

THIS WEEK

Today

9.15am Morning Prayer
10am Sung Mass
5pm Christchurch London Service

Monday 3rd June (St Charles Lwanga)

9am Morning Prayer
2.30pm Visit to Sir John Soane Museum, Lincoln Fields

Tuesday 4th (St Petroc)

9am Morning Prayer
1.10pm Said Mass

Wednesday 5th (St Boniface)

9am Morning Prayer
7pm Said Mass

Thursday 6th (Laying of the first stone of St John's, 1826)

9am Morning Prayer

Friday 7th (St Robert of Newminster)

Saturday 8th (St Melania the Younger)

9.15am Morning Prayer
9.30am Said Mass (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 9th (PENTECOST)

9.15am Morning Prayer
10am Parish Mass
5pm Christchurch London Service

Further Ahead

Thursday 13 June, 4-6pm – Tower Hamlets Inter Faith Forum Mental Health & Wellbeing Event (on the forecourt weather permitting!)

Tuesday 25 June, 7pm – Church Council meets in Vaughan Room

Thursday 27 June, 7.30pm – Stepney Area Safeguarding – Serious Incident Reporting, a briefing for Incumbents, Church Safeguarding Officers and PCC Members/Trustees on the new Serious Incident Reporting Guidance

Saturday 29 June, 7.30pm – Women Sing East Summer Concert

Saturday 3 July, 11am – Consecration of Ven. Dr Joanne Grenfell as the new Bishop of Stepney at St Paul's Cathedral

WELCOME TO ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN



THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION 2ND JUNE 2019

Hymns: (New English Hymnal): 130 (1st tune), 443, 271, 134

Introductory Sentence

I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord, alleluia! I am coming to you alleluia, alleluia!

The Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

First Reading Acts: 16.16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and

Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Second Reading: Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21

A reading from the Revelation to St John

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: 'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The Gospel: John 17:20-26

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love. **Alleluia.**

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father, I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

Post Communion Sentence

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation, alleluia!

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please join us for refreshments at the back of church after the service

Jesus hasn't just gone away. He has gone deeper into the heart of reality – our reality and God's. He has become far more than a visible friend and companion; he has shown himself to be the very centre of our life, the source of our loving energy in the world and the source of our prayerful, trustful waiting on God. He has made us able to be a new kind of human being, silently and patiently trusting God as a loving parent, actively and hopefully at work to make a difference in the world, to make the kind of difference love makes.

So if the world looks and feels like a world without God, the Christian doesn't try to say, 'It's not as bad as all that', or seek to point to clear signs of God's presence that make everything all right. The Christian will acknowledge that the situation is harsh, even apparently unhelpful – but will dare to say that they are willing to bring hope by what they offer in terms of compassion and service. And their own willingness and capacity for this is nourished by the prayer that the Spirit of Jesus has made possible for them.

The friends of Jesus are called, in other words, to offer *themselves* as signs of God in the world – to live in such a way that the underlying all-pervading energy of God begins to come through them and make a difference. If we are challenged as to where God is in the world, our answer must be to ask ourselves how we can live, pray and act so as to bring to light the energy at the heart of all things – to bring the face of Jesus to life in our faces, and to do this by turning again and again to the deep well of trust and prayer that the Spirit opens for us.

Archbishop Rowan Williams, from a sermon on Ascension Day, 2011