

Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691

This country has been blessed by the quality of our religious pastors and writers. On Friday, we celebrate the life of Richard Baxter. Whilst he was expelled from the Church of England and veered towards Presbyterianism, his book called *The Reformed Pastor* gives sound guidance to all priests and pastors.

Baxter lived through the times of the English Civil War. When the Settlement came, he was offered the Bishopric of Hereford, but he could not take the required oaths, and so declined the appointment. He suffered considerable continual prosecution in his old age for unlicensed preaching, even in his own home. He died, aged 76, in 1691.

He wrote 168 separate works, and many hymns which are still sung. These include: *'He wants not friends that hath thy love'*; *'Christ, who knows all his sheep'*; *'Lord, it belongs not to my care'*; and *'Ye holy angels bright'*.

We remember Richard Baxter on Friday of this week.

Honouring the Word

During our weekly Mass, the book containing the 'Gospel' is processed from the altar to the centre of the Church. After being censed with the blessed cloud of God's presence from the thurible, that day's gospel is proclaimed by the priest for the congregation to hear. The book of readings is then returned to the stand beneath the pulpit, and the preacher expounds of the words of Christ.

This action underlines the central importance of the 'Word' to the community of God.

Fr John has pointed out that on Advent Sunday we will move to a new translation of the Bible for these Gospel readings. Such a new 'Gospeller', with a silver cover, would cost in the region of £800. It may seem a lot, but it is nothing compared to the priceless gift that the words reveal. Such a book would last at least fifty years of use in our worship at S. Barnabas'.

If you feel you might like to contribute to all, or some, of this vital part of our continuing worship, possibly in memory of a specific person or event, please speak to Fr John. It is an opportunity to add to the continuing witness and tradition of our community life.

We will also need to have a new, plainer, book of readings for the lectern.

If you have any news or ideas that might be considered for inclusion in future leaflets, please give copy to Robert Middlewick. (robertmiddlewick@gmail.com)

Please take this Pew Leaflet home and keep it for your reference and prayers.

Take a copy to give to a friend and share the good news.

THE PARISH OF S. BARNABAS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

9th June 2024

*WELCOME TO S. BARNABAS' CHURCH,
especially if you are a visitor or a newcomer.*

*We hope you will be able to stay for refreshments,
which will be served at the rear of the Church
immediately following the Mass*

Services This Week

Today	9 th June	PATRONAL FESTIVAL	
		11.00 am PARISH MASS and Sunday School	
Monday	10 th June	<i>Feria</i>	11.00 am Low Mass
Tuesday	11 th June	S Barnabas	11.00 am Low Mass 1.30pm School Procession&Mass
Wednesday	12 th June	<i>Feria</i>	11.00 am Low Mass
Thursday	13 th June	<i>S Antony of Padua</i>	11.00 am Low Mass
Friday	14 th June	<i>Feria</i>	11.00 am Low Mass
Saturday	15 th June	<i>Feria</i>	11.00 am Low Mass
	16 th June	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	

11.00 am PARISH MASS and Sunday School

S. Barnabas' Day School Procession and Mass

On Tuesday, we are invited to join the procession from our Primary School at the Stanley Road Gates to the Church. The procession will start at 1.30 pm. There will be a station for the school prayer to be said in front of the statue of S. Barnabas in the Church, and then a Mass of S. Barnabas will be celebrated.

This will be in addition to our regular Mass at 11.00 am.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR

- Fr John, and the life of S Barnabas' Church community; all who have worshipped here; all for whom this is their spiritual home; the Holy Spirit to guide our activities.
- the Church of England, as it confronts its past involvement in the slave trade in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; those who experienced inhumane treatment; those still bearing the scars of injustice.
- all who carry the scars of war and civil discord; those held hostage, and those being tortured; the peoples of Israel and Palestine; Ukrainians and Russians; the various peoples of Burma; wherever inhumanity is being demonstrated.
- the politicians of the UK, especially those maintaining the Government until the election; those standing for election, and those shaping policy for the political parties.
- all who are ill, especially those who are suffering pain, or an incurable condition; those who watch with them.
- all those who have died, especially Roy Penny; those whose who we know and members of our families; those who have died defending freedom; those who have worshipped here at S. Barnabas community.

Patronal Festival - Today

Our Church is dedicated in the name of S. Barnabas, whose day we celebrate each year on 11th June. Today is a special opportunity to give thanks for the life of our Church; for those whose vision, energy and commitment founded the Church; for those whose prayers have hallowed and sustained our community life over the years; and those of us who maintain its life today.

A 'Patronal Festival' is a day of real joy for us all. Christ's presidency at our daily Mass, and his presence in everything we do and proclaim here, is a cause for great optimism and hope. The life of each individual, and our whole community, is transformed by the triumphant victory of the risen Christ as he defeats evil and forgives the sins into which we are drawn into by our fallen nature. Hope and joy are the signs of our common life of worship.

Thursday, 13th S Antony of Padua, 1231

On Thursday, we commemorate the life and ministry of S Antony. Born in Lisbon in 1195, he was ordained as a priest and became a member of the Franciscan Brotherhood. He was noted for his powerful preaching, his running of mission campaigns, and knowledge of the scripture. He had a particular concern for the poor and the sick.

Hearing of the beheading of Franciscans in Morocco, he volunteered to go to Morocco himself, but when he became ill, whilst returning to Portugal, he was blown off course and finished up landing in Italy. He met with S Francis, whose suspicions of this rich and well-educated young brother were soon dissipated when he heard S Antony preach. His reputation meant he was invited to preach in southern France, but he finally settled in Padua, in northern Italy.

Several miracles were attributed to him, and of special note was the return of his stolen book of psalms by a deserting brother, who, through Antony's intercession, not only returned with the book, but rejoined the order.

St Antony died of ergotism, a disease possibly acquired through regular eating of infected rye and cereals. This can cause a type of gangrene which is often demonstrated by convulsive foot movements – hence the name 'St Antony's fire'. He was aged 35. The building of the Basilica of S Antony in Padua was begun in 1232, the year after his death. Amongst the many, many other patronages, Anthony is the patron saint of lost items, lost people and lost souls.

Nourish Food Bank

One of the things for which S Antony was noted was his concern for the poor. Like all Franciscans, Antony took a vow of poverty, so that their detachment from possessions allowed them to identify with who all the poor.

In our turn, we support our local families and individuals in need by our weekly contributions of tinned and dried food. Please continue filling the basket at the rear of the Church, so that we, too, can follow Christ's command.

Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer, 1941

On Saturday, the Anglican Communion remembers one of the many English people who, in the early part of the twentieth century, enriched the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England. Evelyn Underhill became an authority on Christian spirituality and mysticism. In one sense she re-introduced poetry into the prosaic life of the Anglican communion. She studied both philosophy and the history of Christian mysticism and was first women recognised as a spiritual director in the Church. Her 1911 book called *Mysticism* is well worth a read.