

ALL SAINTS NEWS

14th August 2022
Trinity 9 Pr 15

Martin Luther's Devotion to Mary



It may surprise many to discover that Martin Luther, the 'Founder of Protestantism', was very traditional in his doctrinal views regarding the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He accepted the traditional belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary (Jesus had no blood brothers), and her status as the Theotokos (Mother of God):

Christ . . . was the only Son of Mary, and the Virgin Mary bore no children besides Him . . . "brothers" really means "cousins" here, for Holy Writ and the Jews always call cousins brothers. (Sermons on John, chapters 1-4, 1537-39)

He, Christ, our Saviour, was the real and natural fruit of Mary's virginal womb . . . This was without the cooperation of a man, and she remained a virgin after that. (Ibid.)

God did not derive his divinity from Mary; but it does not follow that it is therefore wrong to say that God was born of Mary, that God is Mary's Son, and that Mary is God's mother . . . She is the true mother of God and bearer of God . . . Mary suckled God, rocked God to sleep, prepared broth and soup for God, etc. For God and man are one person, one Christ, one Son, one Jesus, not two Christs . . . just as your son is not two sons . . . even though he has two natures, body and soul, the body from you, the soul from God alone. (On the Councils and the Church, 1539)

Luther believed in a view very similar to the Roman Catholic dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception. In his view God's removal of original sin from Mary was by a special act of grace, and he seems to think that she was free of all actual sin, too, after Christ's conception.

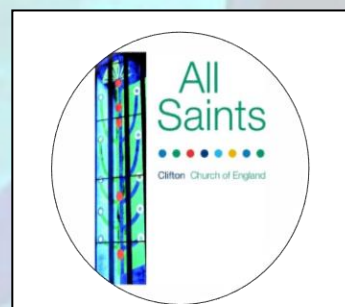
Luther appeared to hold that belief in Mary's bodily Assumption was permissible among Lutherans, but not required. In his sermon of August 15, 1522, the last time he preached on the Feast of the

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Assumption, he stated:

There can be no doubt that the Virgin Mary is in heaven. How it happened we do not know. And since the Holy Spirit has told us nothing about it, we can make of it no article of faith . . . It is enough to know that she lives in Christ.

He held to the idea and devotional practice of the veneration of Mary and expressed this on innumerable occasions with the most effusive language:

One should honour Mary as she herself wished and as she expressed it in the Magnificat. She praised God for his deeds. How then can we praise her? The true honour of Mary is the honour of God, the praise of God's grace. God has given Mary the honour to be the Mother of God and this honour we all wish to give her, to praise her highly, and to hold her in respect. But we must thereby enter the right path, and this way is Christ, for Mary is nothing for the sake of herself, but for the sake of Christ and she bore Christ for me, not herself. (Explanation of the Magnificat, 1521)

[She is the] highest woman and the noblest gem in Christianity after Christ . . . She is nobility, wisdom, and holiness personified. We can never honour her enough. Still honour and praise must be given to her in such a way as to injure neither Christ nor the Scriptures. (Sermon, Christmas, 1531)

Luther goes even further, and gives the Blessed Virgin the exalted position of "Spiritual Mother" for Christians, much the same as in Catholic piety:

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all of us even though it was Christ alone who reposed on her knees . . . If he is ours, we ought to be in his situation; there where he is, we ought also to be and all that he has ought to be ours, and his mother is also our mother. (Sermon, Christmas, 1529)

He did strongly condemn any devotional practices which implied that Mary was in any way equal to our Lord or that she took anything away from His sole sufficiency as our Saviour. This is, and always has been, the official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, too.

His opinion about the use of the "Hail Mary" prayer (the first portion of the Rosary) is illustrative of his overall Marian views. Sometimes he appears to condemn its recitation altogether, but he is only forbidding a use of Marian devotions *apart from heartfelt faith*, as the following citation makes clear:

Whoever possesses a good (firm) faith, says the Hail Mary without danger! Whoever is weak in faith can utter no Hail Mary without danger to his salvation. (Sermon, March 11, 1523)

To summarize, it is apparent that Luther was extraordinarily devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is notable in light of his aversion to so many other "Papist" or "Romish" doctrines, as he was wont to describe them. His major departure occurs with regard to the intercession and invocation of the saints, which he denied, in accord with the earliest systematic Lutheran creed, the Augsburg Confession of 1530 (Article 21). But he venerated Mary in a very touching fashion which has influenced the thinking and approach of the more 'catholic' wings of the Lutheran and Anglican churches.

Adapted from article by Dave Armstrong, author



Councillor Surgery
(every 3rd Tuesday of the month)
is this coming **Tuesday 16th August, 1-2:30pm in Redland Library.**

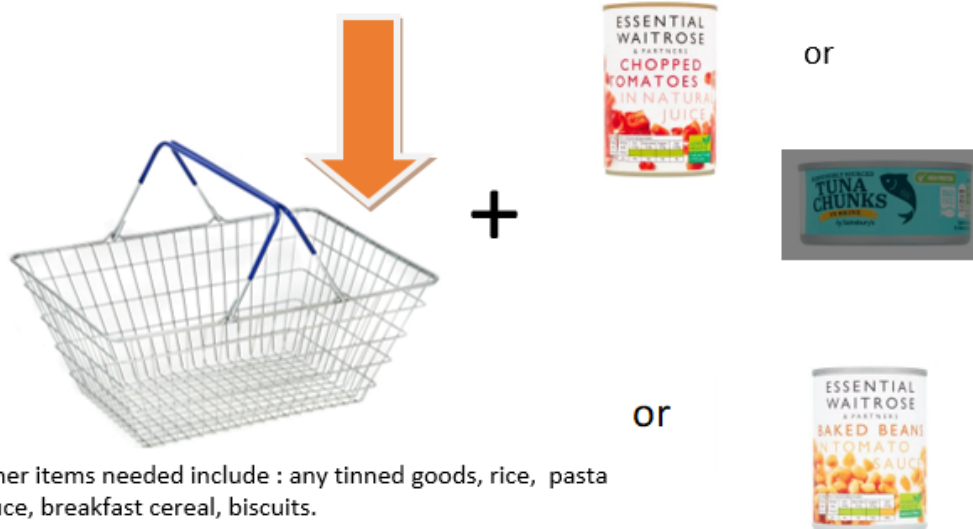
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Food Point – Plus One Challenge !

