




JUBILATE



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

Sunday 22nd May 2022
(The Sixth Sunday of the Easter Season)

Editor's note - please accept my apologies for last weekend's omissions and correction.
I'll try to get it right this week.

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WORSHIP IN THE CHAPLAINCY

TODAY (Sunday 22nd May)

A service of Holy Communion, starting at 11.00.am in the Church of Christ the Good Shepherd, Chef Boutonne (79110)

Next Sunday (29th)

We are not meeting together for any services, but we *can* share fellowship in spirit.

Some ideas for worship at home will be included in *Jubilate*.

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JUNE (5th) - Whit Sunday (Pentecost)

- services in Champagne Mouton and Courcelles

(12th) - Trinity Sunday

Services in Chef Boutonne and Cognac

(19th) - ***Ecumenical service in Chef Boutonne at 15.00h***

(26th) - service at Chef Boutonne

Lectionary Bible Readings and Prayers for Sunday 22nd May

Psalm 67 verses 1 to 7

- prayer and praise for God's blessing

Ezekiel chapter 37 verses 1 to 14

- the Valley of Dry Bones

(We were reminded of this by our Bishop at the Dedication of the church at Chef Boutonne)

Acts chapter 16 verses 9 to 15

- Saint Paul is called to Macedonia

Revelation chapter 21, verse 22 to chapter 22 verse 5

The city of God and the river of the water of life

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The Collect

God our redeemer,
You have delivered us from the power of darkness
And brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
Grant that, as by his death he has recalled us to life,
So by his continual presence in us
He may raise us to eternal joy;
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;

Today is a Rogation Sunday



Rogation Days call Christians beyond the sacred spaces of nave and sanctuary to bless the good earth God has given.

Rogation is derived from the Latin verb 'rogare' which means 'to ask.' In the liturgies of Rogation Days, we ask the Lord to bless the fields, the crops, and the hands of farmers who produce our food. Worship on Rogation Days teaches us that we depend upon God's favour over his land. We *ask* him for goodness over this land.

One custom of Rogation Days in the past was for the incumbent vicar/pastor (with members of the congregation) to "beat the bounds" - that is, to walk around the perimeter of the Parish, (or at least the churchyard) praising God and asking blessing upon each part of its life, both physical and spiritual. The walk probably not to be recommended in our "Parish" but the thanksgiving and prayers, certainly!

This is the Collect for **Monday**:

Almighty God,
whose will it is that the earth and the sea
should bear fruit in due season:
bless the labours of those who work on land and sea,
grant us a good harvest
and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care.

THE ASCENSION

There are no decorated evergreens, no greeting cards, no gifts, no poinsettias or lilies, no coloured eggs, no chocolate bunnies, and no responsive salutation. There's just a Thursday with an extra name: Ascension. It's not just the world that has ignored the festival. The Church seems to have lost interest as well. Most congregations have elected to forgo a worship service on Ascension and those that cling to the tradition count on few to attend. Apparently, Ascension Day doesn't matter.

But it does matter. In fact, it matters every bit as much as Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas. It deserves to be celebrated. For those still unconvinced, here are seven reasons to rejoice on Ascension Day:

1. *Jesus ascended so that the Holy Spirit could descend.*

The Spirit is the promised "other Comforter" essential to the life and growth of the Church—no Holy Spirit, no Church, no faith, no salvation. Jesus ascended to send the Spirit.

2. *Jesus reigns now over everything.*

He has been enthroned at the Father's right hand, and the full glory of the Godhead is His. The ascension is His coronation ceremony and highlights the splendor and authority of Jesus over every king, ruler, and nation.

3. *The ascension was the plan from the very beginning.*

Just as the passion and resurrection were predicted in the Old Testament, so too was the ascension. Jesus' extraordinary visible ascent is the essential capstone of his earthly ministry.

4. *Jesus ascended bodily.*

Joined eternally to true God, a true human body is the object of honor and worship. This has profound impact on our understanding of God's nature and also human nature. The material aspects of God's creation are very good and endure forever.

5. *The commission announced by Jesus is now in full force.*

Just as a death must precede the implementation of a will, so the ascension of Jesus must precede the implementation and empowerment of the command to the disciples (you included) to witness the reality of Jesus to the world.

6. *The ascension of Jesus is a preview of the promised consummation.*

At the Last Day Jesus will return as He went: physically and visibly. It will not be a “spiritual” or metaphorical return, but an actual coming of His physical body. No one is going to miss it.

7. *Jesus is Lord.*

Not only did Jesus come back from the dead, but He now reigns on high. He is Lord of all creation. He is Lord of your life.

Whether or not anyone else joins you, you’ve got much to celebrate on Ascension Day. At the very least, take a moment to gaze skyward, study a cloud, and offer a prayer of thanks and praise and anticipation to the one who now reigns on high and who is coming soon.

Article by Dr. Joel Biermann who is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary Saint Louis.

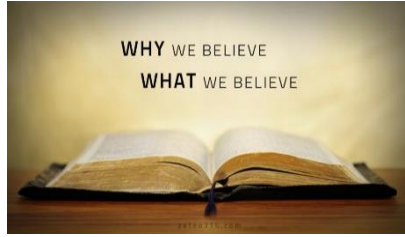
LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS FOR ASCENSION DAY:

Acts 1:1-11,

Luke 24:44-53

Ephesians 1:15-23

SAYING THE CREED



He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father

There are verses scattered throughout the Bible which refer, or seem to refer, to Ascension, but the event itself remains mysterious. It speaks still of the primitive belief of a world in which heaven is above, hell is below and earth in between. The first astronaut, Yuri Gagarin was often quoted as saying "I travelled into the heavens and I didn't see God". But nor would we have expected him to. The symbolic language used in the Bible indicates to us that, having completed His work of the redemption of the world by His death and resurrection, Jesus left the human scene to re-enter the spiritual realm. The cloud reminds of the cloud which covered Him after the Transfiguration. It speaks in various places of the Old Testament as the *Shechinah*, a manifestation of the glory of God.

