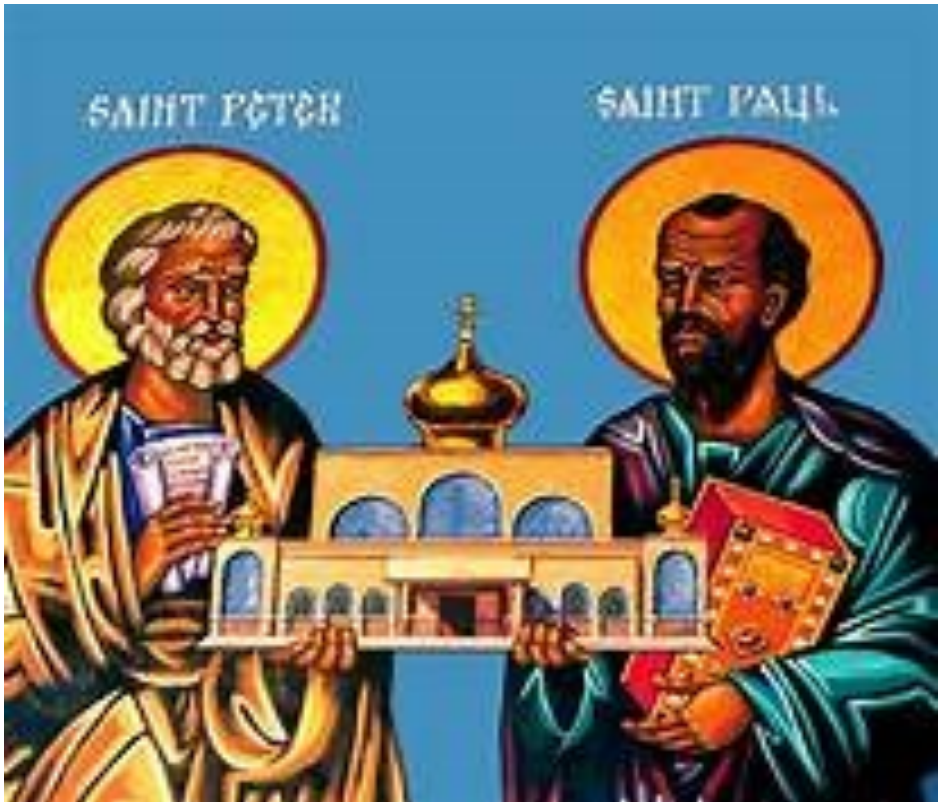
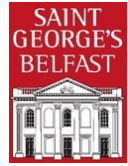


The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

An open door in the heart of the City



JUNE 2023

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Tony Merrick.

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have now entered the season of Trinity which runs from Trinity Sunday, 4th June, until Advent Sunday which falls on the 3rd December. It is the longest season in the churches calendar lasting for 26 weeks, half the year. The colour used throughout the Trinity season is green, which amongst other things, symbolises growth. The first half of the Church's year from Advent through to Pentecost (or Whitsunday) is a constantly changing set of events related to the coming of Christ, His birth, His manifestation to the Gentiles. His temptations, passion, death, and resurrection, followed by His Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That period encompasses many moods, changes of scene, different events and dramatic happenings in Jesus life and the Church's recollection of them. It is a roller coaster of salvation history. The Trinity season, interspersed with Saints Days and Holy Days, is a time for steady, quiet growth in the Christian life through the scripture passages we here read at worship and, God willing, through the sermons that are preached. The life of the Christian can at times be dramatic, exciting, even dangerous but Trinity is a season when we are reminded that we also need quiet, steady growth in grace. Just as Christ recognised during his earthly life the need to draw aside for rest, prayer and recuperation, so too we should recognise the value of those things.

I hope that you will be able to find such times for reflection and contemplation during this Trinity season. Perhaps you may even be fortunate enough to enjoy a holiday or a spiritual retreat. I pray you will experience renewal and rest over the summer especially. Please do continue to attend church, whether it be St George's or wherever you find yourself. Do bring back any service sheets or leaflets you find there, as I like to see how other parishes do things.

