

LENT GROUP:

Lent Group has started, meeting in the Presbytery after Tuesday evening mass for discussion 7.30-9pm, with refreshments from 7pm. All are welcome.

We are using *Living Catholicism* by Roderick Strange, supplemented by handouts from other texts, with the plan for the remaining evenings being:

- **26 February: chapters 3-5**, pp. 27-60
Jesus at Prayer, Jesus and Love, Risen in Glory to New Life
- **5 March: chapters 6 & 7**, pp. 61-81
The Church as Communion, Providence and Miracles
- **12 March: chapters 8 & 9**, pp. 82-106
Holiness and Discipleship, Eucharist and Reconciliation
- **19 March: chapters 10 & 11**, pp. 107-131
Love in Action, Living Witness

And considering what enlightens us, challenges us, brings us hope, puzzles us.

'The title is not meant to suggest Catholicism and current affairs, but something broader and deeper, a Catholicism come alive and how we are to live it ...

... We begin with the need for watchfulness. We have to be perceptive, alert to God's presence. That watchfulness and the longing which inspires it, lead us into prayer, and our understanding of prayer itself becomes more profound when we contemplate Jesus at prayer. It shows us something of his inner life, the intimacy of his relationship with the Father. That love is revealed specifically in his readiness to accept the consequences of this loving, whatever they may be; and so we are brought to reflect, so to speak, from within on the passion and death of Jesus. And following the same line, we contemplate his resurrection. In all this, we try to realize what it means for us to share in this loving and suffering and rising. We are led to consider what it means to be the people of God, the body of Christ, members of the Church ...

... From these matters, we move on to consider the invitation we have received to share in God's life, to be holy as the Lord our God is holy, and so to be his disciples. We reflect upon the sacraments of eucharist and reconciliation to appreciate more vividly the way we are offered support to sustain us as followers of Jesus, and then we examine what it means to put love into practice and be living witnesses of the gospel'. [From the Preface, pp. xi-xii].

Roderick Strange studied at Rome and Oxford and was one of the Catholic chaplains in Oxford from 1977-89. He spent 11 years in parish ministry, and since 1998 has been Rector of the Beda College in Rome.

He has also written *The Catholic Faith* (Oxford, 1986; London, 2001), *The Risk of Discipleship* (London, 2004) and *John Henry Newman: A Mind Alive* (London, 2008).

LENTEN READING:

If you would like to suggest books or articles that others might find helpful during Lent, please do so on the sheet on the porch noticeboard – or to juliaredfern@yahoo.co.uk – so that details can be shared, including at Lent Group. Recommendations so far include:

James Alison, *Knowing Jesus*

George Aschenbrenner, *Becoming Whom We Contemplate*

Margaret Barker, *Temple Mysticism*

Margaret Barker, *The Mother of the Lord: Volume 1: The Lady in the Temple*

David Bentley Hart, *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*

Stephen Croft and Ian Mobsby (ed.), *Fresh Expressions in the Sacramental Tradition*

Roger Greenacre, *The Sacrament of Easter*

Richard Holloway, *Leaving Alexandria: A Memoir of Faith and Doubt*

Robin Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians*

Herbert McCabe, *God, Christ and Us*

Timothy Radcliffe, *Take the Plunge*

Ethelbert Stauffer, *Christ and the Caesars: Historical Sketches*

Denys Turner, *Faith Seeking*

J. Neville Ward, *The Use of Praying*

Rowan Williams, *Open to Judgement*

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2013 is *Abiding* by Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity & the Arts, King's College London.

Archbishop Justin's message:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5018/launch-of-lent-book-abiding-by-ben-quash>

I am deeply grateful to Ben Quash for writing this book and also to Archbishop Rowan for having the wisdom to invite him to do so. I gladly associate myself with it and welcome it as the first Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book of my time in office.

Ben Quash's encouragement to us to abide (with all the meaning that he enables us to give to that word) and his reminder that God abides with us shows us a way to intensify relationships so that they may be characterised by the peace of God, and indeed make that peace more real for us. We saw this when Jesus, from the cross, made a new relationship between his mother and his beloved disciple and so began the set of relationships we call Church. We see it wherever we stand alongside another in solidarity, especially if that solidarity is being carved out of enmity.

I joyfully commend Ben Quash's 'Abiding', and join my prayers with all who use it to accompany their Lenten journey.

+Justin Cantaur

BOOK DONATIONS:

The Chelsea Methodist Church drop-in day centre on the King's Road needs paperbacks. If you have any to donate, please do bring in and leave at the back of church.