

St. Thomas of Canterbury

Tales

JUNE 2011

From Bishop Sean:

June 2011 sees the Church celebrating both the Feast of the Ascension & Pentecost. The Ascension often is often pushed to one side and in so doing we miss not only its historical significance but also are separated from its practical outworking for Us. This day is meant to celebrate the completion of the work of our salvation, the pledge of our glorification with Christ and His entry into heaven with our human nature glorified. Christ Jesus has truly dealt with our past and future which means that we can live in His peace in the present.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun:
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed;
let shouts of holy joy outburst
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;
he rises glorious from the dead;
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee
Alleluia!

As you reflect and worship with these wonderful words I pray that the presence of the Risen, Ascended & Glorified Lord fill you afresh with all joy in believing.

+Sean

From the Rector:

These past few weeks Jesus is talking and teaching his disciples about the things to come. The disciples have gotten used to Jesus being with them and don't understand that to fulfill his mission Jesus must leave them. Just as Jesus prepared his disciples for the time that he would leave them so he prepares you to go forth in his love and service.

Just as Jesus sent to his disciples the Comforter, the Holy Ghost to be with them and guide them. So too has Jesus given to you the Holy Ghost to be with you and guide you. The question for you is how you react to that guidance. Do you in your daily life seek out that guidance? Then having found the guidance of the Holy Ghost do ignore the message or do you listen and follow the teachings and path that are set before you.

God sent His Son to redeem us from our sins. Jesus has promised that we would have the Holy Ghost to guide us so that we would not fall back into the way of sin. This Thursday June 2nd is Ascension Day when Jesus left his disciples. On Pentecost Jesus followed through on His promise to send the Holy Ghost to be with His disciples and you forever. Let the Holy Ghost work in your life, giving you guidance and direction. Let that path be the path that you follow.

Fr. Bill

WHAT IS NEXT?

Pentecost, "the Fiftieth [day]" is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. The feast is also called Whitsunday. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday.

Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to

the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the “Birthday of the Church”. Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday has the status of a Principal Feast in the Church of England and is one of seven principal feast days in the Episcopal Church. Thomas Becket (1118–70) was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on the Sunday after Whitsunday, and his first act was to ordain that the day of his consecration should be held as a new festival in honor of the Holy Trinity. This observance spread from Canterbury throughout the whole of Christendom

SEDER SERVICE and SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday, we again held a Passover Seder Service and Supper followed by Holy Communion and stripping the Altar in preparation for Good Friday. Passover is celebrated in the home with family and friends as they eat a meal together. It is customary to invite guests to share the Seder meal, especially newcomers to the community. The Passover Seder tells the story of God’s grace in history and calls the participants to experience and share in the story.

If anyone is ill at home, in the hospital, home bound or otherwise incapacitated, and would like to receive the Holy Sacrament, please call Fr. Bill at 661-5742 or Bert Grandin at 885-4768 and arrangements will be made.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Plans are being made to hold our annual Church picnic in July. A firm date will be announced shortly. It is hoped everyone will try to come. We had a grand time last year!

CONGRATULATIONS

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversar
June 1st	Barbara Grandin
June 6th	Jim & Alyson Meyers
June 28th	Nancy Weatherwax
July 7th	Alyson Meyers
July 12th	Doris & Stanley Horrocks
July 16th	Pauline DeWald
July 24th	Art LeBlanc
August 15th	David Bullard & Hilary Tann
August 20th	Joseph Andrist
August 22nd	Barbara & Bert Grandin

RICHARD DIBBLE ORDINATION

Deacon Richard Dibble became Father Dibble just a few weeks ago, ordained to the sacred order of priests at the hands of Bishop Marsh on May 7, 2011. The service was originally scheduled for Trinity Pro Cathedral in Rochester NH. The facilities of St. Thomas of Canterbury Anglican Church, Halfmoon NY were made available for the Ordination.

The Rev. Richard Scott Dibble is a native of upstate New York, graduating from High School in Clinton NY in 1986. He is a self employed contractor, having started his contracting business (Sunshine Construction) in 1989, and also a small scale farmer and landlord. Fr. Rich is married Caroline VanDyke in 1993. They have five children, Emily (1996), Abraham (1997), Joseph (1999), Elijah (2002), and Ruth (2006), all homeschooled by Caroline. He answered a call to ministry and was ultimately ordained deacon in 2000 at the Church of the Resurrection, in Ansonia, CT, then part of the Anglican Province of Christ the King, serving in St. Lucy’s Mission centering from his home in West Winfield NY, and, since 2005, has been director of St. Luke’s Camp. Deacon Dibble conducted the Lenten study and devotion program at St. Thomas of Canterbury this year.

STUDY GROUP

Our St. Thomas of Canterbury Study Group is pursuing ways and means of answering the desires expressed by active and lapsed communicants in their responses to our January questionnaire.

To review, forty eight families regard themselves as members though average Sunday attendance seldom approaches a dozen individuals. We learned that the large majority of our parish's membership wants a resident, full-time rector to develop and lead robust teaching and worship activities for adults and youngsters alike. It was made clear to the Study Group that responders want the community presence such a rector would create. It is fair to say that while virtually everyone acknowledges and respects the limitations imposed by part-time leadership it is felt that the parish is going nowhere and, in fact, will decline if it continues as is. This concern is painfully illustrated by the fact that to survive St. Thomas' operating expenses exceed income by an average of nearly six hundred dollars every month. This shortfall is met by raiding our modest endowment. Failure to correct this imbalance would force St. Thomas of Canterbury to disappear in two or three years' time.

Some members stay away because they feel that their needs were ignored when they were experiencing health and other personal crises. Others have lapsed because they despair of improvement. Everyone wants to be identified with success, no one with failure.

The Study Group's task is developing proposals for leadership and growth and the means to finance both. Several discussions are underway that we believe may lead to specific and practical proposals within the next few months. It is premature to go into details at this time.

Everybody in our parish admires Father Bill Andrist for his years of faithful service and his graceful approach to worship while understanding the restraints imposed upon him by his secular employment, his distance from Halfmoon and his civic and family responsibilities.

The Study Group is aware, too, that there is a handful of members who are content with our existing arrange-

ments. Their concerns we shall do our best to address as well.

Faithfully,
David Bullard, Chairman

(Members of the Study Group are Arthur LeBlanc, Elaine Stanley, Stanley Horrocks and David Bullard)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

With all the snow and rain we have had, we again had some basement flooding. David and Stanley rerigged up a sump pump and got the basement dry again. Because of the water on the floor, we had to have the hot water heater serviced and repaired. We now have plenty of hot water.

David is again taking care of the lawn and has kept it looking very good. Alyson has been tending the outdoor flowers and keeping the gardens neat. Our sincere thanks to these hard workers.

Bert obtained anew American flag for the front of the Church. Some of the severe winds tore the flag we had to shreds.

Regularly, someone takes the time to vacuum, dust and generally clean up the Church so it is always looking nice. THANK YOU

Please send me your comments, suggestions or articles for the next TALES.

Bert Grandin
bgrandin@nycap.rr.com or 885-4768