I will be around for most of the summer months in the parish, with perhaps a week away in late June and another in September. Please do contact me on 07902792080 if there is any pastoral emergency.

Every blessing in Christ

Brian Stewart

PARISH NEWS

CAR PARKING DURING THE WEEK AT ST GEORGE'S

The **Car Parking Donation** of £45 to Parish funds for parishioners who have a registered 'Carpark Fob', is now due for renewal for a period of 12 months, beginning **1st May 2023**.



TWO CHOIR CONCERTS IN JUNE

The first is on **Friday 2nd June at 7:30pm**. This will feature our choristers from the parish and girls' choir but NOT as singers, but rather performing in a variety-style concert, as not seen before.

The second is on **Friday 23rd June at 7:30pm**, This will be a recital of solo and choral singing.

We look forward to you joining us at these events and joining us afterwards for refreshments.

On **Sunday 25th June**, our choir will sing at both services (11:00am and 5:00pm) in St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Dublin

Michael Clendinning

SOME CORONATION THOUGHTS

The Coronation of King Charles III was for many, myself included, a twice in a lifetime experience. It was a wonderful event, the music lovely and the processions very impressive. The two hour service in Westminster Abbey was replete with ceremonies, each of which was of symbolic significance.

However, it was much more than that - the most sacred part was the anointing of the Sovereign, which by its very sanctity is carried out hidden from public view, in this Coronation by portable screens, beautifully woven with Tree of Life themes, and in earlier ones by a large canopy. The king was anointed to serve God and the people. On arrival at the Abbey he specifically stated that he had come to serve and not to be served. He is very much following the example of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is significant that for the anointing he was divested of his ermine topped robes, and clad in a simple white linen shirt.

As well as the traditional Coronation service format, there were also some important changes. It was shorter than previous ones, and the congregation was little more than a quarter of the size of that in 1953. Those peers who were invited were not required to swear an oath of fealty to the Monarch - the only one who did so was the Prince of Wales - but rather every person in the country was invited, and not instructed, to privately swear allegiance. I was very pleased at the inclusive nature of the whole event, as representatives of all the world's major faiths played meaningful roles. Nearer to home, both Archbishops of Armagh took part. Many community representatives were there, including those from the world of show business and music. There was also a greater role for women than in previous coronations. These changes reflect the many years of ground breaking work the King did when he was Prince of Wales.

Their Majesties the King and Queen received a most enthusiastic reception from the hundreds of thousands of people who had braved the poor weather to watch the processions, and by far outnumbered the protesters. The sheer numbers and enthusiasm show that in this rapidly changing society we are now living in, most people still do value, even yearn for, the continuity and stability and traditional standards that Constitutional Monarchy offers.

Tony Merrick

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT



The school year is coming to a close, the choir has nearly reached the end of term and we have a few plans that we would like to share with you.

Firstly, some updates. At the time of writing, we have four new probationers in the treble ranks, Daniel, Matthew, Mile and Rocco. These P4s have been coming along to rehearsals on Fridays and have been learning the ropes. They sing in our warm ups, they work with Maeve, both individually and in groups, and have the excellent mentorship of Luke Armstrong and Connor Ho, two of our older choral scholars who come along on Fridays to help out. David will also be visiting Campbell College and St Bride's to audition P4 boys and P7 girls.

Over the year, we have lost some trebles to voice break, but they have stayed on in the back row and continue to develop as singers.

The Choral Scholars will sit their ABRSM Grade 8 and Diploma exams at the end of June and we wish them well in this junction in their singing lives.

The Girls choir has enjoyed a great start, there are seven committed girls who rehearse on Tuesday evenings and also take lessons on Saturdays (5 choral scholarship places) as well as singing each month with the Chamber choir and the BCP Evening Eucharist. The girls have robes made by Patricia McWilliams, formerly of Hunter Ferguson. We are also grateful to Hazel Campbell, from the Chamber Choir, who alters robes, adds buttons and is a general start when it comes to robes maintenance.

