

# THE SCEPTRE

VOLUME 58, No.6

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST THE KING

JUNE 2018

*An inclusive parish of The Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition*

## FROM THE RECTOR

### RESPONSIVE SOUNDS

We offer Scripture Reflection at Advent 14 times per week. At each liturgy of Evening Prayer and Mass we are invited to reflect on God's Holy Word. When you add up all the scripture read during the week it is really phenomenal. I am sure it is much more than most self-proclaimed Bible Churches.

But we do not only hear the word read and homilies given. At Evening Prayer, we hear from Christian writers throughout the ages commenting on the Scriptures. At Mass we are given what are known as the Major and Minor Propers.

The Major Propers of the Day would include the Collect, the Lessons and the Proper Preface in the Eucharistic Prayer. In our Anglo-Catholic Tradition we have maintained the Minor Propers. These include the Proper Post Communion Collect read by the Celebrant. We also have the antiphons (scripture sentences or themes) placed at the beginning of Mass (called the Introit), at the Offertory, and after Communion.

All of these serve to catechize us about the meaning of the day and the scriptures heard. They are not superfluous ornaments to the Mass. They are the trellis. They hold the whole theme together.

The word "antiphon" in Greek can mean, among other things, "a responding sound." They serve to amplify the prayers and readings.

Father John Porter has worked tirelessly on these for both High and Low Masses. He gets them from an online source of an updated version of the Anglican Gradual and Sacramentary. Dr. Paul



Ellison uses these in their musical settings at all High Masses.

Here is the Communion Antiphon for Trinity Sunday: *All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth, alleluia: go out, therefore, and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, alleluia, alleluia.*

This antiphon reminds us that we are sent out into the world to preach the Gospel in the Name of the Holy Trinity and to baptize in that same Name.

Here is the Introit from Pentecost: *The Spirit of the Lord hath filled the whole world, alleluia; and that which containeth all things, hath knowledge of the voice, alleluia. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him. Gloria Patri.*

This reminds the Church of the power we have been given by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our mission in the world.

Like the hymns in our tradition, these Minor Propers are not extemporaneous to our prayers. They are an integral part of our Catholic worship. I encourage you to listen to them closely at the next Low Mass and to read along with them at the next High Mass. As you meditate on the hymns and antiphons you will be enlightened for mission. Christ.

- Fr. Paul Allick



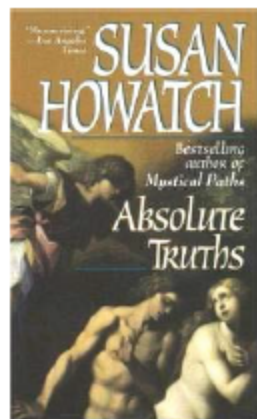
## BOOK REVIEW

*Absolute Truths*

by Susan Howatch, Knopf, New York 1995 640 Pages.

For a riveting read this summer, take up Susan Howatch's novel *Absolute Truths*, the sixth and last book in her Starbridge series, which highlights travails and traumas, personal and spiritual, within the context of the Church of England in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Though the see city Starbridge is Salisbury thinly veiled and the *personae dramatis* are mainly clergymen, this series is not Trollope's Barchester nor is it mere gaiters-and-gin tittle tattle. This novel, fully comprehensible without having read the earlier books in the series and indeed recapitulating the substance of those, explores the moral and spiritual throes of an episcopal protagonist, the Right Reverend Charles Ashworth, whose life in 1965, at age 65, is rent asunder. He must re-examine and re-align his life in light of the epigraph for Part One, from the spiritual director Reginald Ward (1881-1962): "Absolute truth is a very uncomfortable thing when we come into contact with it. For the most part, in daily life, we get along more easily by avoiding it: not by deceit, but by running away..." He can no longer run away. Howatch's characters are as distinctive and memorable as Dickens', though no caricatures they, and the morally and intellectually and spiritually charged plot as deep and complex and compelling as Dostoyevsky's. This surplice-ripper of a novel bares the soul of the agonized protagonist and of other characters as they claw their way from Chaos to Redemption.

William Bonnell



## Parish Profile

## DAVID RICCOMINI

David was born and raised Roman Catholic in a small town in California. He moved to San Francisco during the initial changes in the Roman Catholic Church resulting from Vatican II. He attended Mass at Saint Mary's Cathedral but wasn't comfortable with such a large building and congregation or the changes being implemented in the Church at that time. David attended two different Lutheran Churches, really liked the people in one of them but couldn't adapt to the Lutheran Liturgy. He next visited an Episcopal Church which he liked but still didn't feel "at home."

