



THE ARCHANGEL

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New Creatures

Throughout the epistles of the New Testament, the Holy Spirit clearly outlines the divine expectations for a redeemed humanity. Now that Christ has paid the debt of our sins and won for us sanctifying grace which makes us children of God, we are bound to nothing less than spiritual and moral perfection. Our lives must be in accordance with the holy state to which we have been elevated. Christ's injunction now compels us: *Be thou perfect as thy heavenly Father is perfect!*

Naturally, our lives will be very different to the lives of pagans and non-believers. Christ's followers should stand out like a sore thumb. They should be easily identifiable thanks to the high standards of behaviour to which they hold themselves. « Know you not, that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you ? » (1Cor. 3:16) Whereas our soul was once marred by sin, now it is enlivened and ennobled by divine grace. St Paul warns the Corinthians: « If anybody desecrates the temple of God, God will bring him to ruin. It is a holy thing, this temple of God which is nothing other than yourselves. » (1Cor. 3:17)

In his various epistles, St Paul develops the theology around the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Our Lord often referred to Himself as the Son of Man, a title that references His position as humanity's representative or delegate. As such, His death and resurrection should be understood as the death and resurrection of all of mankind whom He encapsulated in His incarnate, divine Person. Just as man was cursed in Adam, so now He is blessed and exalted in Jesus Christ.

St Paul continues: through baptism we are incorporated into Christ and become participants in the victory, blessings and exaltation that He has merited for mankind. The purifying waters wherein we are submerged or buried, as He was buried in the silence of the tomb, cause us to rise again as new creatures. Whereas we were heirs to Adam's loss of grace, we are

now heirs to Christ's holiness. Baptism has incorporated us in One who is infinitely holy and pure, and whose holiness, justice and purity have become ours. In the words of St. Paul: "We are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones" (Eph 5:30).

St Paul does not hesitate to equate the process of incorporation into Christ's Mystical Body to a recreation of our being: « When a man is in Christ Jesus, there has been a new creation. » (Gal. 6:15) He concludes elsewhere « It follows that when a man becomes a new creature in Christ, his old life has disappeared, everything has become new about him. » (2 Cor. 5:17)

We often forget that St Paul wrote his epistles not only to Jewish converts but most especially to freshly converted pagans whose moral habits rivalled what we see today. Yet St Paul did not temper his expectations or dilute his preaching. He demanded a complete conversion of the heart and a radical change in attitude and behaviour. Had not our Lord said to His disciples: « You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world » ? (Mat. 5:13-14) St Paul believes in the power of our Lord's redemption and in the vigour of Christ's holiness and justice which has become our share. He therefore demanded of his converts that their lives reflect and demonstrate the divine life within.

« Therefore if you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above; where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth. » (Col. 3:1)

Christian perfection is really quite simple. We need only to remember always that we belong to Christ and that His perfection is our perfection. In Him and through Him we will be able to fulfil Christ's command to « Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. »

May God grant us a very happy and holy Easter.

Fr John Brucciani, Prior

Custodians of Divine Grace

We are again blessed with a new wave of infant Baptisms. The rite of Baptism is a simple and sober ceremony, free of pomp and solemnity. The child is brought to church and then taken home. Life goes on as before.

Yet faith tells us that this simple and sober ceremony is of greater import and magnificence than the creation of the world. It is something which God esteems of equal value to Himself, for which He readily gives His divine life in exchange for its possession.

A New Creation

In his epistle to the Colossians, St. Paul describes the effects of Baptism. He bids his readers to "Give thanks to God the Father, Who has made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins." (Col. 1, 12-14)

Baptism applies to us the merits of the Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ. It is a ritual made of water and words which is invested with a power greater than that which presided over the creation of the universe. As the priest mumbles his words and fumbles his gestures, and the family looks on with distraction and amusement, heaven and hell engage in mighty confrontation. Satan is summoned by God and dispossessed of that which once belonged to him. By virtue of His sacrifice on Calvary, Christ lays claim to a soul which is transferred from sin (the absence of grace) to saintliness (sanctifying grace). The baptised soul now belongs to the "Son of God's love". It is forever sealed with an indelible mark. It is henceforth set aside for God's service, and woe to that soul if it does not live up to its sublime vocation. Our Lord does not like to lose possession of that which He has purchased with His blood.

