

Saint James' & Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway



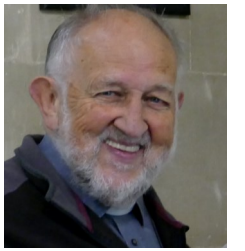
Around the Spire



June 2020

Issue No 58

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



PRAYING WITH ST BENEDICT

It seems ages ago since I introduced the first of our Lent series on Saturdays on this subject! It was actually the beginning of March, and the 15 or so people who took part helped to make it a very worthwhile session. It was clear from this that the need to be a people of prayer was very important to those who took part. Little did we know just how important this was some 15 days later when the events turned the whole world upside down.

In the introduction to this session I used these words -

**I DO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO AS THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY
AT ST JAMES AT THIS TIME IN OUR LIVES!**

And so, here we are as I write in the eighth week of this coronavirus outbreak with its wide ranging serious events touching so many lives – serious illness; death; worries of the future economy- and so on, and so on.

And for us as a part of the Christian church our way of life is almost put on hold – no worship in the ways we are used to and which help us so much – our churches and even our Cathedral locked to all comers – no visits to relatives or friends, even when they are in dire need!



So again as I said all those weeks ago in our parish magazine

**STOP – THINK – PRAY – ACT
HOW CAN I RESPOND TO GOD AT THIS TIME!**

Certainly our offering of prayer must come high on our agenda and if we are really honest, wondering just how and what!

It is a time for us as Christians a golden opportunity to ask God to help us realise that **WE ARE THE CHURCH!** And be a true witness to Christ in the world he came to save.

Recent issues of our **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER** have been extended to give more opportunity to give our readers some guidance in how and what we pray – forms of worship for us to use in our own homes where we have been forced to spend far more than usual of our time.

THE WAY FORWARD – the way things are at present with the latest news changing all the time does mean that we do need to have the Holy Spirit of God very much in our hearts and lives, to make us the **PRAYING COMMUNITY** to which we believe God is calling us to be.

So let us pray for one another whoever we are and in what ever circumstances we find ourselves. Who knows what this magazine foreward will be sharing in some four weeks time!

So God bless all who read these words, please pray for me as I will surely be praying for you!

FATHER HUGH your Editor

Below you will find a prayer guide for each day of the week which you may find helpful.

<p><u>A EVERYDAY PRAYER - DURING COVID-19</u></p> <p>Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of Uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, lift up all those brought low; that we may Rejoice in your comfort. Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Especially remembering today _____ Amen.</p>
<p>SUNDAY SAINT JAMES CLERGY AND CONGREGATION, ALL CHRISTIANS AND PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL</p>
<p>MONDAY SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF, CHILDREN AND ALL KEY WORKERS</p>
<p>TUESDAY THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE THOSE WHO ARE LONELY AND THE AFRAID</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY THE POLICE, THE EMERGENCY SERVICES, THE ARMED FORCES AND AID AGENCIES AND ALL IN AUTHORITY</p>
<p>THURSDAY THE NHS AND THEIR FAMILIES CHESTNUT COURT, QUEEN ANN COURT, THE LAWNS AND ALL CARE HOMES AND PROFESSIONS THEIR STAFF AND FAMILIES, THE VULNERABLE AT HOME CHEMISTS AND MEDICAL RESEARCHERS</p>
<p>FRIDAY THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ALL WHO MOURN, AND THOSE WHO OFFER BEREAVEMENT CARE AND SUPPORT</p>
<p>SATURDAY OUR SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS AND THEIR STAFF, ALL DELIVERY DRIVERS AND ALL THOSE WHO SUPPLY OUR DAILY NEED</p>

On the record - with the Rector

Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Parishioners and Friends

When you see the figures about those who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, 29,000 plus as I write; it can be asked, as I have been,

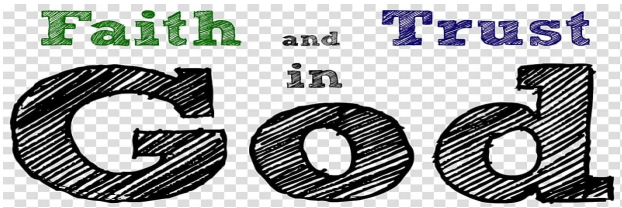
Where is God?

