

# ST BEDE'S TRADITIONALIST COMMUNITY

“The true friends of the people are neither revolutionaries nor innovators, but men of tradition” – Pope St Pius X  
Newsletter (November 2007 - No 34)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**NEXT SPECIAL SUNDAY** - 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

**ALL SAINTS DAY** – 1<sup>st</sup> November – Mass at 12 noon (Thursday)

**ALL SOULS DAY** – 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Mass at 7:00am and at 12 noon.

## ALL SAINTS DAY AT ST BEDE'S

On All Saints Day we shall be holding a special family day. We hope that as many children as possible will come dressed as their favorite saints. After the 12noon Mass we shall have a shared lunch in the Club Rooms (please bring some food) and various activities for the children to celebrate the feast. This should provide a worthy alternative to the antics which go on for Halloween.

## REPOSSESSING CHRISTMAS

By: Graham Moorhouse

My eldest daughter complained loudly (for the benefit of her children) that Father Christmas had eaten the sweets they had left out for him but had discarded the wrapping papers on the table. Jemima, aged four, piped up, “Be fair mummy, he probably didn't know where the waste paper basket was.” I most certainly am not one of those Calvinistic super-trads who want to steal the magic of Father Christmas from children merely because the secular world has successfully exploited this tradition for its own ends.

I have never had any empathy for the attitude that wants to turn its back on the world for no better reason than that the world is good at what it does. Further, I believe that there is an obvious dichotomy in the sort of Catholicism which claims concern for the poor, no doubt genuinely, while at the same time derogating the very commerce which is the only long term hope of the poor. I have no desire to knock the world's success; ours is an incarnational faith, Christ really did become flesh - and I do not believe that the table and chairs that Christ and St Joseph made in their workshop would have been so cheap that one could have regularly found them in MFI.

What we should do is seek to emulate the world's success for Christ and re-baptize Father Christmas for spiritual ends. The legend of Father Christmas is built upon the storey of St Nicolas, a Catholic bishop who crept out at night to throw a bag of gold through the window of a poor man so that he could ransom his daughter from prostitution. Today, Father Christmas brings the “gold” down the chimney, presumably because, in our northern climes, our windows are kept tight shut in mid-winter.

This may be the time of year, just coming up to the festive season, to share ideas on how we as traditionalists can make Christmas more meaningful for children (without making it

less magic), with a view to doing better this year than last. I am heavily indebted to Michael Matt, the Remnant editor and a regular Chartres pilgrim, for the following – even shamelessly plagiarizing him in some instances.

**Idea No 1:** At the beginning of Advent convene a family counsel in which the children participate. Discuss what everyone is going to do or give up for Advent. For small children this will probably mean sweets. Be sure to mention however that the Church is a gentle mother and that Sundays are never days of fasting, so the children can look forward to one or two treats on Sundays even in Advent. Conclude by singing a favorite carol.

**Idea No 2:** At mealtimes, place an advent wreath in the centre of the table with the correct number of candles lit. The children can of course under supervision be involved in lighting and blowing out the candles or perhaps one of the youngest can be responsible for dimming the lights while the candles are lit.

**Idea No 3:** Add a suitable advent prayer to grace - anyone any ideas for a child appropriate prayer? If you have an ideal prayer, we could print it in the next newsletter.

**Idea No 4:** This one I really like: take something about the size of a shoe box and decorate it as a crib with a picture perhaps of baby Jesus stuck on it. Then obtain some straw – this can be purchased for a few pence from pet shops if all else fail.

The idea is that the children, when they do something especially good, can place a little straw in the box to make baby Jesus snug and comfortable. One could also hide little bundles of straw in the garden for the children to find. Hopefully, by the time you get to Christmas, unless all your children are completely delinquent, the crib will be quite full.

Once this tradition is established in your family, don't ever change the box, for the children will be devastated: children are natural traditionalists and they know better than most that traditions should not be changed – if only our post-Conciliar shepherds were half as wise.

**Idea No 5:** Involve the children in leaving out a plate of nibbles for Father Christmas. It could include some of the things they have given up themselves for advent. They could leave a note for Father Christmas asking him to give anything he doesn't need to poorer children.