Parents bring to the priest a helpless child. They take away with them a child of God to whom God has entrusted his most precious treasure: Himself in the form of divine friendship.

Through Baptism God brings into being a new member of His Son's Mystical Body. He resurrects the spiritually dead soul and infuses it with a share in His own divine life. The result of Baptism is a new creature who is, by divine right, destined to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Sons and daughters of men become sons and daughters of God.

Keepers of God's Treasure

Parents should, therefore, be aware of the almighty responsibility imposed upon them when they receive into their midst a baptised soul, beloved and espoused to God. Once the child is baptised, parents cradle in their arms the price of Christ's blood. They nurse the prize of His Passion. They care for an intimate friend of God destined to share His eternal beatitude. One day God will commune with the child in the intimacy of His Eucharistic embrace. Truly, parents inherit a terrifying responsibility when they give their child to God in Baptism.

Parents are therefore keepers of God's treasure. Each child is a pearl of great price for which God sold all He had - his only Son. It is God's plan to one day share all He has and all He is with that child. Meanwhile every child's home must be a place where his divine destiny is made secure.

We must understand that a healthy and saintly home is the most congenial environment for sanctifying grace to grow strong and efficient in the moulding of a soul into a likeness of Christ. As guardians of God's treasure, parents will organise family life around the primary duty of protecting, preserving and favouring the increase of divine life in their children's souls. Every decision they make will ultimately revolve around the question of divine grace. Where and when possible, schools will be chosen in as much as they favour and foster grace. Those that either endanger the life of grace or simply do not recognise its existence, will be avoided at all costs, lest the price of Christ's blood be lost and the Lord, being angry, delivers to the torturers until all the debt has been paid. (Matt.18:34)

Busy with Holiness

Wise parental administration of family life is not the only safeguard to the life of grace in the souls of each family member. Parents must also carry out a work proper to themselves and to the sacrament of marriage that binds them to each other and through which God creates for Himself new pearls of great price.

Parents must busy themselves with holiness. When they first bring their child to the baptismal font, parents become an occasion of grace outside of which the child's soul would remain cut off from God's love. While the child grows up, through the power of the sacrament of marriage, parents remain the principal occasion of grace to their children. The

child's growth in holiness is very much tied to the parents' own personal growth in holiness. Though not infallible, it is the general rule that faithful souls come from parents full of Faith.

In a world that crashes on towards moral and material chaos, there is little doubt that today's generation will be called upon to witness the Faith as in times of old. Only God knows if we will be called to shed our blood, but it is likely that much of what we have will be taken from us and that we will become outcasts in a society that has chosen to embrace the unnatural and the iniquitous as new forms of virtue and wisdom. Institutions, schools in particular, will be called upon to expressly teach the new morality, which no Catholic school may do.

Religion may one day only exist in the secret of the family. There may be, one day, no other means for a child to learn to know and love God. There may be, one day, no churches, no chapels and no schools. The Catholic Church will return to the catacombs, and the family will be the only place where the Faith will be passed on.

Parents should, therefore, brace themselves. They should recall the solemnity of their marital vows, and the daunting responsibilities of receiving a child of God in their midst. They should be intimately aware of and call upon the sacrament which binds them to each other, and cultivate the graces of holiness at their disposal. In times of persecution, nothing short of heroism suffices to remain faithful. Parents must be heroic if they wish to instil heroism in their children, lest they cast their children into the world as pearls before swine.

These are the thoughts that pass through a priest's mind as he pours water over a baby's head and generates a new child of God. They should also be the thoughts of father and mother, who should murmur as they watch their children play: « « Behold how they are numbered among the children of God, and their lot is among the saints. » (Wis.5:5)

Note to Parents

Please refrain from bringing into the church nave food and toys to occupy babies and toddlers. With such items in hand, the poor things are unable to comprehend why they should keep quiet when at home they may laugh and play with such items to their heart's content.

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IS NOT A PIECE OF FURNITURE.**

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In anticiaption of Holy Week, and for feastdays recently passed and to come, a very great and generous

THANK YOU

to the choir for their dedication and expertise, fruit of hours of individual labrut and long rehearsals.

Holy Mass will be offered for choir members on Sunday 14th April, 9:00. Mass « for the people » is offered each Sunday at either 7:30 or 9:00.

