

# SENIOR SCHOOL

*St Mary's Fortnightly Newsletter for teenagers*

**"I waited patiently  
for the Lord; he  
inclined to me and  
heard my cry."**

**Psalm 40:1**



## WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

Maybe with the new year you can resolve to attend a Mass you've not before, be it one of the weekday Masses or a different Sunday Mass. Maybe if you've only been to one of our churches, try the other one?

## A SAINT TO KNOW

St Aelred of Rievaulx came from the north of England despite it sounding like he might have been French. He wrote a beautiful short reflection on the love between friends, reminding us this love is a participation in God, who is love, and reminding us it must endure. Thank God for our friends.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Abraham waited 25yrs  
Moses waited 40yrs  
Jesus waited 30yrs  
Jacob waited 20yrs  
The Bible is full of heroes who waited on God's promises. If you're waiting on God you're in good company!

## WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?

In these times we are getting really good at 'just getting on with it,' afraid to make plans or hope for too much in case we get disappointed. Even the simplest plans like going to school, meeting friends or visiting family can be disrupted.

But even in this feeling of 'stuckness' God wants us to keep faith, we're not here to just manage or take our frustrations out on those we love.

**"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had."** Romans 15:5

He never asks for more than we have, each day He gives us in abundance everything we need to not just get through the day but to rejoice in it, to find meaning and be in harmony with those around us.

A favourite hymn I always find myself humming without realising is **"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"**

Have you ever received something unexpectedly, or something has been suddenly taken away? it feels like a weight has been lifted from your shoulders. Relieved of a burden that you didn't even know you were carrying.

Prayer is that powerful relief, when you're not sure what you're waiting for or what's wrong. Go to Him as only He can give you the peace that passes all understanding.

The Bible calls us to **'Cast your cares on the lord and he will sustain you'**.



## WAITING FOR THE LORD

by Father Morris

Buy now, pay later is something past generations would not recognise. This isn't nostalgia but a chance for us just to remember that human beings have always seen a clear link between what they obtain and paying for it (or bartering for it where money has not existed). Loans were always frowned upon among God's people for this reason. Modern society has broken that link through "buying on credit schemes."

It means we have one less way in which we learn to be patient. My mother always used to say, "Patience is a virtue, possess it if you can, always in a woman, never in a man." I can be impatient about things but I'm learning to be better.

Patience is part of the virtues of Hope and Faith, recognising that we're looking for a better world, one where God is truly at the centre of everyone's focus. In Hebrews 11 the author (and we don't know who wrote it) writes about a lot of people in the Old Testament and how they lived by faith. They didn't see the arrival of what they were waiting for. Verses 15 and 16 go: "If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

This needs patience. While we're here on earth Satan will be seen to be having his little victories, worshipping God at Mass will look weird and unusual, being kind will mean we get walked over sometimes etc. We're witnessing to a different world though, one which will eventually be the only reality people can know.

I'm a huge fan of the Matrix films: I hope to see Resurrections soon. It's never quite clear what is true in those films. Is the Matrix real? Does pain felt in one place replicate in the other world? We know the Kingdom of God is among us, because Jesus tells us so, but we're so constantly assaulted by sin and irreligion and wickedness that they can seem to be the only thing that's really real. Patience will mean we're willing to wait until God's kingdom is fully known and then we'll be vindicated. Being in the Church family should hopefully make it easier to wait because we're waiting with others who know the same truths we're seeking. The final words to the Psalmist: "I waited patiently for the Lord, He inclined to me and heard my cry," (40:1).

## TAKING ACTION

What can we do when we feel everything slowing down around us and we're not sure what's coming next.

### Pray about it

When we take our fears and questions to God he promises to hear our cries. His response does not always come in the way we're expecting, but it always with our best interest at heart and a perfect plan laid out for us even if it doesn't always feel that way.

### Look closer to home

When we're so eager for something to change we miss the opportunities right under our nose. When Paul was imprisoned rather than beg God to help get him out he recognised that he was in the perfect place to preach to the guards about Jesus. What is happening immediately around you right now where you can make a difference?

### Make something happen

Our lives are full and busy, we complain we never have time to fulfill our dreams and long term projects.

God creates spaces in our lives, He gives us the openings with the tools to carry out his good works.

Maybe God is telling you to start something amazing today in his name!

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<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLansdowneRoad/>  
Email: [s.marysoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:s.marysoffice@btinternet.com)  
Website:  
<https://www.smarystottenham.org/>  
Phone: +4420 8808 6644