Five years ago a friend invited him to Church of the Advent which turned out to be a perfect fit! The liturgy, sermons, music and members were exactly what he had been hoping to find and he felt "at home".

Recently David has been asked to serve as an usher and couldn't be more delighted. Church of the Advent couldn't be more delighted to have David as an active member and serving as an usher.



Br. Marshal CoS

photo: Marshal Cousins

## MY PRAYER LIFE

Advent's careful attention to sacred liturgy and ritual are food for my soul, as necessary as the air I breathe.

But my prayer life is nothing like that. You may be horrified to learn I often listen to the Daily Office on an iPhone app and respond as I rush around to start a busy day. I have always been a "Martha." As hard as I try, I guess I will never be a "Mary" ... God understands.

I talk to God all day long in a conversational way. It's my attempt to remember when I step out on my own, the result is mediocre at best or, at worst, a complete disaster.

Once I had a difficult decision to make. I struggled to know God's Will, because the consequences were high. And then, someone gave me some wise advice that lifted my burden and gave me peace.

*"Do you truly want to do the Will of God?"* of course, I said, *"Yes."* He said, *"That's all you need. If you WILL to do the Will of God, God honors your prayerful choice. After all, your intent was to act within His Will. God will continue to love you and support you in every circumstance."* And the crushing weight of the world was lifted from my shoulders.

So, my daily, heartfelt prayers are an attempt to continually listen and be guided – it's my way of climbing *out of myself and into God's Will.*

*"Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of Your way."*

You may remember dramatic photos after 9/11 of firefighters carrying the lifeless body of a Priest out of the World Trade Center. Father Mychal Judge, FDNY Chaplain, gave his life to be with friends who needed him. This was his daily prayer. Jim and I were struck by how it encapsulates the Gospel and the very essence of Christianity. Now I combine those words with the message on a card I received a long time ago. I framed it to always be in front of me:

Lord ... *"What I do today is important because ... I am paying a day of my life for it. What I accomplish must be worthwhile because the price is high."*

So that's it. Two simple prayers and both add up to only five brief sentences. The rest of the day I have ongoing, to the point, conversations with God. Like, *"Hey, Lord ... what's going on? ... what should I do? ... am I getting it right? ... Help me, I can ... Help me, I can't ..."* and sometimes, *"Hey! Where did you go?"*

Lynn Swearingen



## Congratulations, Deacon Isaiah Brokenleg!



Deacon Isaiah Brokenleg, who served as a seminarian at Church of the Advent, has graduated from Church Divinity School of the Pacific with a Master of Divinity degree. Fr. Paul Allick, Fr. John Porter, and Lynn Swearingen attended the baccalaureate Eucharist and dinner on May 17, where they celebrated with Isaiah's mother and step-father as well as clergy and friends from near and far. We wish Isaiah every success in his future ministry.



**JEWEL FROM THE PRAYER BOOK:**  
*Calculating the Expanse after Pentecost*



The Sundays throughout the long Season after Pentecost, varying in number depending on the date of Easter, whether late or soon, present a problem in design. In the 1928 Prayer Book the beginning was neat and orderly – though called the Sundays after Trinity – with collects being chopped off at the end in the event of a late Easter but always being concluded with “The Sunday Next Before Advent.” In the 1979 BCP, the end of the series is preserved intact, always culminating in a collect which stresses Christ as “King

of kings and Lord of lords” (p 236), but the beginning of the series varies in accordance with the date of Pentecost, which itself, of course, is determined by the date of Easter. In the 1928 BCP, each collect was set in relation to Trinity Sunday, “The First Sunday after Trinity” and so forth; in the 1979 BCP, since a given collect might be used any distance from Pentecost, some years on the third Sunday after Pentecost, other years, the fifth, some years, maybe not used at all, the Collects are simply numbered, Proper 1 and following (*vide* pp 228ff). The principle for calculation is clearly laid out on p 158: the series picks up the week of the Sunday closest to a certain calendar date. Since Pentecost falls this year, 2018, on 27 May, the next day, Monday, 28 May, will begin using Proper 3, that for the Week of the Sunday closest to May 25. The series is interrupted only to use the proper collect for Trinity Sunday (p 228), but then resumes until Advent Sunday. It is a neat system but can seem confusing because the number of the Proper regularly differs from the number of the Sunday after Pentecost, e.g., on 26 August, the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, we shall be hearing Proper 16 (p 232). Do note that this period is not Pentecost Season, Pentecost being a day, not a season, but is the Season after Pentecost. The revisers shifted the reference point for this long green season from Trinity Sunday to Pentecost to exhort us to continue growing in our daily life enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

