

THE QUILL

Volume 18, Issue 4

April, 2005

APRIL/MAY FORUMS TO LOOK AT "PEACE OF MIND" & PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

"We have all been affected by the Terry Schiavo incident in Florida", Canon Newman said on Easter Day. "No matter what you feel about what has been going on, this reminds all of us — no matter what our age or health status — to think carefully about end-of-life issues. The Rector's Forum on Sunday, April 3 will look at the position of the Episcopal Church and specifically its 1991 General Convention resolution, **"Establish Principles With Regard to the Prolongation of Life."**

"I am hopeful that this will lead to meetings which will touch issues such as wills, health-care directives, ethical dilemmas, financial planning & planned giving — the whole nine yards," said Canon Newman.

Edmonde Haddad is coordinating the Rector's Forum on Sunday, May 1. He writes, "St Bede's is delighted to welcome Judy and Don Bustany to our Rector's Forum on Sunday, May 1. Frequent visitors to Jerusalem, the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, and to Israel, the Bustany's are familiar with the good work of the Episcopal Church in that very troubled part of the world." A more complete article will appear in the May Quill.

SERMONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON "STREAMING AUDIO"

The sermons for the two previous Sundays are now found on St. Bede's Web-Site. Thanks to coordination by Carl Townsend & Jeff Manley, you can now hear the sermons you miss, or wish to hear a second time, or wish you could share with a friend. Simply go to our web-site at: www.stbedesla.org

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE???
ST. BEDE'S OPERATES ON A VERY TIGHT BUDGET

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THIS MONTH

Rector's Column
Bp. Ingham on
Easter
April Birthdays
and Baptisms

CANON JIM'S JOTTINGS

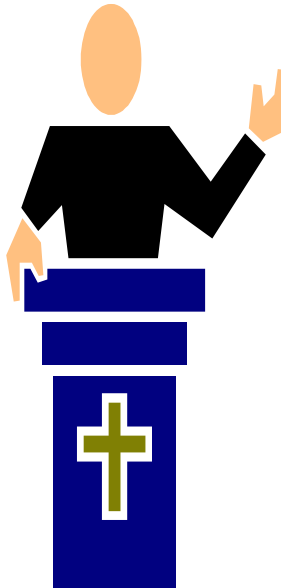
Dear Friends in Christ: I want to share with you a marvelous Easter sermon preached by Bp. Michael Ingham (Vancouver, CA) at Christ Church Cathedral. In Christ, **Jim Newman+**

The important thing to remember about the Resurrection of Jesus is that it took place after his death. Jesus was first put to death before God raised him up.

This is important because what I want to say this morning is very straightforward, but only if you remember the sequence of events. First death, then resurrection. Or to put it another way: no death, no resurrection. The new life Jesus was given by God came only after he had surrendered the life he knew.

Easter, as I'm sure you realize, is not simply about an event in the past. A man walked out of a grave two thousand years ago, this is true. We should have no reason to doubt it, although no one actually saw it. The Gospels nowhere record anyone personally witnessing the Resurrection. What confirms the truth of the Resurrection - and what it really important about it - doesn't lie in the past. The rising of Christ confirms itself over and over again in the present - in your life and mine and in the world we live in today - but only if you remember the sequence of events.

Jesus died on Good Friday in the most horrible of ways. Crucifixion was a terrible form of death. It was an act of cruelty by vengeful people - people who,



we must note, felt they were acting in the name of God. And while nothing can justify their hatred towards Jesus, we must also remember that Jesus knew what would happen to him if he continued to heal the sick and forgive the sinners in the face of religious opposition. Jesus could have stopped at any time. He could have settled for a quiet life and conformed to the prevailing attitudes and sentiments.

But Jesus could not really accept the prevailing religious attitudes, especially where they obstructed or contradicted the Reign of God. When the rules were cruel or heartless, lacking in compassion or concerned merely with the preservation of a lifeless tradition, Jesus did not feel bound by them. All through his life he had preached against teachings that imposed a burden on the poor or justified the exclusion of incurables, and he was particularly critical of those religious leaders who never listened to the people and whose primary focus seemed to be on protecting their own position.

Jesus could have settled for a quiet life and simply said nothing, but instead he showed no patience for systems and institutions that cared little for people in need. He was not interested in unity for its own sake, or in tradition for its own sake, or whatever might be meant by 'orthodoxy.' He was interested in the power of God to heal and save, and he brought that power into the lives of people in such dramatic and astonishing ways that the common people received him gladly and the authorities were scandalized.

Jesus knowingly walked the way of the Cross because he would not abandon the reign of God. His crucifixion was the consequence of his own obedience to the Father, and this is why God raised him up again from death. Easter is God's act of restoring to life that power of love which the world would kill. It marks the defeat of the spiritual agents of darkness that seek to stifle and deny the healing and hope that Jesus brought into the world. God will not be tamed. God will not be domesticated or denied by systems of conformity which try to contain and institutionalize God. Easter is the triumph of life-giving truth over traditions that bring only death.

