

The Timetable and the Financial Report which usually appear on this page are on the website, with the Timetable on the notice board as well.

I want to remind you today of the International Mass which we hold every Pentecost Sunday. This Mass celebrates the fact that our Parish has become really and truly Catholic in every sense of the word; Catholic in its faith and Catholic in its universality, embracing men and women from every continent of the world.

Pentecost this year falls on 23 May. The 930am Mass on that day will be our International Mass, at which, I hope, all the different ethnic groups making up our Parish Family will take part.

The Mass will begin with representatives from every group carrying in their national flag which will then be grafted into our Parish Tree (all will be revealed in time!). Then, during the Mass, prayers and readings will be said in the various languages of our Parish.

Pentecost Sunday was the day when the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles who found themselves speaking all the different languages of the ancient world, a sign that the Gospel would be preached to the ends of the earth. We relive this wonderful event by reading the first

reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which tells of this miracle, in Latin, Greek and Arabic, the principal languages of the time.

The main reason for this celebration is to express to God our delight in the wonderful diversity of our human family and the amazing way in which the Catholic Church can bring people together as brothers and sisters, despite differences of culture, language and race. The congregation becomes a microcosm of the world as God would have it be, men and women of totally different backgrounds yet living together in loving harmony and united by a bond tighter even than the tie of blood, the bond of our belonging to Christ.

The Mass will be followed by a party at Stella Maris when we will have the opportunity of sharing foods originating in the different cultures that make up our Parish Family.

If you would like to take an active part in this Mass, please come to a meeting at Stella Maris on Thursday at 730pm.

God bless you, Fr Antony

EIN HARGLWYDDES SEREN Y MÔR OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA LLANDUDNO

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

25 April 2010

*May we know Christ more clearly,
love him more dearly
and follow him more nearly*

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Dear Parishioner,

I absolutely saw red on Thursday evening. (And blue and yellow.) I could have put my boot through the television screen, had it not been Sister Jennifer's television I was watching!

Did you watch the Prime Ministerial Debate? If you did, you would have seen and heard that shifty looking character put his question about the Pope's visit to Britain and the response of the three men whose aspirations are to lead the British People into the future. God help us all.

When it was the British Parliament's express intention to delete Catholicism from the face of Britain, it put out anti-catholic and anti-papal propaganda by the tonne. And, as we all know, if you throw muck, some of it sticks. And some of it is still sticking, four centuries after the Reformation. So many British people still harbour weird ideas about the Church and the Holy Father. The shifty-looking character who posed that question for debate by the three contenders was obviously one such person.

This fact alone, that so many people have faulty notions about Catholicism, puts us at a disadvantage for a start; but add to that the real scandal of the paedophile priests, and you have a big problem.

But it wasn't the question that nearly provoked my boot to fly through the air space of Sister Jenni-

fer's living room. It was the answers it got.

With regard to this question of the Papal Visit, there was hardly a shred of sincerity in the response of any of those would-be prime ministers. It was all political correctness, with an eye to the Catholic vote.

It was to woo the Catholic vote, and I am sure for no other reason, that all three contenders said they would welcome the papal visit, adding lashings of airy-fairy stuff about it being good for all religions to live happily together.

But because the British People live in what Pope John Paul II so famously called the "Culture of Death", because they have lost the respect for human life and human dignity and therefore are prepared to abort their own kind without a second thought and are well on the way to treating the old and infirm in much the same way, and because society has divorced love from sex and regards intercourse as just a pleasurable activity with only an accidental connection with new and sacred human life, those three men could happily defend abortion and contraception and win thereby the plaudits of the audience and the country. What a travesty, what a mockery of Catholicism they portrayed; they did the Catholic Church more harm in those two minutes than could ever have been imagined! The tragedy was that there was no one to stand up and speak the truth.

The following morning, Friday, as I said my morning prayers, I read by chance the following passage from the fifth chapter of the Book of the Apocalypse:

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

I wept and wept because there was no one to open the seals, no one in that debate who had the faintest idea of what the Catholic Church is really saying, no one with any sense of the spiritual values that underpin all the Church's teachings. Standing there behind their podiums, scoring points off one another and yearning for power, they were all proclaiming that man can indeed live on bread alone. Christ is wrong; he has nothing to say; and neither has his Church.

But the reading went on: "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has tri-

umphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." The Church, for which those men had no respect, is the very Body of Christ, who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and who has triumphed over sin and spin and half-truths and deceit and death and who is in full control not only of his Church but of history too.

One with Christ, as we are through Baptism and the Eucharist, it is our job to open the scroll with Him, to open wide to the world the book of the Catholic Church. Our job to reveal to people what the Catholic Church is really about; what values it holds dear; why it reverences life and respects its sanctity; why it promotes marriage and regards sex within marriage as the very reflection of the love of God Himself; why it reckons all men and women as equal and equally deserving of respect, education, health care, opportunity and a government that supplies them with all these things including essential spiritual values. The Church has everything to say.

Though the Church be under attack (and I make no excuse for the paedophile priests—read my article on the website) we must be totally confident that the "gates of hell will never prevail against it", that the Church alone has the whole truth, that it alone has the message of true life for the nations. Politics and politicians will never be genuine until they embrace the teachings of Christ as proclaimed by the Holy Catholic Church. And that's a fact! And to that end we must all do our bit!