



CYTŪN LLANDUDNO

Llandudno Churches Together

Newsletter No. 39 February 2007

The President writes:

Instead of the usual letter from the President, I thought we might like to share this Lenten Message from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. Sharing the riches of one another's understanding of Christianity is at the heart of what ecumenism is all about. I hope this letter will help us all to deepen our love for the Lord and to progress more fruitfully through the holy seasons of Lent and Easter.

God bless you all, Father Antony Jones.

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM POPE BENEDICT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*“They shall look on Him whom they have pierced” (John 19:37). This is the biblical theme that this year guides our Lenten reflection. Lent is a favourable time to learn to stay with Mary and John, the beloved disciple, close to Him who on the Cross, consummated for all mankind the sacrifice of His life (cf. John 19:25). With a more fervent participation let us direct our gaze, therefore, in this time of penance and prayer, at Christ crucified who, dying on Calvary, revealed fully for us the love of God. In the Encyclical [*Deus caritas est*](#), I dwelt upon this theme of love, highlighting its two fundamental forms: *agape* and *eros*.*

God's love: *agape* and *eros*

The term *agape*, which appears many times in the New Testament, indicates the self-giving love of one who looks exclusively for the good of the other. The word *eros*, on the other hand, denotes the love of one who desires to possess what he or she lacks and yearns for union with the beloved.

The love with which God surrounds us is undoubtedly *agape*. Indeed, can man give to God some good that He does not already possess? All that the human creature is and has is divine gift. It is the creature then, who is in need of God in everything. But God's love is also *eros*. In the Old Testament, the Creator of the universe manifests toward the people whom He has chosen as His own a predilection that transcends every human motivation.

The prophet Hosea expresses this divine passion with daring images such as the love of a man for an adulterous woman (cf. 3:1-3). For his part, Ezekiel, speaking of God's relationship with the people of Israel, is not afraid to use strong and passionate language (cf. 16:1-22). These biblical texts indicate that *eros* is part of God's very heart: the Almighty awaits the “yes” of His creatures as a young bridegroom that of his bride. Unfortunately, from its very origins, mankind, seduced by the lies of the Evil One, rejected God's love in the illusion of a self-sufficiency that is impossible (cf. *Gen* 3:1-7). Turning in on himself, Adam withdrew from that source of life who is God Himself, and became the first of “those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage” (*Heb* 2:15). God, however, did not give up. On the contrary, man's “no” was the decisive impulse that moved Him to manifest His love in all of its redeeming strength.

The Cross reveals the fullness of God's love

It is in the mystery of the Cross that the overwhelming power of the heavenly Father's mercy is revealed in all of its fullness. In order to win back the love of His creature, He accepted to pay a very high price: the blood of His only begotten Son. Death, which for the first Adam was an extreme sign of loneliness and powerlessness, was thus transformed in the supreme act of love and freedom of the new Adam. One could very well assert, therefore, together with Saint Maximus the Confessor, that Christ “died, if one could say so, divinely, because He died freely” (*Ambigua*, 91, 1956). On the Cross, God's *eros* for us is made manifest. *Eros* is indeed – as Pseudo-Dionysius expresses it – that force “that does not allow the lover to remain in himself but moves him to become one with the beloved” (*De divinis nominibus*, IV, 13: PG 3, 712).

Is there more “mad *eros*” (N. Cabasilas, *Vita in Cristo*, 648) than that which led the Son of God to make Himself one with us even to the point of suffering as His own “**Him whom they have pierced**”

Dear brothers and sisters, let us look at Christ pierced in the Cross! He is the unsurpassing revelation of God’s love, a love in which *eros* and *agape*, far from being opposed, enlighten each other. On the Cross, it is God Himself who begs the love of His creature: He is thirsty for the love of every one of us. The Apostle Thomas recognized Jesus as “Lord and God” when he put his hand into the wound of His side. Not surprisingly, many of the saints found in the Heart of Jesus the deepest expression of this mystery of love. One could rightly say that the revelation of God’s *eros* toward man is, in reality, the supreme expression of His *agape*. In all truth, only the love that unites the free gift of oneself with the impassioned desire for reciprocity instills a joy, which eases the heaviest of burdens. Jesus said: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself” (*John* 12:32). The response the Lord ardently desires of us is above all that we welcome His love and allow ourselves to be drawn to Him. Accepting His love, however, is not enough. We need to respond to such love and devote ourselves to communicating it to others. Christ “draws me to Himself” in order to unite Himself to me, so that I learn to love the brothers with His own love.