It's important to understand that God was not behind the crucifixion. God was in the Resurrection. God is not a crucifying God, not a God of cruelty and domination. God is an Easter God, a God of new life who brings about miracles of transformation even in the bleakest of circumstances. This means we cannot say that human pain and suffering is brought about by God, although this is often said and even believed by some. It means rather that God has the power to transform human suffering and to bring forth from it something miraculous, something new and beautiful that defies all rational explanation.

God is a God of Resurrection. This is the truth we celebrate today. But the sequence of events is that crucifixion and death happen first.

There have been many moments of resurrection within the lifetime of most of us in this room, but two particularly come to mind. One was when Nelson Mandela walked out of prison in South Africa in 1990. The image of Mandela emerging slowly from his jail, white haired and radiant, surrounded by joyous crowds, electrified the world. It was much more than the release of a convict. It was the rebirth of a nation, and a surge of hope was felt in millions of hearts - particularly those in hopeless and desperate situations. As Desmond Tutu said, if apartheid can end, anything can happen. It was an Easter moment, a time of miracles, when the world saw something we thought could never happen.

(continued on p. 3)

VITAL STATISTICS

Visitors:

Bradley Mott, Richard & Barbara Lewis, Rita Korney, Beth & Jack O'Bright, Lisa Hollenbeck, Kelly Kopper, Maria Naylor, Yindra Cotman

Baptisms:

3/27: Yoshitaka Luke Mutoh, Jackson Hodgeman Butts, Keenan Lewis Vaughn, James Harris Vaughn

April Anniversaries:

Kathy & Joe Hartley	04/11
Wendy & Steve Butts	04/27
Jean & Martin Boone	04/27
Jerry Hornof & Karen Scharre	04/28
Angus & Valerie Mackay	04/29

April Birthdays:

Daniel Mohler, IV	04/01
Eugenia Eaton	04/02
Margaret Russell	04/05
Harriet Haddad	04/06
Carl Townsend	04/10
Kathy Hartley	04/11
Karen Earle	04/12
Jo Ledsam	04/12
Nancy Holly	04/15
Amanda Duval	04/18
Madeline Hisserich	04/18
Samira Tamer	04/20
Mary Jane Herron	04/22
Evelynne Householder	04/23
David Householder	04/24
Stephen Buck	04/26

(Bishop Ingham, continued)

Another was the fall of the Berlin Wall. On that day in Germany a system of brutality we had believed was invincible came crumbling down. Jubilant crowds wielding axes and hammers dismantled a concrete barrier that had become a symbol of death for an entire continent, for whole generations of people who had suffered a kind of crucifixion behind its pitiless barbed wire.

God was behind those massive movements of liberation that led to Mandela's release and to Berlin's unification. God is behind all movements for resurrection, not death. God's will is that all shall live and enjoy the fullness of life given in the Son, Jesus Christ. Easter is God's entire way with the world, not simply in past events but in our own times, in every act of new life rising out of old pain, in every moment of hope that springs unexpected from the depths of despair.

And yet for resurrection to come some things must die. This church of ours, for example, is moving through a great time of change. And the paradox is that in order for the Gospel to live, some aspects of the church may have to die. Anglicanism has survived centuries of turmoil – world wars, religious wars, the end of slavery, the emancipation of women – but Anglicanism as we have known it for four hundred years may not survive the movement for dignity and respect that is now being sought for gay and lesbian people today.

There is a great struggle going on in our church between those who see God in the traditions of the past, and those who see God in the new wind of the Spirit challenging our old assumptions about human nature. It is the same struggle Jesus faced when he chose the way of compassion over the way of conformity. And it leads to a kind of death for those of us who have cherished and loved the old church we know and which we have served most of our lives.

But something wonderful is coming out of this turmoil. A new life is emerging from the pain of it, and it shows again the power of God to raise up and renew people who remain faithful and obedient in their decisions and actions. We are finding that unity cannot be built on injustice. Unity must be built on love and kindness even where this is resisted by the religiously orthodox.

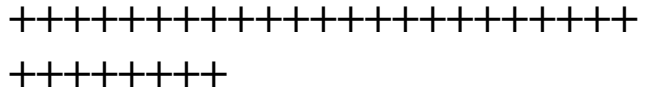
We are finding that the identity of the church cannot be maintained by judgmentalism and condemnation, but by walking the way of Jesus even in the face of hostility. The struggle in our church today is not really about sex, it's about the courage to face new knowledge and new understandings when they challenge what we have long believed. It's about being open to the power of God to transform us from a people simply of tradition to a people of compassion.