The Chamber Choir, made up of singers from within our own ranks of over 18 gents, and ladies and gents from the greater Belfast area, continues to sing Evensong on the third Sunday of each month. The choir also sang at the Epiphany Carl service, The Easter Vigil Mass and often sings the Requiem mass for All Souls.

As always, our huge thanks to Mark McGrath for his accompanying, teaching and managing of midweek services for weddings and funerals. Thank you also to Daniel Clements who has become a member of our community and allows us to perform such great repertoire in the morning services.

In July and August, the choir robing room and library is being refurbished. You may notice a large, yellow skip in the car park as we clear out lots of old files etc. The gentlemen of the choir will be moving all the contents of the library, robes and pigeon-holes to the upper balcony during the last week in June. We look forward to starting afresh in September.

The Parish Choir intends to tour next year to Berlin and will begin its fund-raising appeal with a concert on Friday, June 2nd at 7pm. This concert is unlike any other previously heard in St George's, it features the men, trebles and ladies of the two choirs, but performing on instruments, singing jazz, dancing, reading poetry in an evening of fundraising activities that will end with a reception at 8:45pm. Admission is free, but yellow gift aid envelopes will be available for donations. Do come along and see what the choir members get up to when they are not singing sacred music.

Our final concert of the year will take the form of a choral scholar recital on June 23rd at 7:30pm. This is a more formal event, the choir will open and close the concert, and some of the male and female choral scholars will perform solo repertoire. Funds raised at this concert will be divided between the choral scholar fund and the future organ fund.

The Choral scholars are very grateful for the donations to their fund, it allows them to have music accompaniments paid for, and this year, will pay for the girls to attend the Charles Wood Girls' Choir residential course in Armagh, under former chorister and organ scholar, Ian Keatley.

On Sunday June 25th, the services will be sung by Glasgow University Chapel Choir. St George's Choir will travel to Dublin and will sing the services in St Bartholomew's Church, Clyde Road. Please do come along if you would like to see a beautifully restored sanctuary which may inspire and inform our own renovations.

The Organ is in need of some pretty big work and plans have already begun to begin this process. The working committee commissioned a report from Matthew Hynes and is now beginning to source organ builders who can work with Wells Kennedy to renovate the instrument. We will keep you posted with updates but do keep Evensong on Sunday October 1st free in your diaries for the official launch of the Organ appeal.

Thank you, the congregation and wider community for all the support and encouragement that you give us each week. We look forward to seeing you at each of the events in the coming months.

David and Maeve

**How do you stay safe during a heatwave?
Top tips from the experts**

- Drink water regularly to steer clear of dehydration.
- Wear light, loose fitting clothes in order to give your body space to breathe.
- Limit strenuous exercise to avoid fatigue and an increased heart rate.
- Avoid too much alcohol, caffeine or sugar which could contribute to dehydration.
- Avoid going outside during the hottest time of the day - from around 11am to 3pm - and stay cool indoors by closing the curtains in rooms facing the sun
- Wear a hat, cap and sunglasses to protect yourself from the sun's rays.
- Look out for vulnerable people, especially the elderly and those who live alone
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle - especially babies, young children and pets
- Check that medicines you need can be stored according to the instructions on the packaging

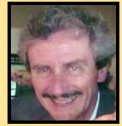
The Upper Room

By Geoffrey May

Upstairs from the portico
That very special place
The discrete upper room
Its gentle contours perfect
For the simple furnishings
Towards the stroke of one
Appointments ready candles lit
The priest and penitents in place
Room for a dozen souls or more
Come for peace and the midday
Eucharist. The Epistle & Gospel
Read the sequence of prayer
Continuing till the apogee-
The Agnus Dei and the Gloria
With the sunlight filtering thro
A sense of the ethereal: of God
Descending to be with man
In broken bread and wine

THE SIXTH

by Paul McLaughlin



I can still hear him shout at the top of his voice, the flat cap, with its sweat-rotted, leather brim pulled down tight above his eyes, the great bundle of newspapers playing across his chest like an accordion in the breeze. Over and over he roared, without becoming hoarse, a series of powerful guttural sounds that seemed to defy words or meaning. At least to me.