I can answer. I do not believe God is the author of this disaster, neither has he withdrawn from our plight. I can say that he is in the very midst of this suffering and there are tears in his eyes. I can say that God is with us. I can say this because of my faith – I like so many know that God is here, living receiving and blessing, because of trust, resurrection, hope and because of faith.

The Resurrection hope, is the hope of heaven, as opposed to the fear of hell which this virus for many has become. The hardest thing for me would be to doubt that or to deny it.

Our faith is put to the test in times of trial and perhaps it's meant to be.

So let us examine our



Let's start simply with Jesus, and faith and trust.

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”
(Luke 18: v16&17)

Let's continue our examination with the faith and trust of a little girl in God.

In a school lesson, a teacher was explaining a little bit about whales.

A little girl in class piped up and said: "I just learned that Jonah in the bible was swallowed by a whale."

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was relatively small. The girl said: "I am sure Jonah was swallowed by a whale."

The teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; that it was physically impossible. The little girl replied: "My Sunday school teacher told me Jonah was swallowed and she would not lie to me."

A bit perturbed by this, the teacher proclaimed: "That is a "story" from the bible, it is not factual, and I will not argue with you." After a little thought, the girl responded: "Well, when I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah". Now challenged, the teacher spouted: "What if Jonah didn't go to heaven?"

Not at all daunted, the girl quipped, ". . . . ok then you ask him."

Let's thank God for his gift of faith and trust.

While I respect people's freedom to choose, I do not know how people can live without faith.

Faith does not promise to solve problems or situations for that matter, but it does cement them and gives a purpose and something to uphold us as we walk life's journey, our pilgrimage of life. Faith helps us to rejoice in the blessings and joys of life and also faith gives us the courage and strength when things go wrong or even seem to threaten us.

Continue in faith and move mountains.

With my continued Easter Blessings,

Fr John

The Reverend Canon Fr John F. Ward
Rector of Quedgeley and Kingsway
Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.

Times & Seasons
After Pentecost -What happened
next?
By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



The next step in the plan of Salvation:

"Preach the gospel to every nation; baptise people everywhere in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and remember that I am with you always – even to the end of time".

With these words, Matthew ends his gospel-record. St Luke tells us that the disciples went back to Jerusalem and having been immersed in the Holy Spirit, began their work as Apostles – men who were "sent out" - with that very special task in hand. They were to be the foundation stones of the New Israel, the Body of Christ on earth. Naturally, Jerusalem was their headquarters, but it was not long before they began to spread out to other towns and cities – sometimes to avoid persecution, at other times in response to promptings by God or requests from new believers. The Acts of the Apostles gives us a brief glimpse into their lifestyle: sharing goods and property, taking meals together, meeting for the Eucharist, welcoming new members into their fellowship, and all the while looking expectantly for their Lord's return, when he would bring everything to completion. Sadly, as Jesus had foretold, not all of them survived for too long. James (the brother of John) was one of the first to die, murdered on the whim of Herod who was determined to rid his principality of this new movement.

The arrival of the new convert Paul (formerly the Pharisee Saul of Tarsus) gave the group a new impetus when he (Paul) began to take the gospel-message beyond the borders of Israel. Antioch in Syria had become an important Christian base – it has been suggested that it was in Antioch that the gospel of Matthew was compiled, and it was in Antioch that the new movement was first called "Christian". Cyprus also became a centre – founded by Paul and nurtured by Barnabas and John Mark (the author of the gospel).

