



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 26th February 2023 (First Sunday of Lent)

WELCOME

Welcome to this week's edition of the Weekly News. Someone asked if I could add a Crossword, so here goes "Huh!" Is that cross enough? Enjoy.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for the weeks ahead for our Parish and Ourselves.

Loving and compassionate Jesus, in this week ahead of us, help us to respond to the things our eyes perceive. Help us to tend to the people in this world who are in need. Help us to be generous with our resources, words and time. Help us to follow you as you lead and guide us through the days ahead. Amen.

Encouraging Words.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Our Diocese:

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here:

<https://www.cypgulf.org/prayer-diary/>

Daily Readings

For readings and the daily service of morning prayer, evening prayer and compline, please download

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

GOD SLOT

RICHARD ROHR: Heaven is a Great Party

In this homily, Father Richard considers the parable of the wedding feast and points out how few of us seem even to desire to attend God's banquet. (Matthew 22:1-10).

God has always had a very hard time giving away God: No one wants seems to want this gift. We'd rather have religion, and laws, and commandments, and obligations, and duties I'm sure many of us attend church out of duty, but gathering with the Body of Christ is supposed to be a wedding feast. Do you know how many times in the four Gospels eternal life is described as a banquet, a feast, a party, a wedding, the marriage feast of the Lamb? There are fifteen different, direct allusions to eternal life being a great, big party. Do you know how many parables there are about eternal life being a courtroom or a judgment scene? One. Matthew 25. And that's good. We need Matthew 25 because it makes it very clear that the ultimate issue is about how we care for the poor and marginalized. But we forget this good news of Jesus, sending a message out to the highways and the byways, inviting everybody who's willing to come to the banquet. It's that simple! Jesus goes out of his way to mention the good and the bad alike. We don't like that either. We only want the good people to be there at the banquet, assuming, of course, that we're the good people. Did you ever see the irony of that? Don't you realize that every religion thinks that they are the ones that God likes? And we end up gathering at the party with that smug certitude; but when we do, it resembles something that very often isn't much like a party. I don't want to offend anybody, but sometimes only half of us even sing when we're at church; half of us don't even pick up the hymnals. I'm not trying to be cruel, but let's just be honest and admit that many of us aren't excited to be at church. For many of us, the Body of Christ is not a party. Instead, we often believe that heaven is a giant courtroom scene. The good people win, the bad people lose, and almost everybody is bad except our group. That won't work! It gives no joy and no hope to the world. It tells people they're on the right side when sometimes they're very unloving people who don't care about the poor or the marginalized at all. And the statistics prove that Christians are no better than anybody else, in fact, very often, I'm sorry to say it, we're worse. Do we want to be a part of the wedding feast to which all are invited? The only people who don't get in on the party are those who don't want to come, so I guess we have to ask ourselves, "Do we want to come?"

(Adapted from Richard Rohr, "[In the End, a Banquet](#)," homily, October 14, 2017.)

God Bless

Rev'd Ken

JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny was Albert Einstein's driver and he also looked a lot like the great scientist. One day, Einstein has to speak at an important science conference. On the way there, he tells Little Johnny that "I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!" Little Johnny agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place." "That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!" So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, Little Johnny, dressed as Einstein, goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it. But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response. Little Johnny looks at him, dead in the eye, and says: "Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."

NOTICES

CHARITY COLLECTION

Sue & Lou's Charity Bottles. The last date for collection of bottles is 26th March, please have yours ready to hand in by that date. Many thanks.

PLEA FOR WINTER BEDDING & CLOTHES

Caritas are in desperate need of bedding (sheets, blankets, quilts, etc.) and winter clothing. Please see if you can help. Drop them off at Ayia Kyriaki.

BIKE MAINTENANCE

Have you got the skills to teach basic bike maintenance (changing inner tubes, etc.), then can you offer your time to help with a programme to teach the reciprocates of our bicycles to help them keep their bikes on the road and safe? Please contact Revd Ken.

EMERGENCY CONTACT/NEXT OF KIN - HELPING US TO HELP YOU.

If something serious happens to you, who will know who to inform, or indeed, who will act on your behalf? Does the church know who you wish to be contacted? And what about those people, perhaps friends or neighbours of yours who live alone? Would you know what to do on their behalf in case of an emergency? Emergency contact/next of kin forms are available at church solely for this purpose - to make life easy for you and yours. After completing the form (detailing your contacts and wishes) the information is stored securely in the church office. For your security and peace of mind why not complete the form which is available from your Church Warden - you know it makes sense.

SAVE THE DATES

3 rd March	World Day of Prayer Service at St Stephen's at 2pm
25 th March	Barn Dance
28 th March	Nicosia Coach Trip
9 th April	Easter Lunch – venue to be advised
22 nd April	Spring Fayre
8 th May	Coronation Garden Party
27 th May	Variety Show
3 rd or 10 th June	Mini Golf

SERVICES

Sunday 26th February – First Sunday of Lent

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's

11.00am Morning Worship St Stephen's

Readings:

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11

Sunday 5th March – Second Sunday of Lent

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's

6.00pm Holy Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Genesis 12: 1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17

Mid-week Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at 9.00am at Ayia Kyriaki

Open The Door

(adapted from Lance Landall)

Open the door to God's love, seat it at the head of your table, place it on a throne,
And let it reign unhindered, steal the show, call the shots, save the day and set the tone.
Yes, let God's love direct your heart, take the wheel, circle each day on your calendar too,
That it may pave the way, heal some wound, bridge some gulf, and pursue the right avenue.

Oh yes, let God's love stalk the wayward, scale any wall, pull back the curtains, scent the air,
Surround each crib and farewell each casket, hover tenderly where there's any tear.
Yes, let God's love choose the right time and place, even words, arrange the notes in every tune,
Thus taking you and I to greater heights via an all-embracing hot air ball



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(Don't forget Friday is my day off (most weeks☺))

Website:

www.paphosanglicanchurch.org

www.facebook.com/Anglican Church of Paphos

Weddings:

www.yourcypruswedding.org

www.facebook.com/Anglican Church of Paphos Weddings

So let me get this straight.

**I go to the grocery store and buy:
a pound of sliced ham wrapped in plastic;
a loaf of bread in a plastic bag;
a gallon of milk in a plastic jug;
a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic;
a ready-made salad in a plastic container;
a plastic bottle of mustard;
and a plastic bottle of ketchup;**

**but they won't give me a plastic bag
to carry it home, because the plastic bag
is bad for the environment?**

*May God's love unfurl its wings, clasp you to its bosom,
nestle you with its chin, and whisper what will heal and free.*