But this little man, buttoned up in a woollen herring-boned overcoat, ruled the southern corner of Belfast's City Hall like a regimental sergeant major as he reminded the homegoing citizenry that the evening newspaper, the Belfast Telegraph, was available to all for less than sixpence.

I was on my way home from school when I first encountered him and I remember hearing that same mantra repeated again and again. I could hear it drowning out even the belching rush-hour traffic that surrounded our seat of local government, but, like a foreign language, "Eber Ready Sick Telly" it meant nothing to me.

I was a thirteen-year-old desperately in need of cash to supplement the pocket money supplied by my dear Dad and on the look-out for any kind of part time job that would fit the bill. As chance would have it, that 'job' came courtesy of a neighbour who lived only three doors away.

Missus Arbuckle, all parents in our street were addressed by their full surnames by us children in those days when as my mother used to say, often looking in my direction, 'Better good manners than good looks', came to the rescue with a timely offer of employment.

She had gone to school with my mother before the Second World War, had been allocated a house in the same street in the 1950s and became firm friends. I would need no reference other than my mother's word that I would be punctual, conscientious and honest. And if my mother said I would be all three things, then I would.

I was to be given the responsibility of home delivering the Belfast Telegraph newspaper, six evenings a week, to the good folk of the two housing estates in our district. And I was to be paid ten shillings for my labour. That's about ten pounds in today's money, but it seemed a whole lot more in those innocent times.

Each evening at 5.30, my younger brother Jimmy and I, (I had recruited him on five bob a week to service the tougher of the two neighbourhoods where I felt distinctly uncomfortable), sat at the kerb on the Springfield Road, just outside the petrol service station that

took its name, to wait for the Austin van that delivered our papers. We clutched two old and tattered canvas bags to hold our stock, the newspaper logos on them faded to obscurity, waited impatiently when the driver was late biding our time by counting the cars that shot up and down the main road, as well as the occasional ones that made use of the petrol station where the four-star variety was on sale five shillings a gallon.

Names like Morris, Vauxhall, Ford, Hillman and Rover spring to mind, their shapes still famous and familiar in my memory, but the evening an E Type Jaguar went past tops the lot.

“He must be lost if he’s driving up here”, laughed my brother in only a half-joking way.

We spent nearly a year on that newspaper run in rain, hail, snow and blow, sometimes all four in the one day, and often the headlines grabbed us too. The world cup trophy got stolen, months before England won it, and then sniffed out by a dog called Pickles, a place called Rhodesia became nearly as familiar as Rostrevor and Action Man, this is for my brother, hit the shops for the first time.

We took our leave of the newspaper business just after Christmas 1966 when my brother went to concentrate on his schoolwork and football, not necessarily in that order, I’d just landed a part time job in Belfast’s Bodega Bar and we’d both learned what that wee man in the city centre with the voice to cut steel was shouting about.

He was simply extolling in his own inimitable fashion the newsworthiness of the Belfast Telegraph’s Sixth edition, referred to by all across the city as the ‘Sixth’.



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CURRENT EVENTS IN SCIENCE AND FAITH

by Keith Suckling

This piece is about not knowing, and is a bit more theological. I was recently invited to participate in a seminar in Dublin organised by the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The aim of the meeting was to discuss contemporary views on the 'End Times', a topic known technically as eschatology, which concerns the end of the world and all that follows. The main speakers were young Church of Ireland clergy (under 40). I was invited because I clearly did not belong to that category and because in the closing discussion I could offer a perspective that takes modern science into account. We find the end times dramatically presented in the book of Revelation, and similar images can be found in the Hebrew scriptures in Ezekiel and Daniel. This is where most of our popular impressions come from, the 'four horsemen of the apocalypse' for example. Elsewhere in the Bible, Paul offers his position at several places in his letters, particularly 1 Corinthians and 1 Thessalonians, and there are important references at several points in the Gospels.