There was a very serious debate held about how Gentiles should be welcomed – you can read all about it in Acts chapter 15; we could describe the event as the first Synod meeting that the Church ever held; there was in the beginning some strong disagreement, but eventually a good solution was reached and the Church moved forward. Despite lots of opposition from both Jewish Elders and Roman officials – which saw deaths, imprisonments, and beatings – the Church continued to grow. Paul believed that God's plan for him was that he should cross the Roman Empire to its most westerly point – Spain – known then as "the Ends of the earth". (There has been some speculation that he actually achieved that goal but there is no written evidence to support that claim.) While Peter originally saw



his role as leader of the Church in Jerusalem, we know that he also travelled, reaching Italy and becoming the first Bishop of Rome. There is an ancient tradition which tells of the Emperor Nero being persuaded to remove the Christians from Rome (the Jewish community blamed them for the fire of Rome). Peter was persuaded by the church members to leave the city and save his life; on his way out, he met Jesus, who in response to Peter's question "Where are you going, Lord?", answered "To Rome, to be crucified again". Peter at once turned back, re-entered the city and was eventually martyred alongside Paul (in the year 66AD).

Although the Roman Empire often persecuted the Christian Church, there is no doubt that the mere existence of the Empire was in some ways very helpful to the Church's mission. The famous Roman roads made travelling easier; the Roman fleet patrolling the Mediterranean went some way to removing the threat of piracy and thereby making sea travel safer. The judicial system and rule of law meant that trials were fairer – Paul waited for two years in Rome for his adversaries to arrive so that he could be heard before the Emperor. The fact that no one from Jerusalem did in fact turn up meant that Paul actually was declared innocent at the time. (Perhaps Roman coinage also made life easier – the first Euros!)

The love and courage of those first Christians meant that the gospel-message was carried far and wide within a relatively short time. Only forty years elapsed between the crucifixion of Jesus and the martyrdom of Peter and Paul, and I am sure that you are familiar with the tradition of Joseph of Arimathea coming to Britain and settling in Glastonbury (which was easily accessible from the sea in those days). The chief dilemma which our ancestors in the faith faced was that of the promised return of the Lord. They had come to understand that the great event would not be long in happening – Paul himself, in the earliest of his letters (1 Thessalonians) clearly expected it. But as time went by, and as the first generation began to die – either naturally or as martyrs – and still no Messianic return, those who had been eye-witnesses to Jesus' ministry in Israel believed they had a duty to record all that they had seen and could remember.

It was in Rome that Peter and his companions under house-arrest set to work. Bishop Papias, writing in 250AD tells us: "Mark was the interpreter of Peter, and that which Peter remembered, so Mark wrote down" - and so the first gospel record came to be compiled.

to be continued..... Fr Ian

Baptisms and Confirmations at Saint James'



The Faith We Sing
Trinity Sunday
By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



This year, Trinity Sunday falls on 7th June. If it had been possible for us to gather in Church we would, no doubt, have begun our service with these majestic lines:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

The object and purpose of singing hymns is to praise God and to honour his revelation as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and no hymn does it better than this! Its author, Reginald Heber, was ordained in the Church of England in the early 19th century and was later to become Bishop of Calcutta. Heber was strongly convinced that hymn-singing was a vital part of worship. He saw that it had done much to enliven the spiritual and devotional life of the Methodist Church and so he set to work on writing a hymn for each Sunday of the Christian Year based on the readings of the day. For Trinity Sunday, Heber took the Epistle of the day as his inspiration. Here, we read how the living creatures sing together:

Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come (Revelation ch4. v8).
Heber's hymn was up and away!

Fine words need strong tunes and the Victorian composer John Bacchus Dykes (1823-76) did not disappoint. Like Heber, Dykes was an Anglican priest, serving for many years as Precentor of Durham Cathedral and Vicar of St Oswald's, Durham. He named his tune NICEA – the city in Turkey (now called Iznik) where one of the great councils of the Church was held in 325 AD. The main theme of that Council was to affirm the Doctrine of the Trinity and to protect the Church from erroneous beliefs. Is it coincidental, I wonder, that Dykes chose to base the opening of his tune on a triad (a set of three notes that can be stacked vertically as a single chord)? If so, it is a further reminder of the Trinitarian faith which the Church affirms every time it gathers for worship.