INCREASE YOUR DONATIONS BY 25%

- USE THE YELLOW ENVELOPES
- MAKE ANNUAL ONLINE [GIFT AID DECLARATION](#)



Terribilis est, locus iste

« And when Jacob awaked out of sleep, he said: Indeed the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not. And trembling he said: How terrible is this place! this is no other but the house of God, and the gate of heaven. »

(Gen. 28:16-17)



Bake Sale Laetare Sunday
£332.40 for school library!

Thank you for your purchases!

Monday 6th May

May Procession

10:30 Solemn High Mass

Parish picnic

14:30 Procession + Benediction



We have begun a long awaited project of renovating and replacing old and worn vestments with new creations. Individual vestments and solemn mass sets (matching chasuble, dalmatics, + humeral veil) are needed. Two new violet vestments are already in use, made by a parishioner, using the finest fabrics available (£250/m). Only the finest is good enough for Holy Mass.

Work is underway for a third vestment in white silk with coloured inlay. We then plan a new solemn white set which will be the one of the most beautiful and subtle you will ever see.

We also plan to purchase less expensive dalmatics to go with chasubles that we already have, thus saving on time and expense (violet and green dalmatics are so rarely used.)

If you would like to participate in this worthy project, please mark your donations « For new vestments ».

Save the Date
1st June 2024
FAMILY CEILIDH
 ECCHINSWELL VILLAGE HALL,
 5 - 8PM

*Don't forget your **Easter duties**: Confession & communion before Good Shepherd Sunday*

Liturgical Calendar - April 2024
Confessions before Saturday and Sunday
Masses & during 1st Friday Holy Hour.

1	Octave of Easter	7:30
2	Octave of Easter	7:30
3	Octave of Easter	7:30
4	Octave of Easter	7:30
5	Easter Oct. 1st Fri. - H Hour 6pm	7:30 only
6	Octave of Easter - 1st Sat.	7:30 only
7	Low Sunday	08:00 <u>only</u>
		18:00 Benediction
8	Annunciation of the BVM	7:30 / 19:00
9	Feria of Paschaltide	7:30
10	Feria of Paschaltide	7:30
11	St. Leo the Great, Pope, Conf & Dr	7:30
12	Feria of Paschaltide	7:30
13	St. Hermenegild, Martyr	7:30 / 12:00
14	Good Shepherd Sunday	7:30, 9:00
	(Second Sunday after Easter)	18:00 Benediction
15	Feria of Paschaltide	7:15
16	Feria of Paschaltide	7:15
17	Feria of Paschaltide	7:15
18	Feria of Paschaltide	7:15
19	Feria of Paschaltide	7:15
20	Saturday of Our Lady	7:30 / 12:00
21	Third Sunday after Easter	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
22	Ss Soter & Caius, Popes & Martyrs	7:15
23	St. George, Martyr 1st cl.	7:15 / 19:00
24	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr	7:15
25	St. Mark, Evangelist	7:15
26	Ss Cletus & Marcellinus, Pp & Mart.	7:15
27	St. Peter Canisius, Conf & Dr	7:30 / 12:00
28	Fourth Sunday after Easter	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
29	St. Peter of Verona, Martyr	7:15
30	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin	7:15
1	St. Joseph the Workman	7:15

SUNDAY COLLECTION - Set up your standing order Ref. « Sunday coll. »

Account name:
 BURGHCLERE PRIORY
 Society of St Pius X
 Sort Code: 16-26-18
 Account number: 10191331



Remember: GIFT AID!

Sanctuary Lamp in Memory

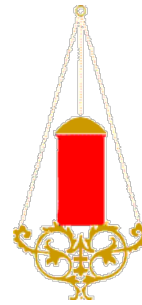
It is now possible to request that the altar sanctuary lamp burn in memory of (a) loved one(s) or in thanksgiving for graces received.

Each 1st. Wed. of the month, Holy Mass will be celebrated for donors and for those remembered. The memorial will be published in this newsletter.

£15 for one 7 day lamp (Sunday-Saturday), 51% beeswax

Checks to the order of SSPX, Burghclere Priory.

Proceeds go towards new vestements.



Sanctuary Lamp - Lady altar - Lit in memory of:

Mar. 31 - Mr William Redding

Apr. 07 - Holy Souls

Apr. 14 - Deceased of the Skuras family

Feb. 23 - Edward F. Diem

Mar. 2 - Jane Garbacik