Let me offer a word of encouragement to those of who are still seekers of the path, perhaps still wondering about Christianity. To you who may still be looking for your spiritual home, remember this: there is no spiritual growth without spiritual turmoil. There is no breakthrough without effort, there is no Easter without Good Friday. Do not look for a church that is free of conflict, where everything is settled, where no new questions ever arise. Never join a community that clings to certainties and resists new ideas.

A living community is a place of debate and dispute. It's different from a museum. In living spiritual communities people struggle to find truth. They never rest content with ancient dogmas or doctrines, even though they respect and cherish them. God disturbs and transforms every individual and every spiritual com-

munity through the power of the Resurrection. That is God's way. Images of spiritual tranquillity are a myth, a seduction, and a falsehood.

If we look for justice without suffering we are romantics. If we look for renewal without struggle we have missed the sequence of events. God is behind Easter, and its countless examples throughout history, but we have to make some important decisions before we can experience it for ourselves. If you have to make a choice, and you do, choose the path Jesus took. And join us, if you will, on this journey towards the miraculous and the new. Amen.



**SPRING CLEANING ANNOUNCED
FOR APRIL 24**

While noting that recent Saturday Work Days have been less than successful, the Vestry has announced that the 1st “Casual Sunday—Clean-up and BBQ” will be held on Sunday, April 24 from “after church until 5 p.m.” It will end with an informal BBQ and Evening Prayer.

“This isn’t necessarily a ‘weeding day’, said Mike Olsen, Sr. Warden. “We need to clean out the north storage room in Luther Hall, the furnace room, the outdoor sheds and the refrigerator.” We will have a list of needed work compiled by Sunday, April 17. The Vestry also agreed to produce a list of jobs that could be done at any time by people who want to work, but have to pick and choose their own timing.

So, dress casual on the 24th and bring your favorite beverage (we will have juice, soda & beer). People staying after the 8 a.m. service may begin working on the Luther Hall and adjacent area work.

APRIL LESSONS

SUNDAYS

April 3, Easter 2 (Ms. Graw)
Acts 2.14a,22-32; Ps. 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31

April 10, Easter 3 (Mthr. Haynes)
Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Ps. 116.1-3,10-17; 1 Pet. 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

April 17, Easter 4 (Canon Newman)
Acts 2.42-47; Ps. 23; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

April 24, Easter 5 (Canon Newman)
Acts 7.55-60; Ps. 31.1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14

WEDNESDAYS

4/6: The Annunciation (tr.) (Canon Newman)
Ps. 40.5-10; Isaiah 7.10-14; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.26-38

4/13: Wed., Easter 3 (Mthr. Haynes)
Ps. 66.1-8; Acts 8.1b-8; John 6.35-40

4/20: Wed., Easter 4 (Canon Newman)
Ps. 67; Acts 12.24—13.5a; John 12.44-50

4/27: St. Mark (tr.) (Canon Newman)
Ps. 2.7-10; Isaiah 52.7-10; Ephesians 4.7-8,11-16; Mark 1.1-15

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

3590 Grand View Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Phone: 310-391-5522 or 888-802-6722

Fax: 310-391-8113

Parish Hall Telephone: 310-391-9316

Rector's Pager: 310-569-1575

Email: stbedesla@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!
www.stbedesla.org

SERVICES & CLASSES

SUNDAYS: 8 am, Holy Eucharist (no music)
10 am, Church School & Nursery
10 am, Holy Eucharist (w/choir)
6 pm, Evensong or Evening Prayer

TUESDAYS: 9 am, Breakfast, Morning Prayer & Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS: 7 pm, Holy Eucharist & Healing
7:45 pm, Adult Class

BREAKFAST & BIBLE

*A weekly class — beginning with breakfast — which previews
the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.*

April 5: I. Klem, L. Jennison
April 12: J. Newman, R. Jayne
April 19: J. Young, R. Miller
April 26: L. Beitzel, E. Harter

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM

April 6, 13: **VIA MEDIA**

April 20 & 20:

The Church's Teaching Series: **"Opening the Prayer Book"**

ST. BEDE'S VESTRY & STAFF

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Canon James Newman

ASSISTANT: The Rev. Argola Haynes

ASSISTING: The Rev. Giles Asbury,
the Rev John Hancock, the Rev. Howard Happ, Ph.D.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mr. Frank Basile

FACILITIES MANAGER: Tom Ledsam

SEXTON: Mr. Masoud Jammeshan

VESTRY

Mike Olsen ['06] - Senior Warden

Annette Graw ['07] - Junior Warden

Joelle Underwood ('06)—Clerk

Karen Kuchel & Paul Thompson—Treasurers

Susan Funk ('08) Michael Gallagher ['07]

Edmonde Haddad ['07] Jerry Hornof ['08]

Ina Klem ['06] Liz Mohler ('08)

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Angus Mackay (D)/Frank Basile (A) - ('06)

Kyle Ferstead (D)/Annette Graw (A) - ('07)