Fr Michael

If you would like to listen to the hymn you'll find a Youtube link below.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBAps6KOzNU>

To be a Pilgrim - by Revd. Fr. Hugh Broad



The notion of Pilgrimage is familiar to all Christians, not just because of the well-know hymn by John Bunyan!

The lure of holy places is very real to us as they say so much of what our Faith is all about in all kinds of places and from all times.

In this series of articles I would like to share with you just some of the holy places I have been fortunate enough to visit over the years.. I do hope you will find it interesting and maybe give you a thirst to BE A PILGRIM as well!

Father Hugh.

ST BASIL OF OSTROG

A few years ago, my wife, Jackie and I had the thrill of visiting the shrine of this Orthodox Saint whose embalmed body rests at this Monastery high on the side of a mountain in Montenegro.



This picture does not really do justice to this Monastery building some 900m above the Zeta Valley – it has to be seen to be believed.

Ostrog is the most important site in Montenegro for Serbian Orthodox Christians attracting up to a million visitors a year. Of all traditions or none.

WHY IS IT SO POPULAR?

Basil, so called because he modelled himself on the much better known St Basil of Caesarea many centuries earlier.

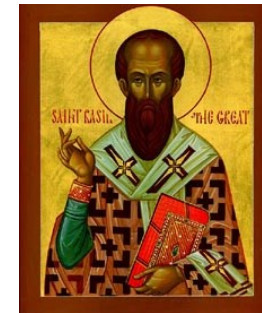
This Basil gained a reputation for Christian healing which drew pilgrims from far and wide, and this is very much a part of its witness today.

When we visited it on a very hot day in October we joined a long queue of people, seemingly of just about every language which exists! Actually there were two queues, the other being for a large number of the handicapped pilgrims who were understandably given priority, many having helpers to make the steep incline possible.

St Basil's body dressed in a black monastic habit lay on a flat raised surface – his features clear to see as were his hands and feet. Many of the pilgrims kissed the body – I managed to grasp his hand! We were only allowed very few minutes there, enough to say a prayer and take in the atmosphere of the place before we were ushered out for the next pilgrims to take our place.

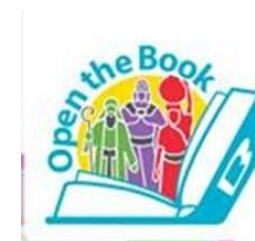
We then went to another chapel where a host of votive candles lit by pilgrims were placed - and then (inevitably) to a well stocked and cheap gift shop.

IN CONCLUSION – yes a most memorable Christian experience which I shall long remember..



This second picture is of the original St Basil who lived in the 4th century and who St Basil of Ostrog greatly admired and no doubt sought to emulate, including this well known quotation -

YOU DO WRONG TO EVERYONE YOU COULD HELP, BUT FAILED TO HELP!



St James' Open the Book team would like to remember David Fowler (RIP May 2019). A year ago, David sadly passed away after being a member of Open the Book for 10 years. During those years, he hardly missed a week of attending school assemblies to enact Bible stories. A tribute to him was printed in the July issue of 'Around the Spire' last year and we remember him fondly still; we remember his love of God, his humility and his dedication served with a smile. In the photo, David is playing the part of one of Jesus' disciples in the Open the Book story entitled, 'An Important Meal', in which Jesus shows his disciples that eating bread and drinking wine would be a special way to remember him; the story of the Last Supper.



Nature's Promise

**“Who will pick our flowers to make a daisy chain?
We’ll hold-on” said the daisies, “till the children play again.
We are under the same sky so united we will stand,
And the flora and the fauna will hold the human hand.”**

**“Who will use our branches to shelter from the rain?
We’ll stand tall”, said the oak tree, “till the lovers walk again”.**

**“It’s quiet”, said the robin, “I do not like it so;
“Then sing louder!” said the blackbird, “and let the people know
that the flora and the fauna will hold the human hand
until the darkness and the fear is lifted from our land.
The blossoms will be brighter, and the bird song sweeter still,
when we all can walk together – and I promise that we will.”**

PRAYING WITH ST BENEDICT

We are concentrating on St Benedict in our thoughts and hopefully our actions as a parish at this present time.

