

ST. ANSELM

Proclaiming Christ in Hayes

No one Comes to The Father Except Through Me

These famous words from our Lord in St John’s gospel (chapter 14:11) would seem to be crystal clear. They follow immediately after Jesus’s assertion that “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” End of discussion, you might say. No wriggle room, no possibility of differing interpretations.

So, it’s hardly surprising that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has caused a bit of a stir in remarks he recently made to a gathering of young people from different faiths during his visit to Singapore.

“All religions are a path to God,” Francis said. “There is only one God, and we, our religions, are languages, paths to God. Some Sikh, some Muslim, some Hindu, some Christian, but they are different paths.”

But surely, Jesus’s words in John’s gospel mean exactly the opposite? Jesus did not say, “I

am a way” – he said, “I am the way.” If no-one can come to the Father except through Jesus, how can these different faiths all be paths to God as Pope Francis declared them to be?

To try and find an answer to this difficult question, I think we must re-examine our understanding of the incarnation – that fundamental doctrine which teaches us that the man Jesus is also God incarnate, or in other words, God made flesh.

Jesus is recognised as God made flesh because Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, as we heard in Peter’s words from last Sunday’s gospel reading. But the Christ and the man Jesus are the same and yet different – just as the Word, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is God, but not the same as God the Father. The Word is both before and after the man Jesus: indeed, before and after have no meaning when we talk of God because God is outside and beyond time.

Human pathways to the divine have developed both before



Jesus and after Jesus – yet because Jesus is the Word made flesh it is possible for paths that are different in time to still be the same path. In our world in both the past and the present, these different paths have been used to justify violence and destruction. That cannot be right. Let us pray for a clearer and more generous interpretation that can ultimately bring all our paths together as we strive to understand God’s mysterious revelation of himself to the human race.

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Please let us know of illness or other need as soon as possible. e.

Prayer focus

That we will all draw near to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship focus

That we we will all serve each other with the gift God has given us.

This Sunday

Sunday 22nd September

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (G)

10am - Parish Mass

Divine Office Psalter Week 1, Year B(II)

Keep in Touch



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07452 709238 (WhatsApp Only)

Notices

Please take note that the launching of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association has been moved to 5th November.

We need a person to volunteer as our Children's Champion, if you would like to take up this role, please speak to Susan.

We need volunteers to work as sides people to support the Church Wardens before, during and after worship by welcoming people to church.

Please sign up to read the scriptures during divine worship.

Please support the church generously through your giving at www.stanselm.co.uk/giving

Years Mind

22nd - Alexander Simpson

25th - Shelagh Boulter

26th - Ida Argent

27th - Annie Shuttle

28th - William Knight

Pray This Week For

Mavis & Daniel Sibley, Laura & her twins, Jenny Appleby, Chris Gomez, Freya, Omeeta Dunrad, Susanna Mansah, Mary, Tiziana Fiorillo, Lennard Jones Terrence Campbell, Dilma, Pauline and Jas

Monday 23rd september

St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest (G/W)

9:45 - Morning Prayer | 10am - Mass

5pm - Evening Prayer

Prayer focus: St. Anselm Parish

Tuesday 24th September

Our Lady of Walsingham (W/G)

9:45 - Morning Prayer | 10am - Mass

5pm - Evening Prayer

Prayer focus: For all religious

Wednesday 25th September

Wednesday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time (G)

9:45 - Morning Prayer | 10am - Mass

5pm - Evening Prayer

Prayer focus: Priest and Bishops of the Society

Thursday 26th September

Thursday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time (G)

9:45 - Morning Prayer | 10am - Mass

5pm - Evening Prayer

Prayer focus: New Christians

Friday 27th September

St. Vincent de Paul, Priest (W/G)

9:45 - Morning Prayer | 10am - Mass

12:00 pm - Angelus / Rosary

Prayer focus: Struggling Mothers and Fathers

Saturday 28th September

Saturday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time (G)

[Offices said Privately]

Prayer focus: Charity

Sunday 29th September

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (G)

10am - Parish Mass

Divine Office Psalter Week 2, Year B(II)