All sorts of Catholic ideals can be worked into something as simple and magic as this: charity, concern for the poor, almsgiving, hospitality to strangers and visitors, and the obligation to make small sacrifices for others.

**Idea No 6:** On Christmas Eve place the crib in the Christmas area, i.e. where the tree and the wrapped presents are and screen it somehow, perhaps with an old curtain. This area is then strictly out of bounds until Christmas morning. After



midnight Mass when the children are all tucked up in bed, place the baby Jesus in the crib on a pretty piece of cloth.

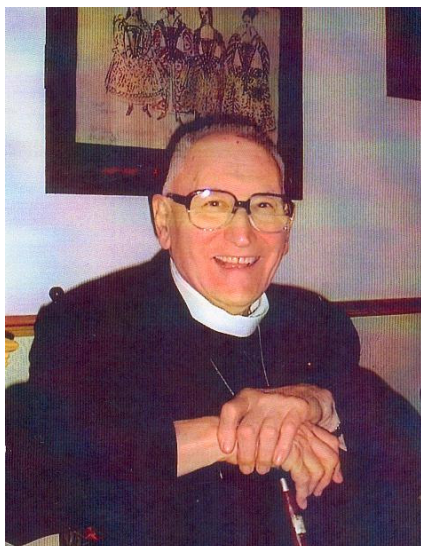
On Christmas morning assemble the children at the part of the house furthest from the crib and process to the crib with candles. Knee with them by the crib and remember the souls of the deceased members of the family. Say one decade of the rosary and sing a favorite carol. Then join the children in singing Happy Birthday to the Christ child. Now may be the time to open one or two presents.

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Puritans and Calvinists our Catholic forefathers most certainly were not. Centuries of such family and cultural traditions were the great "Catholic thing" that taught men for a thousand years how to live, love, worship and die in God's grace and in the loving arms of the human family in which He, in His great love and wisdom, has placed us.

Let us raise a glass of good wine to Christmas then! Let us celebrate the feast as our forefathers did. Let us keep Christmas sacred *and merry and magic* as it should be and as it always was. For it is a Catholic Feast and this is the Catholic thing to do! As Belloc famously wrote, "Wherever the Catholic sun does shine, there is music and laughter and good red wine."

#### DOM BEDE VELA RIP



By: Fr Andrew Southwell

Dom Bede Vela was a monk of St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough. He entered the religious life at the age of sixty-two having looked after his mother until she died at the age of one hundred and two.

His father was from the Argentine and a lapsed Catholic,

and his mother was from an Irish Protestant family. At the age of twelve, Dom Bede decided to convert to Catholicism. A year later, his mother followed his footsteps and his father returned to the practise of the faith.

From early on, Dom Bede had a fascination for everything ecclesiastical especially solemn liturgies and religious and clerical habits. He kept scrap books going back to the forties of the great liturgies in Westminster Cathedral and other places, and wrote detailed accounts of who was there and what they were wearing. This he did up until his death, although the ceremonies became less solemn and the habits almost vanished. He once remarked, "Once they get rid of the small things, the bigger things will follow." Many a nun faced his wrath for not wearing the veil.

Dom Bede worked for many years in shipping, becoming a director of a shipping company and a member of the Baltic Exchange. While on the Baltic, he was given various titles, "Your Holiness", "Your Grace", "My Lord", "Rabbi." On one occasion, while travelling to the office surrounded by men in bowler hats reading their broadsheets, a colleague boarded the train and exclaimed, "Your Grace, how wonderful to see you!" At which point the broadsheets were lowered

and all eyes were fixed on him – they thought they were travelling with a duke.

Dom Bede was the master of ceremonies and sacristan for over fifty years at St Andrew's church, Thornton Heath. He boasted fifty altar servers under his charge - thirteen of whom went on to study for the priesthood!

He was in the Second World War, seeing action most notably at the battle of Monte Cassino.