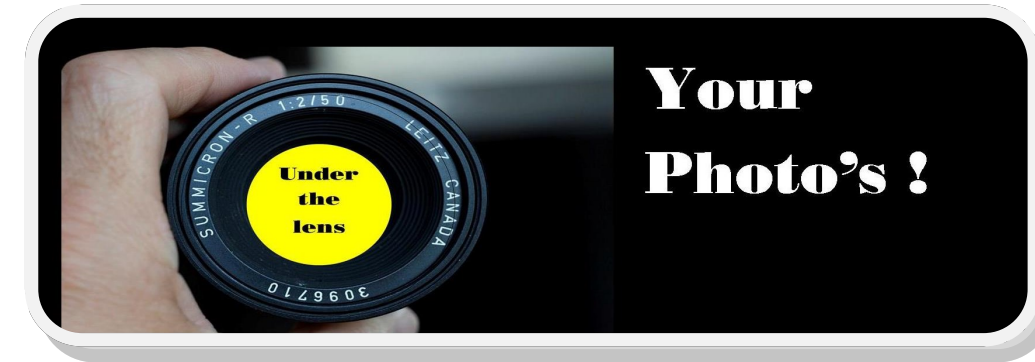
There follows a copy of the prayer of Saint Benedict which is used every day in Westminster Abbey which started life as a Benedictine religious community and in many Benedictine Communities in the Church, including Prinknash Abbey near Gloucester.

It is a particular favourite of mine, and when I act as a chaplain in Gloucester Cathedral (another Benedictine foundation) I like to use it when I lead prayers on the hour of the day.

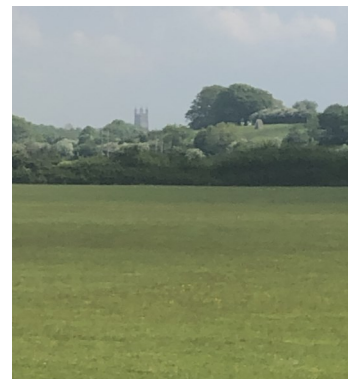
*O gracious and holy Father;
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
and a life to proclaim you;
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord
AMEN*

I do hope it will mean to you as much as it does to me!

FATHER HUGH



Out and About in the locality

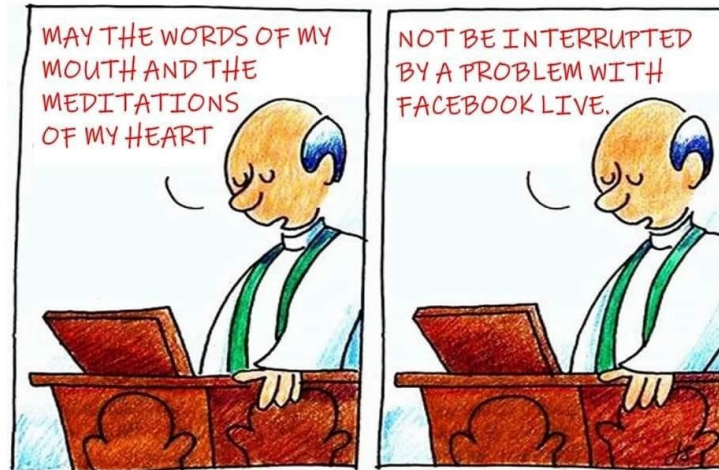
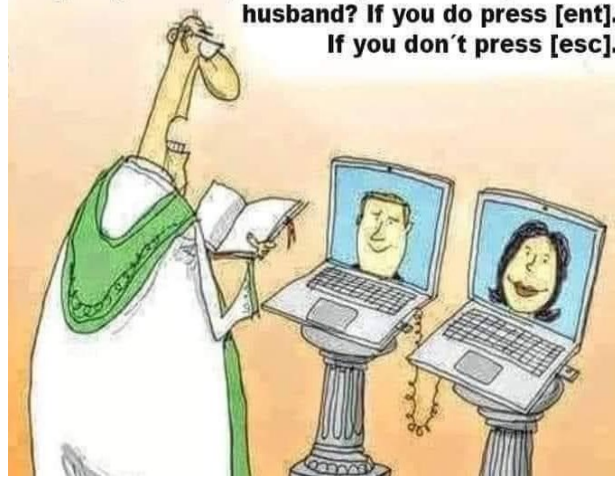


Thank you Theresa and Tesco's Quedgeley for remembering some of our local parishioners on VE day. A scone, jam and a lovely cup of tea went down really well! Great cards too!