The Sisters of the Church run a food bank in St Paul's that regularly feeds large numbers of people and also supplies the All Saints Food point. During August and into September the Sisters are closed and whilst we have plenty of pasta and some breakfast cereal, other supplies are running low.

If you are able to add one tin or packet to your weekly shop for the food point we can continue to offer people in food poverty the opportunity to make a meal and feed their families throughout the summer



Other items needed include : any tinned goods, rice, pasta sauce, breakfast cereal, biscuits.

Fresh fruit, eggs and baby foods always go very quickly from the food point.

Please join the Plus One Challenge.

all saints arts 2022 organ matinées at 4pm

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| Saturday 21 May (Assistant Organist Bristol Cathedral) | Paul Walton |
| Saturday 25 June (Organist St Peter Mancroft Norwich) | Julian Haggett |
| Saturday 16 July (Director of Music Truro Cathedral) | Chris Gray |
| Saturday 20 August (formerly assistant Bristol Cathedral) | Claire Hobbs |
| Saturday 10 September (Chapel Organist Marlborough College) | Michael Butterfield |

Entry is free with retiring collection (cash or card)
Refreshments served after the concert

The next Organ Matinée is on
Saturday 20th of August at 4.00pm
and features
Claire Hobbs

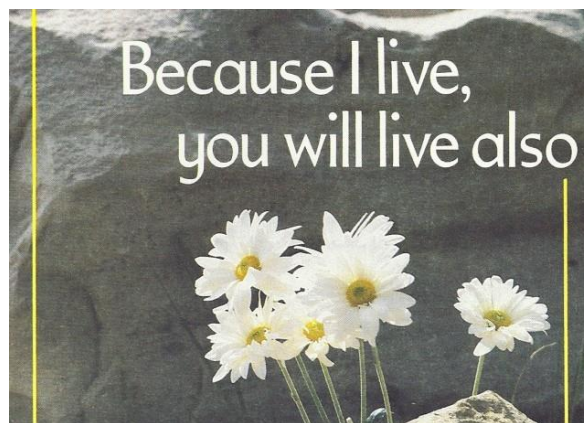
Claire was formerly the Assistant
Organist at Bristol Cathedral.

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer



Those who we remember in our Prayers

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Jean Callow, Sarah Bradley, Katrina and Katherine King, Samantha Tucker, Veronica Hayfield, Joyce Shepherd, Philip Miles, Ryan Lindsey, Immie Audrey Jones, Christine Bartlett, Emma Cartwright, Sue Hilliar, Steve Cooper, Alison Tierney, Molly Sharpley

Monday John Bradley, Robert Paul, Nicky Cousins, Peter Maine, Peter Martin

Tuesday Chris Callow, Elizabeth, Judy Torrens, Margaret Swindale, Diana Verity,

Wednesday Felicity Firth, Kate Thomas, Adam Holmes, Hugh Farry, Linda Cynthia Ashford, Ros Hawkins, Alan Roberts

Thursday Richard Harris, Matt Mumford, Brian Davidge, Caroline Semon,

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Elisabeth Morgan, Molly Sharpley + Peter (Bishop of Bath and Wells)

Saturday Merryn, Roger Durbin (Pr), Nicholas Edwards, Alan & Poppy

This Church

- All those who come into our church to find the comfort of our Sacred Space.
- For those who enter this church as visitors and tourists, for those who come just to look
- For those looking to the coming 'Christian Year' wishing ways to take part in the *missio Dei*
- For those who make use of this space for meetings, rehearsals, concerts, exhibitions, exercise, classes, events and so much more.
- For those who come into this place weighed down through fear – fear of life and life events, the Covid virus, of those around them, and so many other causes

The Departed

Brenda Davison, Stephen Halford, Hilary Blanchard (Pr), Eunice Langley

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Wilfred Gregory, Nicholas Turnbull, Dorothy Nockolds, Kathleen Vyvyan-Jones, Tom Sheridan, Malcolm Dawson, Sarah Hurst, Barbara Rowlands, Eileen Pedlar

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

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| Mon August 15 | Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom |
| Tue 16 | Flying Ambulance Services. Pray for all those who work to deliver this life-saving service, pilots, medical specialists, volunteers, fundraisers. And those who have been (and will be) served by their dedication |
| Wed 17 | Mass 10.00am Pray for the work of thrift shops – organizations and people who sell used goods to positively recycle goods, especially when donations are made to charities. Pray for the charity shops in our parish – Oxfam, St Peter's Hospice, British Heart Foundation, Sue Ryder, Cancer Research, Heart Foundation, Save the Children, DEBRA and MIND. |
| Thurs 18 | Pray for poets – those who find ways to express meaning in words. Pray for those unable to express themselves for many and varied reasons. |
| Fri 19 | