



February 11 2018
Sunday next before Lent

Holy Trinity Brussels Newsletter

Today's Services – 9:00 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk
10:30 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk
14:00 – Holy Communion: Paul Vrolijk
18:00 – Evening Service: Natalie Jones
Every Wednesday lunchtime, there is a service of Holy Communion in the church at 12:30

Our readings this week

3 very different meetings with God each challenge us to review our commitment to God's work and the sincerity of our worship. Is this an issue for Lent?

2 Kings 2: 1-12 Elisha is fiercely loyal to Elijah and is determined to stick with him to the end. But in the course of their journey together, Elisha comes to see that life, and God's work, must move on. By asking for a double-portion, he asked for the inheritance of the first-born son, showing his determination to continue the work that Elijah has begun.

Psalms 50 God reminds Israel that he is God, far above them, and their relationship must respect that difference. Israel seems to think that they can gain control of God through their sacrifices. But God does not need their sacrifices. What he wants is their heartfelt obedience to the covenant. Then, on the day of trouble, he will deliver them - and will welcome their thank offerings.

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Many people, dazzled by the attractions of material things, find the gospel obscure and full of difficulties. But once we have encountered Christ, it becomes very clear. It becomes a great source of inner light, that guides our lives. Once we glimpse Christ's glory, we gain a perspective on everything else.

Mark 9: 2-9 Jesus let his closest disciples experience a great moment of light, seeing him for who he really is, and hearing the voice of God. Peter does not want to let go of the moment. But by letting it go and setting out on the road to the cross, Jesus brought us salvation. Peter, like Elisha, came to understand this.

Pointers for prayer

- The starting point in our prayers, as in our lives, must be to humble ourselves before God and his holiness
- God seeks our true commitment to his service. Clinging to familiar securities and even to the high moments can be an obstacle to moving on in faith. What does that involve for me?
- The way we live out our Christian commitment is of enormous importance in a world which struggles to see the truth of the gospel.

Would you like to reflect more with us on these passages? Listen to today's sermon and others at www.holytrinity.be/sermons

Our Life Together

Welcome to Holy Trinity Coffee and tea are served downstairs after the 10:30 service, the bar is also open. Do come down and join us for this time of fellowship, and introduce yourself if you are new to or visiting Brussels.

Sunday Morning Prayer Group. Could you get to church at 10:00 on a Sunday? Would you like to spend time before the service in prayer, preparing to be open to God at 10:30? If you would like to be part of a group seeking to meet God at that time please speak to Ann Milton, or contact her on ann.r.milton@gmail.com

Today is Bun Sunday. The bake sale will be held in the hall after the 10:30 service. Please come down and buy some of our baked goodies, jams, marmalades and chutneys to support smaller charities and projects

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14.** There will be services of **Holy Communion**, with the **Imposition of Ashes** (as a sign of penitence) at 12:30 and 19:30. Following the 12:30 services on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent a simple lunch of bread and soup will be served. We will ask for a small donation to cover costs and the surplus will go to a good cause. Volunteer soup makers/heaters welcome!

We have ordered 50 copies of the Church of England's Lent study **#LiveLent - Let Your Light Shine**, a six-week individual discipleship course going through the Gospel of John. If you would like to add this resource to your Lenten practice, please email admin@holyltrinity.be to reserve a copy.

Many of our home groups will be looking at Lent studies over the coming weeks - why not join them? Home groups are a great chance to connect and grow with other people from Holy Trinity over coffee and good conversation. Information about home groups can be found on our website at holyltrinity.be/home-groups.

The Friday afternoon homegroup has started its Lent course. We have chosen Bishop John Pritchard's book, *The Journey*. It is really a commentary on Luke's gospel, from 9:51, when Jesus 'turns his face to go to Jerusalem'. It is written from the point of view of John the disciple, as a way into the story. The group meets on Friday 12:30 – 15:00 in Woluwe. Please contact Ann Milton for more information.

Wondering what to do for Lent? What is God for you this year? If you would like a chance to explore these questions in confidence and without judgement, why not try Spiritual Companionship? An hour talking to Holy Trinity's Spiritual Companion in the presence of God, as a one off or with a longer term plan, could help you to reorientate your walk with God. Contact Ann for more details: ann.r.milton@gmail.com

The **Bishop's Lent Appeal 2018** is Sustaining a Ministry of Hope for Refugees in the Calais area of France. There is a detailed letter on the board in the lobby describing the two projects to be supported. If you wish to support the appeal you can either put your donation in an envelope clearly marked "Bishop's Lent Appeal" in the collection, or make a bank transfer to BE14 3100 3441 5383, with the same communication.

2018 is our year of PRAISE and PRAYER at Holy Trinity, and we will start putting that into practice with a **24 Hours of Prayer** event from **10:30 next Saturday 17 February until 10:30 on Sunday 18 February** in church. All are welcome to come

along to engage creatively with prayer through the prayer stations that will be set up around church. If you wish to participate, or to be a part of the creative team organising this event, an email has been sent out with the online sign-up sheet, or you can contact Lloyd at lloyd.brown@hollytrinity.be

Next Sunday, 18 February there will be a **Bring and Share lunch** between the 10:30 and 14:00 services, at which **Jim Barker from the Church Mission Society** (one of our mission partners) will be present to speak about their work. Everyone welcome!