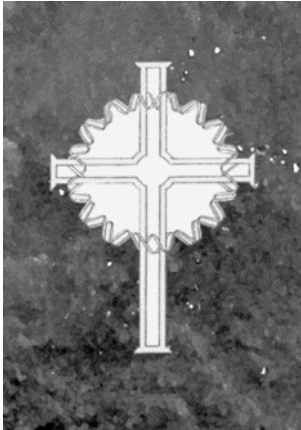
Our present understanding of the world and its place in the universe was not known to the writers of scripture. They used the cosmology of their time as their starting point, but things are vastly different now. For example, we believe that the universe is expanding on a scale that is greater than we can imagine. Exciting insights from new telescopes are being reported frequently. The expansion will probably end at some point, but well before that the sun will grow into a fiery ball which will consume all the inner planets including the earth. With this background, science challenges us to come up with a different model, an alternative way of describing the end times. This would not be something totally new but would offer another perspective on what we find in scripture.

Perhaps this seems to be a disturbing thought, but we can reach a more balanced position if we remember that scripture reminds us at numerous points in the Old and New Testaments that our knowledge of God is partial. Jesus himself recognised in his teaching that he could not describe the kingdom of God/heaven in a direct way. He taught in parables using images of his time to offer different angles that we could combine to give us a more complete picture.

Good science is careful to evaluate the data on which its explanations are built and recognises the limitations, ambiguities and uncertainties in them. Similarly in theology we are used to talking about 'models of

the atonement’ or ‘models of the Holy Trinity’. These offer differing but complementary ways of describing things which are beyond our ability to put into language. Not knowing is built into the model. It is a way of thought that we use more often than we might realise.

Moving forward, in June I will be going to Leeds to attend the annual Gathering of the Society of Ordained Scientists. SOSc is a dispersed ecumenical community whose members hold a scientific qualification and have a recognised ministry in their church. The Society is over 30 years old with just under 200 members spread across the world, mostly concentrated in GB and Ireland and in North America. I was honoured to be the Warden of the Society for 6 years from 2011. Two years ago I published a book ‘We are the data’, which is a history of the Society over its first three decades. We represent many different churches and many branches of science, but we would all recognise the meaning behind the Society’s logo (pictured). It is based on a Celtic cross in which a circular double helix of DNA is intertwined with the arms of the cross. I sometimes wear one as a pendant.



Questions of the kind raised by the end times are familiar to members, and every so often we combine our scriptural and theological knowledge to discuss them. Just a few weeks ago 20 or so members got together in a Zoom meeting to hear a presentation on alien life. It quickly turned into a debate about what the Nicene Creed (which we say every Sunday)

says, and what it doesn’t say.

A general conclusion which I think most of the SOSc members would agree with. There are boundaries and limits to our knowledge in both science and religion. Not knowing is built into science and it is also an aspect of faith. Like Job, we must recognise our limitations in the face of God and creation. Lots more could be said about this. I have felt for a long time that both theology and science need to present themselves with more modesty. If we recognise that all our traditions and studies only capture part of the full reality, deeply embedded positions can be seen for what they are, models, descriptions, images arising from specific times in our cultural history. Now, and throughout the history of the church, we only see in part. We would be wise to recognise the uncertainty and mystery which we inhabit and make it part of our prayer and worship.

MUSIC LIST June 2023

Sunday June 4th

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Hymn	How shall I sing - <i>Coe Fen</i>
Psalm	8
Setting	Stanford in Bb and F
Gradual Hymn	Father of heaven 358
Offertory Hymn	Holy Holy Holy 146
Communion Hymn	295
Motet	Cantate Domino - <i>Pitoni</i>
Hymn	Thou whose almighty word 466

Trinity Sunday

Parish Choir

5:00pm Evensong

Responses	Rose
Psalm	93
Canticles	Sumsion in G
Anthem	Greater Love - <i>Ireland</i>
Hymns	143, 137

Parish Choir

Sunday June 11th

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	He who would valiant 372
Setting	Collegium Regale - <i>Howells</i>
Psalm	33: 1-12
Gradual Hymn	Blest are the pure in heart 341
Offertory Hymn	Love divine 408
Communion Hymn	296
Motet	Jubilate Deo - <i>Britten</i>
Recessional Hymn	Forth in the peace 361