He entered Farnborough in 1983 and was solemnly professed in 1988, achieving his life long ambition to become a Benedictine monk. In spite of his vast experience of the world, Dom Bede was an incredibly humble man who threw himself into the monastic life, always endeavouring to do whatever was asked of him. He once remarked that the Baltic Exchange had been a good training ground for monastic life, as you had to get on with all sorts of people.

In 1991 he was part of a small group of monks who made the foundation at Oulton and then at Alton in Staffordshire. This was an attempt to create a traditional monastery with the old Latin office and the traditional Mass. Alton was suppressed in 1996 and this came as an enormous blow to Dom Bede. In fact it was then that he developed cardiac asthma, no doubt due to the shock. Eventually he made his home at Holy Cross Priory, Heathfield. He was delighted at the arrival of Fr Hugh Thwaites, for whom he served his beloved traditional Mass.

Dom Bede used to look forward to his visits to St Bede's and to the Holy Week liturgies celebrated at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane. He had a great devotion to our Blessed Lord and our Blessed Lady, and he talked to the saints as if they were his friends, especially St Padre Pio to whom he constantly turned for favours, and more often than not they were answered. He was never stuffy about prayer or the religious life. He always had a great sense of humour and could laugh not least when the joke was on him.

Dom Bede was called to God at the beginning of September. His body was taken back to Farnborough where a solemn Mass of Requiem was sung. Let us pray for his soul that God will say to him, "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master's Kingdom," for he was indeed a good and faithful servant.

#### THE GOLDEN COMPASS "The Devil was Always a Liar"

Ed with acknowledgement to the Catholic League

A Children's film called "The Golden Compass" is set to open for Christmas. The author of this children's fantasy is Philip Pullman, a noted conviction atheist. It is his *stated* objective to bash Christianity and promote atheism ... to children! "The Golden Compass" is a film version of the book by that name, but the film is being toned down so that Catholics, as well as Protestants, are not outraged.

The second book of the trilogy, *The Subtle Knife*, is more overt in its hatred of Christianity than the first book, and the third entry, *The Amber Spyglass*, is even more blatant.

Catholic parents need to keep their children away from this film because the film is merely a lure, a bait, for the books. But no Christian parent wanting to bring their children up in the Faith will want any part with these books.

The Catholic League in America has written a booklet, "The Golden Compass: Agenda Unmasked". It provides information about the film, and details what book reviewers have said about Pullman's books; a synopsis of his trilogy is also included. If you would like to order copies, go to [www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org).

It is important that all Christians, especially those with children or grandchildren, read this booklet. Anyone who does will be armed with all the ammo they need to convince friends and family members that there is nothing innocent about Pullman's agenda. Remember, his twin goals are to promote atheism and denigrate Christianity ... to Children! Get the word out.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO LOBBY YOUR MP IN YOUR OWN CONSTITUENCY**

The new draft Human Tissue and Embryo Bill will permit Parliament to undertake the most wide-ranging review carried out for many years of the law on abortion and the status of the human embryo. The Government intends to introduce this after the Queen's Speech in the autumn.

FACT: The Bill would allow scientists to create a variety of animal/human hybrid and chimera embryos for experimental purposes. (clause 17): The Bill proposes that the Reproductive Cloning Act 2001, which banned reproductive cloning, be repealed and replaced by something far less clear cut (clause 16, para 15.5); and that in addition to the two million human embryos destroyed or experimented upon since 1990, further experimentation would be permitted with no requirement to use alternatives (eg adult stem cells) where they exist.

The Bill would create 'state-sponsored fatherlessness' by allowing children to be born who will be denied a father or knowledge of their father throughout their entire childhood; Clause 51(1) "... no man is to be treated as the father of the child."

The Bill would create a new authority, the Regulatory Authority for Tissues and Embryos (RATE) with no corresponding initiative to create a body such as a National Bio-Ethics Council to consider the ethics of what is permitted.

The Bill would permit, because of its wide scope, amendments on almost any aspect of our abortion legislation, including extending abortion to Northern Ireland and allowing abortions to be performed by nurses and midwives without any input from a doctor. Many of the votes on these issues are likely to be 'free votes' and so it is crucially important over the next few weeks to establish where your own MP stands.