He could not have stayed. His work on earth was complete. Had he remained, then the continuing extension of God's kingdom would have been very much limited in space and time. His going to glory meant that His spirit, the Holy Spirit, could be released in power on the day of Pentecost and that would enable the Gospel to be preached, with signs and wonders, everywhere and for all time. There would now be no question about Jesus. He is, as scripture states, the Son of God - and, as Christian theology confirms, an equal member of the triune godhead, however difficult that concept might be for us to understand. His being "seated at the right hand of the Father" is a permanent position of glory and of authority.

The Collects for Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God
That as we believe your only-begotten Son
Our Lord Jesus Christ
To have ascended into the heavens,
So we in heart and mind may also ascend
And with him continually dwell;
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature
To the throne of heaven:
Help us to seek and serve you,
That we may join you at the Father's side
Where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
Now and for ever.

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The following is from "GodThoughts" by Dick Williams (publ. Falcon) [adapted]

He had been appearing to them, off and on, for nearly six weeks now. They had got used to living with the knowledge that He was risen. They grew to know that, whether seen or unseen, the Lord was at hand. He led them up a mountainside and spoke with great energy and authority, of the power they were to receive, of their continuing His work of preaching, teaching and baptising. He promised them "I am with you always". A great sun-filled cloud covered the mountaintop. And when it dispersed, the Lord was gone. He was nowhere to be found on earth. The disciples understood that He had been parted from them. They concluded that He had been received into heaven. And so they returned to Jerusalem to wait, with great expectancy and desire _ for God's next move.

Concert de La Chantonge

Samedi 21 mai 2022
20h30
Eglise de
Beuvais/Matha (17490)

Mercredi 25 mai 2022
20h30
Église de
Courcelles (17400)

Dimanche 29 mai 2022
17h30
Chapelle de la Providence
Saintes (17100)



Entrée libre participation
une partie reversée pour l'Ukraine



Donations to The Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd

BOOK NOW!

UPDATE - BROCANTE SUNDAY 19th MAY

It was a very long, hot, humid day starting at 6h30 setting up the chaplaincy's tables and ending abruptly at 15h30 due to a heavy downpour! There was a steady stream of bargain-hunters throughout the day but people were reluctant to spend much above 1 or 2 euros, though we managed to get 5€ for a few things. At the end of the day we had a few cents under 140€ in the cashbox so, less the 13€ float from the Chef-Boutonne bookstall, a cheque for 127€ will be sent to our treasurer.

Many thanks to everyone who donated items and to everyone who helped set up, run and dismantle the stall. Special thanks to Angela and John Larmuth who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event!

The remaining stock was sorted on Monday and went to:

- * organisations supporting the Ukranian families in Chef-Boutonne and surrounding villages
- * Emmaüs
- * storage for the bric-a-brac stall at the Beetle Drive on 22nd June

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URGENT NEED



Is there someone out there who could loan a CD player (or cassette tape player) and some audio books on cd or tapes.

They would be for Jean Madden who has had a very nasty fall and is unable to sit up and read. She adores reading and this would be a great way for her to be able to continue.

If so, please contact Carolyn Carter or the Editor of *Jubilate* as soon as

CHAPLAINCY ROLES - if you're new to the Chaplaincy or even if you been with us since its inception, you may sometimes wonder what goes into the running of things and who does it all. We begin a series today to try and explain some of this.

1. Chaplaincy Churchwarden

Status and dignity are attached to the ancient office of Churchwarden, but much more is expected of those who accept office today. The Warden has a strong mixture of legal, spiritual, and pastoral responsibilities, as well as the extra responsibility of looking after our Church in Chef Boutonne and its contents.

It is a role of leadership, and it sometimes needs courage, insight, and the ability to stand up and speak up, when necessary.

In an Interregnum many more responsibilities fall upon the Churchwarden.

It is vital to have the right people as Churchwardens, because so much depends on their loyalty, leadership and hard work. Anyone who feels called to be a warden should carefully consider the responsibilities involved, long before putting his or her name forward.

However, if you do feel the calling from God to consider becoming a churchwarden, do not be put off by these thoughts. Every warden grows into the job in the course of time, and God gives all the necessary grace to do His work.

Our current Chaplaincy Church Warden is Carolyn Carter.

A further Church Warden is sought. If you would like more information on the role of a Chaplaincy Church Warden. please, contact Carolyn

email: chaplaincychurchwarden1@gmail.com

or ring 05 45 84 19 03 or 0612137007

NEXT time: LOCAL WARDENS

Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

Address for mail:

Chaplaincy Poitou Charentes
12, place de Gaulle, 86400 Civray.

Tel: 06 21 32 31 28

In charge of admin: Valérie Petry: Email: office.goodshepherd@sfr.fr

OUR CHURCH is at

16 Avenue de l'Hotel de Ville, 79110, Chef Boutonne

Website: www.churchinfrance.com

Chaplaincy Warden

Carolyn Carter 05 45 84 19 03 or 06 12 13 70 07

chaplaincychurchwarden1@gmail.com

Jubilate contact: david.hawken@orange.fr

It is quite possible that when you have read *Jubilate* you may well think 'I could write something, too'.

Perhaps you have remembrances of the Chaplaincy in earlier days.

Maybe you have a favourite hymn or prayer or Bible verse that you would like to share with our readers.

Do you have some ideas for our fellowship or fundraising ?

Write to the editor: david.hawken@orange.fr