Blood and water

“*They shall look on Him whom they have pierced.*” Let us look with trust at the pierced side of Jesus from which flow “blood and water” (*John* 19:34)! The Fathers of the Church considered these elements as symbols of the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. Through the water of Baptism, thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit, we are given access to the intimacy of Trinitarian love. In the Lenten journey, memorial of our Baptism, we are exhorted to come out of ourselves in order to open ourselves, in trustful abandonment, to the merciful embrace of the Father (cf. Saint John Chrysostom, *Catecheses*, 3,14ff).

Blood, symbol of the love of the Good Shepherd, flows into us especially in the Eucharistic mystery: “The Eucharist draws us into Jesus’ act of self-oblation ... we enter into the very dynamic of His self-giving” (Encyclical *Deus caritas est*, 13). Let us live Lent then, as a “Eucharistic” time in which, welcoming the love of Jesus, we learn to spread it around us with every word and deed. Contemplating “Him whom they have pierced” moves us in this way to open our hearts to others, recognizing the wounds inflicted upon the dignity of the human person; it moves us, in particular, to fight every form of contempt for life and human exploitation and to alleviate the tragedies of loneliness and abandonment of so many people. May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God’s love given to us in Christ, a love that each day we, in turn, must “regive” to our neighbour, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need. Only in this way will we be able to participate fully in the joy of Easter. May Mary, Mother of Beautiful Love, guide us in this Lenten journey, a journey of authentic conversion to the love of Christ. I wish you, dear brothers and sisters, a fruitful Lenten journey, imparting with affection to all of you, a special Apostolic Blessing.

BENEDICTUS PP XVI

Cytûn Lenten Exercise 2007

Dear Friends,

With the departure of Fr Andrew, we have not got round to arranging anything for Lent this year. At an *ad hoc* after the last Cytûn Clergy Lunch, we came to the conclusion that repeating what we have done for the past two years, namely discussions at Stella Maris, would not be a good idea, as the numbers last year fell significantly short of the previous year. We thought instead of the possibility of House Groups, but there was insufficient time to get that idea off the ground, though it could well be kept in mind for next year.

So, thinking about these things, I came up with an idea. That we invite parishioners and congregations, if they are not at the time already engaged in some other kind of worship, to attend the Evensong at Holy Trinity at 5pm on the Sundays of Lent.

This would ensure the continuation of the tradition of Cytûn **Lenten prayer**, yet it would not add to the existing load of any of the Ministers. The Evensong would be exactly as it would have been anyway.

I put this to the Rector and his first reaction was that he didn't want anyone to think that the Anglicans were hogging it. When I told him that I would make sure that everyone knew the idea came from me, and therefore he need not worry on that score, he was very welcoming.

I therefore hope as many of us as possible will be able to join the **Rector and people of Holy Trinity** for **Evensong** on the **Sundays of Lent at 5:00 pm.**

Fr Antony Jones.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 6th 2007

WALK OF WITNESS

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN
THE SILENT WALK OF
WITNESS**

TO OUR CRUCIFIED LORD

**Beginning outside the Town Hall
at 11:45 am**

we walk in total silence along
Lloyd Street and Mostyn Street to

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

for an outdoor service at 12 noon
led by the President, Fr Antony Jones
at which the Llandudno Town Band will
play for the hymns.

Cytûn Council Meeting

To report that the Cytûn Llandudno Council met at Stella Maris on Tuesday January 30th at 2:00 pm. The chair was taken by Father Antony Jones who explained that as Father Andrew Franklin had been transferred to Holywell, he had agreed to continue as sole President until the AGM in May. The President reported that Prebendary John Nice had agreed to be named as President Designate for the year 2007/8. The President welcomed the Revd Warwick Jaundrill of Llanrhos Parish who was attending for the first time, then he opened the proceedings with prayer.

