A close up of a logo

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 3rd January 2021**

**Second Sunday after the Nativity (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven’s royal throne.**

**First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12**

**Psalm 147 Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18**

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!**

**Gospel**: **John 1: 1-18**

**Communion antiphon: To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

     **40 Days of Prayer and Devotion to begin 2021**

Some time ago when I was on retreat at the Bournemouth Oratory, I had time to pray and reflect on the Covid emergency we are living through.  I was, and remain, convinced that the deeper solution to all the challenges we face is to be found in renewed faith in the power of Jesus to save and heal.

In Catholic devotion we have a feast day, the Holy Name of Jesus, which is **on 3 January**. We begin the year by calling on Jesus in the power of his name for all our most urgent needs.

In the early Christian community as recorded in the New Testament and throughout Christian history, many great miracles have been worked by the saints by calling on the holy name of Jesus. The sick was healed, the blind received their sight and the dead were raised to life and even more importantly, in Jesus’ name many people came to salvation and received amazing graces of conversion.

At my first Churches Together in Tenterden meeting, the Pastor of the Zion Baptist community, Freddy Farias Palacios, shared about how they had been involved in 40 days of prayer during the first lockdown. All those at the meeting immediately agreed that we needed 40 days of prayer together to call on God for his grace and mercy at this critical time.

When I shared my thoughts about the need for a focus on the name of Jesus, with Deacon Jolyon and the leaders of the other Christian communities they saw the value of this approach. Together we have agreed to spend    40 days in prayer to seek God’s will and his grace during this time of challenge for our local area and our world.

We decided to have banners raised above our churches to proclaim that Jesus is the Light of the World.

All the churches have the same banner and the same design to show our shared commitment to working together and calling people to renewed faith in Jesus. Do look out for this banner if you have not already seen the ‘Jesus Light of the World’ banner outside the Zion Baptist church, St Michael’s, the Methodist church and the town railings.  We have printed 2,500 postcards with the same design as the banner on the front and the Lord’s Prayer printed on the back for distribution in our local area

There are several things we can do to support these 40 days of prayer:

* I would like to ask parishioners to help with the distribution of these cards to households in the local area.
* Would you be willing to put a postcard in your window or in the window of your car?  
  Would you visit the My Tenterden website and look at the reflections and resources that are being offered for each day?
* You may like to fast on bread and water on Friday for the intention of the renewal of Christianity in our local area.
* Alternatively, you could give up a main meal or give up television or something else you enjoy.
* Say an extra Our Father in your family each day for the intention of the renewal of faith in Christ in our town and in our nation.
* Look for opportunities to do something good for someone in need out of love for Jesus.
* Perhaps there is someone you know who is lonely or afraid and who would appreciate a phone call or a card.

Almsgiving is a very powerful way of showing our love for God.  It is particularly powerful when we help those who can’t repay us in any way.

We all have sense of how much we need the Light of Christ in our lives and in our world.

We have an amazing opportunity to share the good news that no matter how difficult the times get, with faith in Jesus, we always have hope and love.

Best wishes,

Father Behruz Rafat (07903986646)

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased**: Maggie Urquhart RIP

**Those ill or infirm:** Charlotte Elliot (daughter of Maureen Davidson), Jennifer Jorden, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Terry Schouten, Freda Budd**,** Rose Mount, Mary Anne Simmons, Bill Norman Taylor, Mary Bly, Brian Barrett, Moya Crofton, Anthony Whately, Joseph Davis, Martin Vickers, Gloria Woods, Helen Miller, Violet Braden, Margaret Thornton, Mary Jones, John Symons, Howard Wickham, Dorothy Newell and Margaret Salmon.

**This week’s services (3rd – 9th January)**

**Feasts during the week**

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| **Sunday 3rd Jan**  10 am Mass  12 midday EF Latin Mass | Second Sunday after the Nativity | **Thursday 7th Jan**  10 am Mass | Feria |
| **Monday 4th Jan**  10 am Mass | Feria | **Friday 8th Jan**  10 am Mass | Requiem Mass for  Jo Venables |
| **Tuesday 5th Jan**  10 am Mass | Feria | **Saturday 9th Jan**  10 am Mass | Feria |
| **Wednesday 6th Jan**  10 am Mass | **The Epiphany of the Lord**  **Holyday of Obligation** | **Sunday 10th Jan**  10 am Mass  12 Midday EF Latin Mass | **The Baptism of the Lord**  The end of the season of Christmas |
| **Flowers for 10th Jan – Frances** | | | |

The **funeral Mass for Jo Venables is on Friday 8 January at 10am**.  Please book a place with Deacon Jolyon if you wish to attend.

**Christmas flowers**

Would the kind donors of the Christmas arrangements **collect** them on Sunday 3rd January if you are coming to church?

**A message from Frances:**

Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for your lovely arrangements/bouquets, they are absolutely delightful. Several people have been very complimentary about the flowers as was Fr. Behr - and wasn't it great to be able to see them so clearly thanks to the new lighting?

Please let me know what I owe you for the flowers.

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Frances x