Evangelism & Follow-Up Training for The Turning Brussels Mission. A further opportunity for training for the inter-church 'The Turning Brussels' mission (23rd Feb to 3rd March) is now being offered at Church House on Saturday 17th February. Coffee and croissants from 9:00, training from 9:30 to 12:15. There will be a first session covering street evangelism, then a coffee break and then a second session on follow-up one-to-one discipleship training. If you are planning to come it would be helpful if you could let David Fieldsend (davidfieldsend@hotmail.com) know in advance in which language (French or English) you would like to receive your training materials. You can volunteer for either street evangelism or follow-up discipleship mentoring or both. We particularly need more follow-up volunteers at the moment.

The Mission Committee meeting was postponed to Monday 19 February. Please let Sarah Collen know if you have any suggestions you would like us to consider. The focus of HTB mission support is on four priority themes; care for creation, care for people, support to persecuted Christians, and spreading the gospel. Send emails to scollen@hotmail.com by 5 pm on Monday.

A big "thank you" to everyone who participated in any way in last weeks "Candlemas Messiah". Everyone was in splendid voice, and over €1000 was raised for the two causes being supported.

New Hymn books. The Council will be taking the formal decision on new hymn books at its meeting on 5 March. If you would like to dedicate a hymn book to someone special or to purchase a copy for your personal use please contact the Treasurer: treasurer@hollytrinity.be for details of costs.

Holy Trinity's AGM 2018 will take place on Sunday March 18. If you are not already on the electoral roll (a copy of this can be found in the lobby, please take a minute to check if your name is there and your details are correct) but would like to be able to vote please take one of the forms from the table in the hall. We need all the completed forms by February 18 so that the electoral roll can be brought up to date 3 weeks ahead of the meeting. You can also fill in the form on line. Please ask HTB's new electoral roll officer, Lieve Cordeel (cordeel.godelieve@skynet.be) to send you the form.

The **Spring Tea Party** for older members of HT and helpers will be held on Tuesday 13 March.

Church Weekend away at the splendid spot of Drongen Abbey: 20-22 April 2018. Speaker: The Archdeacon of Hackney, the Venerable Liz Adekunle. Adults Euro 120pp (we now have ensuite bathrooms!). Children's rate unchanged: 0-5 year: free; 6-18: Euro 50pp. Sign up forms now available at the back of the church.

The Prayer Chain welcomes requests for prayer for any situation with complete confidentiality. Please contact Janine Vrolijk on Janine.vrolijk@gmail.com or Anne Fieldsend on annefieldsend@hotmail.com.

The Wider Church

The FCJ Centre of Spirituality 211 Ave. Winston Churchill, 1180, Brussels is holding the following events: Mondays, 19 February: 5 March: 19 March: The Passion according to St. John (**Mess'AJE**); Saturday 10 March: 10:00-16:00: **Discernment: Making Choices from a Place of Freedom** (Listen to the music of your life) Presenter: Joanna Walsh FCJ. Saturday 17 March: 10.00 -16.00: **Being a Christian – Compatible with Culture of Work Place?** Presenter: Ulrich Kiss S.J. (Founder of Management by Jesus Institute) For further information, visit www.fcjcentre.be or email fcj@fcjcentre.be, (GSM 0477 734551).

'Family Life' (<http://familylifeuk.org/>) a Christian organisation which seeks to support family life is offering 'A Day Together', looking at a 'Biblical mode of marriage' at the Christian Centre, in Sint-Genesius Rode, on Saturday 24th February. More details at <http://www adaytogether.org/brussels>

St Boniface, Antwerp is organising '**Slow Burn, Bright Flame**', a Lent quiet day on the 17th February 2018 led by Bishop Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough. The day starts from 10:00 to 16:00 with coffee, lunch and tea provided. Please email chaplain@boniface.be if you are interested in attending. More details on the poster in church lobby.

Warning: Do not leave your belongings unattended.

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9h15 to 12h30
Tuesday 9h15 to 16h

Newsletter items: to admin@holytrinity.be by 9h Tuesday

Senior Chaplain: The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk paul.vrolijk@holytrinity.be

Associate Chaplains: The Revd Canon John Wilkinson and The Revd Canon Dr Jack McDonald

National Anglican prison chaplains based at HTB: Mrs Grace West, The Revd Charles Kabera, Mr Eric Sibomana

Lay Minister: Mr David Fieldsend **Intern:** Mr Lloyd Brown

Children, Youth & Discipleship Worker: Mrs Natalie Jones

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Janet Sayers

Outreach Worker: Mr Jeremy Heuslein

Gift account for pledges and donations to Holy Trinity Brussels:

IBAN: BE14 3100 3441 5383 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Holy Trinity Offering" to make your donation.

Contributions to Drongen and Chassepierre

IBAN: BE51 3635 2047 5162 BIC: BBRUBEBB

Also by *Payconiq*: Look for the merchant called "Holy Trinity Events" to make your payment.

