

SENIOR SCHOOL

St Mary's Newsletter for teenagers

"For God speaks once, yes twice, though man pays no attention."

Job 33:14



WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

Pentecost on 5th June is the end of Eastertide, the 50 days celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles and Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We pray He will be at work in us too.

A SAINT TO KNOW

St Joan of Arc was a controversial figure in 15th century France. She led an army against the English invaders and was executed as a heretic. There was much suspicion of her because she was a woman and poor. The Church realised her holiness and commitment and her feast day is 30th May.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Paul is one of the most important contributors to the Bible and instrumental in spreading the Christian faith through the Roman Empire faced great danger and adventure. But there were many years he sat imprisoned, alone and wondering why God put him there.

SAME OLD, SAME OLD

As we get ever closer to the end of the school year, it can feel like every day starts to look the same. You get up, you go to school, you do homework, maybe some chores and then you wake up and do it all over again. It would be fair enough to ask if it will always be this.

The answer is no, God has a plan for us, and He uses everything that happens in our life for our good.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" Romans 8:28

When things feel slow or stuck, He hasn't forgotten us, He's not busy dealing with something or someone else more important. He's active even in those 'boring' moments of our lives, shaping us.

So what are these quieter times to be used for? It's a time to pay more attention.

There is cinema level action in every moment of our day, we just don't always see it. Stuck in our phones or binge watching tv we fail to see the wonderful things happening around us all the time. The amazing conversation we could have if we asked someone something about themselves, if we followed our parents when they go out to visit their friends and if we just said 'yes' to the next favour someone asked from us – we would quickly see there is adventure everywhere.

God invites us to experience this amazing world He created for us, when we complain that 'nothing much is going on in our lives' it's time for us take our blindfold off and take a good look.

Don't miss the best bits, pay attention and create your own adventure.

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'
Jeremiah 33:3



THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

by Father Morris

Do you like eating apples in the summer? One of the things we're not used to is only eating certain things when they are in season. We don't know who wrote the book Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament but traditionally we refer to him as the Preacher. The name of the book comes from the word for community: it's wisdom shared among the family of God's people.

Anyway, "for everything there is a season." How reassuring this is because so often we kid ourselves in to thinking there isn't enough time to do all that we should be doing. The trouble perhaps is that we try to do too much or we try to do things at the wrong time and it becomes much harder. If you wash your car in the winter it doesn't last long and it's a bit of a waste of time.

We see rhythm in the way God has made the world. God rests on the seventh day and to argue over which day we should be resting misses the point: there needs to be time to rest each week. In Heaven rest and worship are the same thing and our life on earth should connect the two more.

So much of our life has a rhythm we take for granted: our heart beats, we blink, we digest food. We don't do these things through willing or planning or deciding. God in His wisdom has programmed us to do them. I often look at people when they say they're too busy to do this or that and I think that it's a good job God didn't make them responsible for organising their own breathing patterns or they'd be stone dead!

I commend to you having a rule of life. You may want to write it down or you may want to have it stored in your mind. The rule of life is the spasm of the heart muscle which pumps blood through your body. With a rule of life you don't think each week about how much you give to the Church because you've decided in your rule of life. With a rule of life you don't wonder whether you can be bothered go to Church on Sunday because you know it's just what you do. With a rule of life you don't wonder what to give to beggars you know you always greet them and light a candle for them next time you're in Church. The rule of life provides the rhythm with which we come to life in Christ.

Keep in touch with us at St Marys

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WAITING FOR THE NEXT THING.

We all experience phases in our lives when there is nothing going on and we're waiting for something to happen.

There is a whole passage in the Bible dedicated to timing.

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens:*

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to
uproot,*

*a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to
build,*

*a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to
dance,*

*a time to scatter stones and a time to
gather them,*

*a time to embrace and a time to
refrain from embracing,*

*a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw
away,*

*a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to
speak,*

*8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3

Everything in God's time.

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