Make you smile!

Mary, do you accept John as your lawfully wedded husband? If you do press [ent]. If you don't press [esc].



Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes four people to collect all the money!"

A boy was watching his father, a Vicar, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

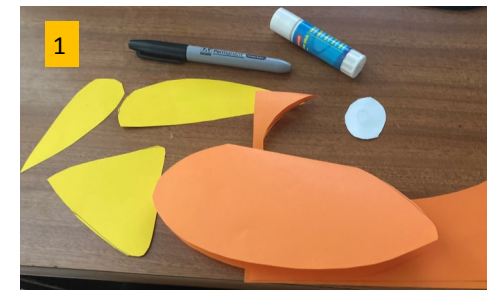
"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"



Let's get crafty—for our younger readers

Father's Day has been celebrated in many Roman Catholic countries since the middle ages and is celebrated on March 19th the feast day of Saint Joseph. It was also the day when people honoured their parish priest. However, the event has now become more secular and the UK follows the USA in celebrating Father's Day on the third Sunday in June. Here is a quick and simple craft for a Father's Day card. You can make up your own message and send it to Grandad too! This year Father's Day will be celebrated on June 21st.



You'll need two sheets of A4 coloured card or thick paper. Small piece of white paper. Glue and a black marker pen.

Fold one of the coloured sheets into two and draw the shape of the body of a fish. Make sure the top of its body is on the top crease of the paper.

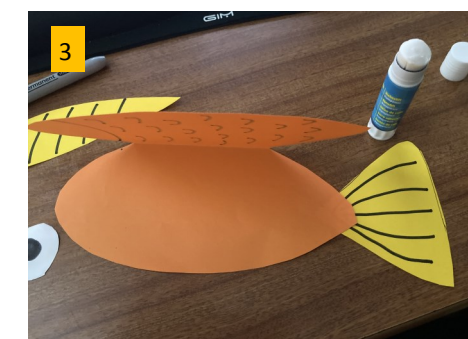
Next get an adult to help you.

Cut the fish out but DO NOT cut the top crease

Cut out shapes for the fins and tail from the other coloured piece of paper. Cut out a circle for the eye on the white piece of paper



Colour in the eye with your black marker pen and draw the fins and scales on the fish.



Stick the tail in place using your glue stick the fins to the outside body of the fish. Stick on the eye.



Design and stick in side the card the message. Don't forget to say who it is from



Your finished card!



Cedric the Fox outside his front door

Dear Girls and Boys

I hope you are all keeping well and being very good at home.

This is a photo of me, which Fr John took, I'm standing outside the front door of my house in the garden.

Do you like my Rainbow drawing?

I like to go out around Quedgeley & Kingsway late at night, when you are all fast asleep – but I have noticed the very lovely rainbows that you have put up on your doors and in your windows well done!

I have been up early again this morning looking for juicy slugs for breakfast *Yum Yum*! My friend Snogglegrass the worm was going to help me but he seems to have disappeared. I think he has gone off to collect some grass for his breakfast – He does not seem to like slugs for his breakfast, I cannot think why!

I am lucky in having Fr John, Seamus the dog and Snogglegrass the worm staying so near to my house. I know that lots of you are not able to see your friends at the moment, but I'm sure it's only for a little while longer and that soon we will all be able to go to school and work and play together. I'm looking forward to seeing you then.

In all the sadness that goes with this nasty virus we only need to remember what our friend Jesus told us,

“Remember I am with you always”

See you soon!!!

Cedric the Fox X X



Who's Who in the Parish

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