**ACTION**

Arrange now for a group of four or six of your friends to go to a meeting as soon as possible with your MP at his or her constituency office, to discuss the above proposals. This can be easily set up with his or her secretary.

Maranatha will send you a set of questions. Alternatively you can download these questions from [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk). In addition to this you could get as many of your friends as possible to write now to their MPs at the House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA. The purpose is to have thousands of letters expressing opposition to the Human Tissue and Embryo (Draft) Bill sent to MPs.

**TOMÁS LUIS DE VICTORIA**  
From: Wikipedia

Victoria is the most significant composer of the Counter-Reformation in Spain, and one of the best-regarded composers of sacred music in the late Renaissance, a genre to which he devoted himself exclusively. His works have undergone a revival in the 20th century, with numerous recent recordings. Many commentators hear in his music a mystical intensity and

direct emotional appeal, qualities considered by some to be lacking in the arguably more rhythmically and harmonically placid music of Palestrina.

Stylistically his music shuns the elaborate counterpoint of many of his contemporaries, preferring simple line and homophonic textures, yet seeking rhythmic variety and sometimes including intense and surprising contrasts. His melodic writing and use of dissonance is more free than that of Palestrina; occasionally he uses intervals which are prohibited in the strict application of 16th century counterpoint, such as ascending major sixths, or even occasional diminished fourths (for example, a melodic diminished fourth occurs in a passage representing grief in his motet *Sancta Maria, succurre*). Victoria sometimes uses dramatic word-painting, of a kind usually found only in madrigals. Some of his sacred music uses instruments (a practice which is not uncommon in Spanish sacred music of the 16th century), and he also wrote polychoral works for more than one spatially separated group of singers, in the style of the composers of the Venetian school who were working at St. Mark's in Venice.

Published in 1605 under the title *Officium Defunctorum, sex vocibus, in obitu et obsequiis sacrae imperatricis*, one of his finest, most beautiful, and most refined works is the great Requiem Mass he wrote in 1603 for the funeral of Empress Maria, who had been his employer since 1586, and who was the sister of Philip II and wife of Maximilian II, Holy Roman Emperor. Also notable is the serene emotion of every one of the 37 pieces that form his *Officium Hebdomadae Sanctae* of 1585, a collection of motets and lamentations linked to the Holy Week celebrations.

**REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE TRADITIONAL RITE**

**Martin Mosebach The Heresy of Formlessness**

Martin Mosebach raises the issue that many Catholics may legitimately ask, "Isn't it still possible to celebrate the new liturgy of Pope Paul VI worthily and reverently?" He responds, "Naturally it is possible, but the very fact that it is possible is the weightiest argument against the new liturgy. It has been said that the monarchy's death knell sounds once it becomes necessary for a monarch to be competent: this is because the monarch, in the old sense, is legitimized by his birth, not his talent. This observation is even truer in the case of the liturgy: liturgy's death knell is sounded once it requires a holy and good priest to perform it."

**THANK GOD FOR LADIES WITH TYPEWRITERS**  
Extracts from church bulletins

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the rapid deterioration of some of the older ones.

**THE WISDOM OF G.K. CHESTERTON**

"War is not the best way of settling differences; but it is the only way of preventing them being settled for you." - *ILN*, 7/24/15

**PROMOTE OUR NEXT SPECIAL SUNDAY**

**If you have a window, gatepost, tree, fence or similar, on which you can display the poster over and help promote the next Special Sunday, please do so. You can protect it from the elements by encasing it in cling film.**

*Please join us*



# Sung Mass

**In the Classical Roman Rite**

Sung by Cantores Missae, a professional choir  
under the direction of Charles Finch

## *Requiem Mass for the Dead of Two World Wars*

Sunday 11th November 2007 at 10:45 AM.

### *Victoria's Requiem*

*(For six voices)*

**Enjoy this beautiful sacred music within the  
setting for which it was composed**

Confessions available during Mass

Families and children welcome

**St Bede's Catholic Church**

58 Thornton Road, Clapham Park, SW12 0LF

By Underground: Clapham South. By Rail: Streatham Hill

The following buses serve the area: 45, 57, 137, 255 & 417