Trinity 1

Parish Choir

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Responses	Rose ATB
Psalm	41
Canticles	Sumsion in G (ATB version)
Anthem	Gloria tibi Domine - <i>Byrd</i>
Hymn	408, 307

Choral Scholars

MUSIC LIST June 2023

Sunday 18th June

Trinity 2

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Parish choir

Hymn	Ye holy angels bright	476
Setting	Darke in F	
Psalm	116: 1, 10-17	
Gradual Hymn	O son of God	428
Offertory Hymn	There's a wideness	451
Communion Hymn	305	
Motet	Ave Verum	
Hymn	Praise my soul	436

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Chamber Choir

Responses	Morley	
Psalm	43	
Canticles	Brewer in D	
Anthem	O thou the central orb - Wood	
Hymn	148 (<i>omit * & v4</i>),	252

Sunday 25th June

Trinity 2

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Glasgow University Chapel Choir

5:00pm Choral Eucharist

Glasgow University Chapel Choir

CALENDAR June 2023

June 2

7:30pm **CHOIR CONCERT**

June 4

Trinity Sunday

9:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

11:00am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20

Sanctuary Flowers: Brenda Claney in memory of her husband

Gordon and her parents

Readers: *Janet Sandikli*

Intercessor: *Caroline Wallace*

Servers: *Omelewa Akimyele, Agape Laoye, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Helen Crowe, Valerie Roberts*

5:00pm **Choral Evensong:**

Lessons: Isaiah 6: 1-8; John 16: 5-15 (*Fr Graeme Pollock*)

June 7

Feria

10:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

June 10

Russian Orthodox Liturgy: 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

June 11

1st Sunday after Trinity

9:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

11:00am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Genesis 12: 1-9; Romans 4: 13-25; Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

Sanctuary Flowers: Diane Patton in memory of her mother Mary and her sister Joyce Murphy

Reader: *Howard Fee*

Intercessor: *Janice Carruthers*

Servers: *Banji Akimyele, Laura Brannigan, Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Eleanor Maynard, Steven McQuitty*

5:00pm **Choral Evensong:** The Rector

Lessons: 1 Samuel 18: 1-16; Luke 8: 41-56 (*Fr Tom Layden*)

June 14

Richard Baxter

10:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

June 18

2nd Sunday after Trinity

9:30am **Eucharist:** The Rector

11:00am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Genesis 18: 1-15; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

Sanctuary Flowers: Janice Carruthers in memory of her mother

Catherine Carruthers

Reader: *Eleanor Maynard*

Intercessor: *Fr William Odling-Smee*

Servers: *Jonny Calder, Geoff Newell, John Callaghan*

Tea and Coffee: *Keith Suckling, Catherine Hunter*

CALENDAR June 2023

- June 18** **5:00pm** **Choral Evensong:** The Rector
Lessons: 1 Samuel 21: 1-15; Luke 11: 14-28 (*Janet Sandikli*) **2nd Sunday after Trinity**
- June 21** **10:30am** **Eucharist:** The Rector **Feria**
- June 23** **7:30pm** **CHOIR CONCERT**
- June 25** **9:30am** **Eucharist:** The Rector **3rd Sunday after Trinity**
Glasgow University Chapel Choir
11:00am **Choral Eucharist:** The Rector
Preacher: The Rector
Readings: Genesis 21: 8-21; Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39
Sanctuary Flowers: Karen Brett in memory of her mother Elizabeth Mary Gibson
Reader: *Geoffrey May*
Intercessor: *Eleanor Maynard*
Servers: *Banji Akimyele, Joan Calder, John Callaghan*
Tea and Coffee: *Linda McConnell, Yvonne Doherty*
5:00pm **Choral Eucharist – Order 1:** The Rev'd Terence Dunlop
Readings: 1 Peter 5: 5-14; Luke 15: 1-10 (*Paddy Sloan*)
- June 28** **10:30am** **Eucharist:** The Rector **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon**
- June 29** **1:00pm** **Eucharist:** Fr Graeme Pollock **Peter & Paul, Apostles**
The Walsingham Group meets at this Eucharist – all welcome

