

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a blessed and happy Christmass in spite of the financial crisis and the other problems that affect us as a nation and as individuals. As many of you know I had my right knee replaced in October which affected my ability to celebrate Mass, however, I was able to say the daily Mass of the Novena before Christmass and am slowly getting back into my stride.

In December my wife's father Sydney Turner died; he was 102 and had lived with us since 2000. He had enjoyed good health until about four weeks before his death when he suffered a sudden decline. He had lived a very full life the majority of which was spent in South Africa where he went with his parents as a very young boy, and also a few years in Kenya. He was very happy, however, to spend his last few years back in Britain which was the land of his birth. May he rest in peace.

On behalf of my wife, her large family and myself, thanks to everyone who came to the funeral and/or sent letters and cards of sympathy.

The new civil year 2010 AD is now upon us beginning on the 1st January with the Feast of the Circumcision of our Blessed Lord, and Mary Mother of God. As usual our congregation in Presteigne looks forward to the Feast of the Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January. After the eleven o'clock Holy Eucharist we have our annual Epiphany parish lunch.

What the new year of 2010 holds for us, is anyone's guess, but we must go forth trusting in God and seeking His guidance, in every aspect of our life, private and public, Church and State. With the grace of God, which He freely offers to each of us and which is sufficient for us, we must endeavour to do His will, and obeying His Commandments, grow in holiness.

We must do all we can to witness to our Holy Religion, even if it means being laughed at or even persecuted. Our country needs us to proclaim and practise the Catholic Faith of Traditional Anglicanism which inspired and built the foundations of our British nation and the many freedoms we enjoy. Many of these freedoms are now being attacked by those who want to enslave us to their false ideas and evil concepts. Even the Christian Faith itself is being attacked by Secularists, and so called Atheists who want all references to God, Christian festivals, crosses and other symbols removed from the public scene.

I would suggest that the time has come when every Christian, male and female, should try to wear on their person a simple Christian symbol, which proclaims their allegiance to Christ the only true Saviour of mankind and the world, and the only hope for human beings to achieve their full potential, both in this life and beyond the grave.

It is also incumbent upon every true Christian to pray and work for genuine Christianity unity. Christian unity must be based on the revelation of Christ as His Body the Church has always received, understood, recorded, and practised it.

As I wrote last January: There is only one Family of God in this world. His Holy Church, or as St. Paul would put it 'There is one body, ... one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God ...etc (Eph 4:4). As we know Our Blessed Lord prayed to His Father that all who belong to Him as members of His Church should be completely united in one fellowship.

To disobey Christ is to betray Him. Let us resolve during this year to continue to pray and work to fulfil our Lord's Prayer and command, that all may be one, as He and His Father are one, united in His one Holy Church. Our Lord promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to guide His Church unto all truth. The Undivided and Universal Church has always accepted that the teachings of the ecumenical councils, proved by Holy Scripture, are divinely inspired and are summed up and taught in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

Let us never forget that the divisions in Christendom were and are caused and perpetuated by the sinfulness of men, and often by the inventing of doctrines to suit man's purpose, individually or corporately either through misunderstanding or evil determination. From time to time reformations may be necessary, but not as an end in itself, and should be from within and not from without and always based on the teachings of Scripture as interpreted through the guidance of God the Holy Spirit in the universal Councils of Christ's undivided Church. The end of such reforming must be for the glory of God and the unity of His Church.

Jesus Christ is an historical person and He established an historical Body which He called His Church, He said 'I am the Vine and you are the branches,' it is to this we must belong if we want to be His true disciples and live in His Presence both here in this world and in that which is to come.

As I mention every year the purpose of this magazine is to remind ourselves of some of the Anglican writings down the centuries and the important contribution they made to the understanding of, and witnessing to, the Holy Catholic Church of Christ. Thanks to those who have sent donations towards the cost of producing this magazine. There is no charge for it but donations are gratefully received. They help.

My wife and family join me in wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Your Priest & Friend,

Fr. Brian.