



The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath July 2025



From the vicar

Reflecting during the early part of this year whilst pursuing some studies around early Christian doctrines and the origins of the Nicene Creed, I couldn't help concluding how straightforward and obvious faith is. Rooted in the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church Fathers matters of faith are quite clear to me. The same may be true for you as well. Of course, 'clear' is not the same as 'easy' and many of us have worked hard to get to where we are now – declaring our faith in the Holy Trinity and rejoicing in the salvation we have claimed as our own. Along the way there may have been many struggles, doubts and misunderstandings (and such things can be true at any stage in the Christian life), but we have got to a place in which we find ourselves for the most part content – not thinking that we know it all or that we are exempt from struggle, but sure of our foundations and of our future hope.

Reflecting on faith in such a way it may seem strange that some people 'just don't get it'. And they really don't. Looking at these things from the vantage point of faith it is easy to forget the role which revelation has played in our journeys. As a factor in trying to understand different people's positions it is critical. The revelation which is given to us is woven through the thinking, studying and discussing which make up our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus reflects on the 'givenness' of revelation.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Matthew 11: 25-27)

I suggest that when we reflect upon this passage we don't limit our thinking to the sayings of children lest we become too sentimental. What Jesus is saying is that the 'simple' are often open to God's word because they are – in the French sense of the word – uncomplicated. We all know people who don't seem particularly clever or sophisticated, but understand the things of God remarkably clearly. They are open to revelation in a way that the self-absorbed and arrogant are not. To follow the reasoning in the quotation above this is because it is the will of the Father that they receive understanding and it is Jesus who mediates it.

So how might we be more open to revelation? The answer is quite clear. The reading of scripture, prayer and the regular reception of the Blessed Sacrament give the faithful the edge when it comes to receiving revelation and developing a more developed and coherent understanding of the faith. Such things can only truly develop when opportunities are found for silence. We need to leave the noises and busyness of the day behind as best as we are able and concentrate on higher things. Whenever possible time spent before the Blessed Sacrament either reserved in the tabernacle or aumbry or during a time of Exposition, can free our spirits to be closer to the Holy Spirit. In such times of silence and adoration our chances of learning and growing in faith are so much greater. And whilst spending time in this way, make a prayerful remembrance of those who 'just don't get it'. It might change their lives – and yours.

Patronal Festival

Sunday 29th June

8.00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

9.30am Parish Eucharist (*Modern Rite*)

St. Peter's Day picnic

Bring your own picnic lunch to Birchville Cottage garden, Heathbourne Road, WD23 1PB from 1230 to 1530 (approx.)

Very limited parking so park in Clay Lane (walking through side gate to enter the garden).

By kind invitation of Simon and Ruth Farley.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray for Bishop Luke's visit to St. Peter's and for our confirmands, Emanuel Pinto, Edson da Costa Pinto and Brian Kearne.

Continue to pray too for the peoples of the Near East, Ukraine and Russia that a lasting peace may be found in each area of conflict. Remember all those countries beset by blood-shed in different parts of the globe.

From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 22nd June	Trinity 1
Wednesday 25 th June, 10.00am	Mass
Friday 27 th June, 7.00pm	Mass (<i>St. Cyril of Alexandria</i>)
Sunday 29th June	St. Peter, Apostle
Wednesday 2 nd July, 10.00am	Mass (Visitation of the B.V.M. to Elizabeth)
Friday 4 th July, 7.00pm	Mass
Sunday 6th July	Trinity 3

Mass of Confirmation

Sunday 6th July, 9.30am
Celebrant: the Bishop of Richborough

Wednesday 9 th July, 10.00am	Mass
Friday 11 th July, 7.00pm	Mass (<i>St. Benedict, Religious</i>)
Sunday 13th July	Trinity 4
<i>In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.</i>	
Tuesday 15 th July, 10.00am	Mass
evening	Informal PCC meeting with the Archdeacon of St. Albans
Wednesday 16 th July, 10.00am	Mass
8.00pm	Parochial Church Council meeting in the Parish Hall
Friday 18 th July, 7.00pm	Mass
Sunday 20th July	Trinity 5

Parish Mass

Sunday 20th July, 9.30am
Preacher: The Venerable Charles Hudson, Archdeacon of St. Albans

Wednesday 23 rd July, 10.00am	Mass (<i>St. Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe</i>)
Friday 25 th July, 7.00pm	Mass (<i>St. James, Apostle</i>)
Sunday 27th July	Trinity 6
Wednesday 30 th July, 10.00am	Mass
Friday 1 st August, 7.00pm	Mass (<i>St. Peter's Chains</i>)
Sunday 3rd August	Trinity 7

From the registers

Baptism

8th June Cairo Sterling

Art Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported the Art Exhibition this year. A feast of style and artistic insight was enjoyed by many, both regulars and visitors alike. The profit from the artists' generous contributions, other donations and the sale of refreshments amounted to £850. Thank you for the part you played!

See of Richborough

Mass of Stella Maris for Assumptiontide

Saturday 16th August, 12 noon at Portsmouth Cathedral
Bring your own picnic lunch
4.00pm Benediction at Holy Spirit, Southsea followed by Afternoon Tea
Further details from Father Andrew

Contact details:

Vicar: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.
Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk / www.achurchnearyou.com