

Dear Friends,

During this month our Holy Mother and Bride of Christ, also known as the Body of Christ, the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, commemorates a number of Saints and Holy Days including the Feast of the glorious Transfiguration of our Blessed Lord on the 6th; on the Mount of Transfiguration, just before His passion, Jesus revealed to Peter, James and John, that He is Light of Light and very God of very God, and that in Him all the Law and the Prophets find their consummation.

There on the Holy Mount, before their very eyes, the three disciples saw the living presence of their nation's greatest and long dead heroes, Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the prophets, and heard them conversing with Jesus Christ. They then heard the greatest Voice of all, the voice of God the Father saying: "This is my beloved Son ... listen to Him."

On the 15th, as Christian believers, we celebrate the Dormition (Falling Asleep and heavenly birthday) of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, and her crowning in heaven as Queen of Queens, commonly called The Feast of The Assumption. This year however the celebration is transferred to Sunday 16th in some jurisdictions. Since the Reformation we Anglicans, as reformed Catholics, have rejoiced to give the Holy Virgin that honour that is truly hers. At the same time we are careful not to make her appear as a goddess and rival to Jesus the Christ who is her beloved and only Son as well as her God and Saviour. The Blessed Virgin Mary is what she is, because of her Son and her obedience in love to the will of God the Father.

For over 2000 years the Church has remembered and honoured the Virgin Mary as the prototype and model of what all true Christians are to become in Christ. She was truly pure and unconditionally obedient to God.

As I have mentioned before, the Church' belief and teaching that Mary remained a Virgin all her life is something that this decadent generation finds hard to understand and accept, although it is consistent with Holy Scripture. Yes we know that in the Gospel according to St. Matthew 12: 46-50 there is a reference to 'the brothers and sisters of Jesus' but in Jewish usage 'brother' may also signify stepbrother or other relative, e.g. Abram called his nephew Lot 'brother' (Gen 14: 14AV, kinsman RSV); Joab called Amasa who was his 1st cousin (2 Sam: 17: 25) 'brother' (2 Sam. 20: 9) (see also Ruth 2:1 & 4:3). From the earliest times and mentioned in the 2nd century, the 'brothers' of Jesus were regarded as children of Joseph by a former marriage. Our Blessed Lord committed His Mother to the care of His disciple John, which He could not have done if she had another child to care for her.

As Christians, and therefore members of the Body of Christ, we belong to a great and large family living in the Church Militant here on earth, those beyond the grave in the Church Expectant in Paradise, and the Church in the closer Presence of God in heaven. We are all one in Christ who through His sacrificial death on the Cross of Calvary offers to all who respond to, believe in, and follow Him the gift of Eternal Life. The members of Christ communicate with one another and with God through Christ in prayer, and most especially, through the Mass or Service of Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Last Supper, in which Christ is truly present and with Him all who live and die in Him. In the Mass, that great service of worship, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Saints, with all the faithful departed and those still living here on earth share fellowship and communicate with, and pray for, each other. The Holy Communion Service commonly called the Mass is the highest act of worship that any Christian can offer to God and through which receive His grace and blessing, and which is most acceptable to Him.

Because of poor leadership in both the state and the established church the condition of the nation and church continues to deteriorate. It is reported that 30 village churches are closing every year; and one reads about alarming things which affect freedom of speech especially where the Christian Faith is concerned. There is moral decadence, lowering standards of education, atheism, paganism, the spread of Islam, irresponsibility, violent crime, etc. which are almost impossible to believe to be happening in a country which was once the envy of the world.

We are fast becoming a nation of greed, envy and irreligion, the end of which will be disaster, unless we awake out of our sleep of apathy, and indiscriminate tolerance.

Anyone who is interested in, and every Christian should be, what is happening on the legal and parliamentary side and the sneaking in of unacceptable legislation and is connected to the web, I would strongly recommend that you connect to and read <http://www.cefon.org> which is the website of Christian Concern For Our Nation founded by barrister Andrea Minichiello Williams. Mr Colin Bean MA, who acted in Dad's Army as Corporal Sponge, and as a faithful churchman was a convinced member of the Traditional Anglican Church, died in Wigan on the 20th June. We pray God to grant him Eternal Rest. I will be offering to God a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul.

Your friend and Priest,

Fr Brian.

From Fr. Brian's magazine: *St. Athanasius, Patriarch of Alexandria c. 296-373 A.D. was the first 'continuing Bishop' when he was banished by the Arian heresy which swept through the church and captured power. He remained faithful to the true teachings of Christ's Holy Church, and won the day. So shall we if we remain faithful to, teach and practise, the ancient Biblical and Catholic Faith of the Church of England.*

“May God console you! What saddens you is the fact that others have occupied the churches while during this time you are on the outside. It is a fact that they have the premises but you have the Apostolic Faith. They can occupy our churches, but they are outside the true faith. You remain outside the places of worship, but the faith dwells within you. Let us consider: what is important, the place or the faith? The true faith obviously. Who has lost and who has won in this struggle the one who keeps the premises or the one who keeps the faith? True, the premises are good when the Apostolic Faith is preached there, they are holy if everything takes place in a holy way...

You are the ones who are happy; you who remain within the Church by your faith, who hold firmly to the foundations of the faith which has come down to you from apostolic tradition. They are the ones who have broken away from it in the present crisis. No one ever, will prevail against your faith, beloved brothers. And we believe that God will give us back our churches some day....

They claim that they represent the Church, but in reality, they are the ones who are expelling themselves from it and going astray. Even if Catholics faithful to tradition are reduced to a handful, they are the ones who are the true Church of Jesus Christ.”

Note from webmaster. This passage is of course a consolation to all of us who consider ourselves excluded from our former places of worship by what now happens in them. It is much more a consolation for our brethren in the United States, currently being robbed of their churches by litigation in the secular courts. But in charity we should also remember in our prayers those who consider that they have been deprived of the ancient churches by the reformation.