It was reported that attempts to establish a town centre chaplaincy had met with little response. Fr Antony reported that he was no longer involved with the Asda Chaplaincy but that the Revd Jane Allen was continuing.

The feared closure of Llandudno Hospital was fully discussed at the meeting and it was noted that a further protest meeting was planned for the end of April. The use of the Hospital Chapel was also discussed.

It was reported that the parish of Llangystennin have withdrawn from membership of Cytûn Llandudno.

The Secretary reported that Mrs Mona Savage, now in her nineties and a Life member was unable, owing to infirmity, to attend further meetings. She was a founder member of Cytûn Llandudno and sent greeting to all members. The members asked that she be taken flowers as a token of our appreciation and thanks for all her work.

Neil Kirkham reported that the Food Co-operative is now working well, with Communities First alongside the volunteers. The plan now is to set up a Debt Agency similar to that at Antioch, to concentrate on debt counselling as well as debt problems, working with family budgeting and supporting families in the community. There are already four volunteers and if eight can be found, training can be provided over two Saturdays. A grant has been applied for.

The Secretary reported that she and the Vice-President, the Revd Pam Crane had attended the

first meeting of the newly formed CCB Cytûn Forum which had applied for charity status and gave a full account of the matters discussed. She reported that a bid had been made to the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund for money to employ a Development Officer to work particularly in the rural areas to increase the scope of the organisation.

David Smith gave an explanation of the various partnerships on which CCB Cytûn might have representation. He will draw up a document with this information so that suitable names might be sought for putting forward.

It was agreed that dialogue with people of other faiths should be the first focus, and discussion of other pressing topics be deferred to the next meeting. Nick Sissons reported that in his District Role as Inter-Faith Secretary for the Methodist Church he had already opened talks with the Iman and Secretary of the Junction Mosque.

The next meeting of the Cytûn Council will be at Stella Maris on April 24th 2007 at 2:00 pm.

Arline Griffiths, Secretary.

Cytûn Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:30 pm at Stella Maris.

Induction of the Cytûn President

The Induction of Prebendary John Nice as President of Cytûn Llandudno for the year 2007/8 will take place on Wednesday, May 30th at 7:30 pm in Holy Trinity Church.

Annual Luncheon

This has been arranged for Sunday October 7th and will be held at the Queen's Hotel, Llandudno Promenade. The cost for the three course luncheon is expected to be about £10.

When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as I the hypocrites do.' (Matthew 6:16) :

St Jerome said; "When the stomach is full it is easy to talk of fasting." How true these words are. Self denial does not come naturally. To deny ourselves anything kicks against the grain. During Lent we are invited to take up three observances; prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to charity). These things are not ends in themselves but rather disciplines which bring us closer to God. They are, if you can see it like this, works of love. They involve us in dying to self and living for God. They involve having to turn away from self and turn to God. They are signs of our love for God.

Heavenly Father, teach me to deny myself and fast during Lent. In fasting may I learn to love and appreciate food and to praise and thank you for the blessing it is to have it. In fasting may I learn to give generously so that those who hunger and thirst may be fed.

From: "Walk with Me" Lenten Prayers for 2007.

Monthly Prayers

A Reminder: The Cytûn Monthly Prayers at the Emmanuel Centre, Lloyd Street, Llandudno on Second Saturday every month – from at 8:30 am.

Cytûn Officers 2006:

President: Fr Antony Jones (01492 870707)
Vice-President: Revd Pam Crane (01492 875685)
Secretary: Mrs Arline Griffiths (01492 870051)
Treasurer: Mrs Margaret Baker (01492 543165)
President Designate:
Prebendary John Nice (01492 876624)

Cytûn Newsletter & Cytûn Website:

www.llandudnochurches.org.uk

Would members please check their own Church entry on the Cytûn website and if any change is needed, please contact Noel Walley phone: 01492 874217 or email: noel@llandudno.com