. We then entered the prison proper and although the prisoners were in "lock down" mode we were still able to see and hear them in their cells and were instructed that not matter what may be said, we were not to interact with them.

We were shown the various sections where visits take

place, along with the non contact visiting area, punishment area where non-conforming prisoners may be housed until they are prepared to conform to the required standards. In this area, prisoners are locked in their cells for 23 hours and are allowed out into the small exercise area, attached to the cell for 1 hour per day, food is passed to them through a small flap. The normal routine for prisoners is that their cells are unlocked at about 8.30 am and they are then locked in their cells at 4.30pm till the following morning. It is between 8.30 and 4.30 that they have their exercise, may attend training courses or some low risk ones may travel into Milton or the surrounding area to work. Having seen this facility for myself, there is no way that I'll agree with the comment so often heard that the prisoners are there on one big holiday.

One of the staff explaining the backgrounds of some of the prisoners spoke with obvious pride in the programmes running at Milburn, which is seen as the Jewel in Crown of the Corrections Department, spoke of the prisoner who had been in the prison system for twenty years and being there during the past two years had been taught to read and write! This, to the prisoner was a major achievement and may mean that he was possibly on the way to a better way of life.

Sr Veronica Casey, one of the Prison Chaplains spoke of the work the chaplains do in assisting and preparing prisoners for their eventual release from prison and talked of the need for more volunteers to assist with this work. Some of the prisoners may never receive a visitor in all the time that they are there, perhaps some of St Peter's parishioners may see this as an area in which they could assist. Food for thought!

I'd be happy to supply contact details to anyone who may be interested.

Tubby Hopkins, Vicar's Warden



AAW

The June meeting of St. Peters AAW Fellowship was held on Saturday afternoon 27th. We welcomed 19 members together with guest Marion Caffell who brought along examples of her talents as an embroiderer. We were all greatly impressed, enchanted and inspired

by the many items she talked about and displayed.

Next month our meeting will again be held on Saturday afternoon, 25th July at 2pm. David Hoskins will be our guest speaker. We are taking this opportunity to invite

other church groups and members of our own parish to join with us for this meeting to listen to David speak about and play our church organ.

*Ronda Tatnell
Coordinator.*



Home of Anglican Benedictine Monks and Nuns in Australia

WHAT IS AN OBLATE OF SAINT BENEDICT?

Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian people who have associated themselves with a Benedictine Community in order to enrich their Christian way of life. Oblates shape their lives by living the wisdom of Christ as interpreted by St. Benedict. Oblates seek God by serving him in their chosen way of life. By integrating their prayer and work, they endeavour to show Christ's presence clearly in society.

St. Paul tells us that each member of the body of Christ, the Church, has a special function to perform. Many are called to the married state and the raising of a family. Some are called to the single life in the world and others to the single life in Monastic or Religious Communities of men and women. The role of Oblates is to live in the world, to seek God's holiness in the world, to do what they can to bring the world to God by being witnesses of Christ by word and example to those around them.

Oblates concern themselves with striving to be what they are, people of God and temples of the Holy Spirit. Their prayer life will flow from this awareness, as will their willingness to offer themselves (that is the meaning of the

word oblate) for the service of God and neighbour to the best of their ability.

Should you feel called to this way of life and spirituality then please contact the vicar. A number of St Peters parishioners are already oblates associated with the community at Camperdown in Australia.

Do you know that these institutions are all Anglican.

- The Home of St Barnabas
- Leslie Groves Home
- Leslie Groves Hospital
- St Hildas Collegiate School
- Selwyn College
- The Family Care Centre
- St Pauls Cathedral
- Parata Home Gore
- Takitimu Home Invercargill
- South Centre Invercargill
- St Lukes Cottages Oamaru

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to the Patronal festival and our last parish service with Bishop George and his wife Noni.



CALENDAR

JULY

Sun 12 +TRINITY 5 *Ordinary 15*
 Pot Luck Lunch
 7pm Compline by Candle
 light
 Mon 13 Monday Club 10am in the
 Hall
 Tue 14 Ladies' Guild 2pm in the
 Lounge
Later Learning 7.30pm in
 the Vicarage
 Wed 15 Vestry 7.30pm in the
 Lounge
 Thu 16 Meditation Group after the
 Eucharist
 Games Night 7pm in the
 Hall
 Sun 19 + TRINITY 6 *Ordinary 16*
 7pm Evensong and
 Benediction
 Mon 20 Monday Club
 Tue 22 MARY MAGDALEN
Later Learning
 7.30pm in the Vicar
 age
 Thu 24 Meditation Group
 Games Night
 Sat 25 JAMES
 Sun 26 +TRINITY 7 *Ordi
 nary 17*
 7pm Compline by
 Candlelight
 Mon 27 Monday Club
 Tue 28 *Later Learning*
 7.30pm in the Vic
 arage
 Thu 30 Meditation Group
 Games Night

AUGUST

Sun 2 +TRINITY 8 *Ordi
 nary 18*
 7pm Evensong
 and Benediction

**Material for the August
 Magazine is due today**

Mon 3 Monday Club
 Tue 4 *Later Learning*
 7.30pm in the Vicar
 age
 Thu 6 Meditation Group
 Games Night
 Sun 9 + TRANSFIGURA
 TION OF OUR
 LORD
 7pm Compline by
 Candlelight

Mon 10 Pot Luck Lunch
 Monday Club
 Tue 11 *Later Learning*
 7.30pm in the Vicarage
 Thu 13 Meditation Group
 Sun 16 +ASSUMPTION OF OUR
 LADY
 7pm Evensong and
 Benediction



We're on the Web!
 See us at:

www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

**Baptisms, Weddings, House
 Blessings,
 Burials and
 Confessions by
 arrangement with the Vicar**

Parish Directory

Parish Priest:

Father Carl Somers-Edgar
 The Vicarage, 57 Baker
 Street
 Caversham, Dunedin
 Telephone: (03) 455 3961
 Email: paratus@xtra.co.nz
 Internet:
www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

WORSHIP SERVICES

All Sundays:

8am Eucharist.
 10.30am Solemn Eucha-
 rist.

Sundays of the calendar month at 5 pm:

1st, 3rd and 5th Compline
 and Exposition

2nd and 4th Sung Even-
 song and Benediction.

First and third Tuesdays of
 the month: 11am Eucharist
 at St Barnabas' Home.

All Wednesdays and Fri-
 days (except when the
 Vicar is away): 8am Eucha-
 rist.

All Thursdays: 10am
 Eucharist.



Director of Music:

David Hoskins

Churchwardens:

Vicar's Warden:

Tubby Hopkins

People's Warden:

Joy Henderson

Vestry secretary:

Heather Brooks