*William Bonnell*

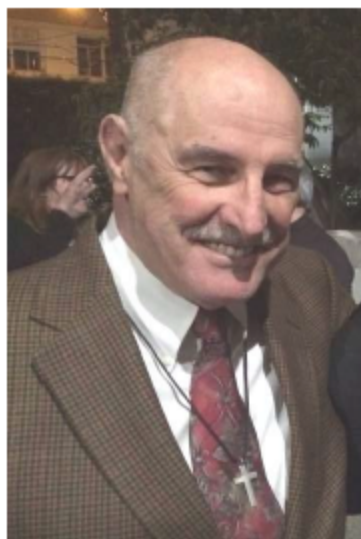
*Poetry Corner*

*Lewis Brown*

**Baptism**

Give us a name.  
 Spell it with ink, water and hope.  
 We will accept it, live and die with it.  
 We will find it in a book  
 with leather binding  
 built to last  
 from here to we know where.  
 Endless truth.  
 Endless peace.  
 Always close to home.

Longtime parishioner Lewis DeForest Brown has been a San Francisco poet since the 1950s and 60s. This month he offers us one of his own compositions, describing it as “written recently by an 81-year old flaneur whom I like to call ‘the poet in the attic’”.



# Feast of CORPUS CHRISTI

## SUNDAY JUNE 3 11 AM

### HIGH MASS, PROCESSION & SOLEMN BENEDICTION (RITE I)

WILLIAM BYRD	MASS FOR FIVE VOICES
CHARLES WOOD	OCULI OMNIUM
G P DA PALESTRINA	COENANTIBIS ILLIS
THOMAS TALLIS	O SALUTARIS HOSTIA



## Music Memorial Sunday

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES AND SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAM  
WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND



Music by SCHOLA ADVENTUS Directed by Paul Ellison

## The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association

On April 28, Fr. Paul Allick, Sally Schweikert, David Estrada, Stephen Rucker, Pamela Vaughn, John McCutchen, and Br. James Nathaniel attended a Community Meeting and Storytelling Event at the Proxy put together by the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association. Groups

and organizations from a variety of interests were present. Some helped people register people to vote. Some have helped bridge the divide between police and minority communities. A photographers presented an exhibit on the physical changes in Hayes Valley since the dawn of the 20th Century. There was good food and good conversation as we connected with folks from the community and surrounding area.

On April 30, members of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association Task Force on Homelessness met at the Church of the Advent to plan the next Outreach Walk to our friends and neighbors without permanent shelter. Those present agreed to hold Outreach Walks at least four times a year to get to know our homeless neighbors. Volunteers will be able to distribute bags of essentials donated by churches, schools, and individuals. The next Outreach Walks are scheduled for May 14, August 7, and November 20. Each walk will begin at Church of the Advent at 6 PM.

On May 7, a neighborhood public safety meeting was held at the Korean American Community Center. Assistant District Attorney Asha Jameson was present as well as two local officers. We discussed car break-ins around the city and how local organizations and individuals can ask for stay away orders. Ms. Jameson reported that car break-ins in the city have decreased from this time last year partly due to greater awareness by citizens and businesses, especially businesses catering to tourists. Ms. Jameson also provided information on different kinds of restraining orders. Those present were concerned about the recent uptick in gang activity in the area. Ms. Jameson spoke of ways her office and the local neighborhood can work together to ensure the progress in reducing criminal activity in the area is not reversed because of repeat offenders. The next public safety meeting will be held on June 4 at 7 PM at the Korean American Community Center.

Fri June 8 Hayes Valley Merchant Open House 6pm - 9pm Hayes Street between Franklin and Laguna Streets San Francisco

Thurs June 28 HVNA Community Meeting 7 pm - 8:30 pm Hayes Valley Clubhouse at the Playground, corner of Hayes and Buchanan

**HIGH MASS SUNDAYS 11:00 AM**

**Corpus Christi (transferred), Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Procession & High Mass**

**Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Rite 1)**

Celebrant: Fr. Paul Allick

Preacher: Fr. John Porter

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrant: Fr Alex Martin

Preacher: Fr. Paul Allick

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrant: Fr. Paul Allick

Preacher: Fr. Paul Allick

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrant: Fr. John Porter

Preacher: Fr. Paul Allick

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 June John McCutchen (baptism)
- 1 June Michael Stroup (confirmation)
- 2 June John Porter + (birthday)
- 3 June John Porter + (priesthood)
- 4 June John Klopacz (baptism)
- 4 June Suellen Thompson (confirmation)
- 4 June Raymond Buscemi (confirmation)
- 5 June Bob Kossler + (priesthood)
- 5 June Ricardo Avila + (diaconate)
- 7 June Lenda Taylor (confirmation)
- 13 June Walter Ramsey+ (diaconate)
- 13 June Alex Martin+ (priesthood)
- 16 June Pamela Vaughn (Companion, CR)
- 16 June Jude Morton (birthday)
- 25 June Rod Thompson + (priesthood)
- 29 June Paul Allick + (confirmation)
- 30 June Tom Barnes (birthday)

**CONFESSIONS**

Sundays 10:30 am

At other times by arrangement

**Wednesday Liturgy Schedule:** Beginning June 6 we will have Mass at 8 am and 12 pm with Evening Prayer at 6 pm.

Please stay tuned for Adult Education programming on Wednesdays in August and September.

**LATIN CHANT MASS Saturdays 5 pm**

**Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrant & Preacher

Fr. Mark Stanger

Celebrant & Preacher

Fr. Rod Thompson

**Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrant & Preacher

Fr. Alex Martin

**Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Celebrant & Preacher

Fr. Mark Stanger



AND DAVID AND ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL BROUGHT THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD

WE HIM HALLOWED BREAD FOR THERE WAS NO BREAD THERE BUT ONLY THE LOAVES OF PROPITIATION

DEDIT ERGO EI SACERDOS SANCTIFICATUM PANEM. I Sam 26:6

**WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday** Low Mass 9 am, Mass at the Episcopal Sanctuary (8<sup>th</sup> & Howard) 8:30 am

**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri** Low Mass 6:30 pm, preceded by Evening Prayer at 6 pm

**Wed** Low Mass 8 am and 12 pm, Evening Prayer 6 pm

## Commemoration of the Month: POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII

June 3 marks the commemoration of Pope Saint John XXIII, Bishop of Rome and church reformer. Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli on November 25, 1881 at Sotto il Monte in Northern Italy, John XXIII is perhaps best remembered today for his calling of the Second Vatican Council in 1962 and for his work towards world peace.

The third of 13 children in a family of sharecroppers, Angelo Roncalli was brought up in the Catholic faith. He was tutored by a local priest, attended seminary at the age of 12, and at the age of 20, went to Rome furthering his studies. After a brief stint in the Italian army, he completed his doctorate and was ordained a priest in 1904.

The next 40 years of Roncalli's life illustrate his vocation as a bridge builder for the diverse peoples of the world. In 1925, Roncalli served as titular archbishop of Areopolis and was an apostolic visitor to Bulgaria. There, he worked to resolve tensions between the Western and Eastern Churches. In 1934, he was relocated to Turkey and later to Greece as an apostolic delegate where he helped locate prisoners of war. In 1944, he was appointed Papal nuncio to Paris and helped with the Church's post-war efforts there. Later, he became the first permanent observer of the Holy See at UNESCO.

In 1953, he was elevated to the rank of Cardinal, serving as the cardinal-patriarch of Venice. When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, Roncalli was elected as Pius' successor. His pontificate, which many expected to be uneventful given Roncalli's age at the time of his election, is instead remembered as a turning point in the history of the Church.

It was Pope John who, in calling the Second Vatican Council, charged the bishops and all those present to remember, "...it is absolutely vital that the Church shall never for an instant lose sight of that sacred patrimony of truth inherited from the Fathers. But it is equally necessary for her to keep up to date with the changing conditions of this modern world, and of modern living...". The Second Vatican Council transformed the Church's view of itself and its relationship to the modern world. The Council's effects on the liturgy, canon law and social teachings are still discussed and debated today.

Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963. "The Good Pope" as he is affectionately known, is honored throughout the Roman Communion and in various churches in the Anglican and Lutheran tradition. In 2014, Pope Francis canonized John XXIII. In the Roman Communion, Pope St. John XXIII's feast day is celebrated on October 11, the day he called the Second Vatican Council. In 2018, the Standing Liturgical Commission in the Episcopal Church recommended to the General Convention the commemoration of the life of John XXIII in its latest proposed edition of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*.

At the end of his opening remarks to those present at the start of the Vatican council, Pope John XXIII closed with a prayer for divine assistance. He prayed, "Almighty God, we have no confidence in our own strength; all our trust is in you. Graciously look down on these Pastors of your Church. Aid their counsels and their legislation with the light of your divine grace. Be pleased to hear the prayers we offer you, united in faith, in voice, in mind." Amen.

*Br. James Nathaniel, SSF*



photo: Marshal Cousins

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Photos: Marshal Cousins



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AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE  
THREE; AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13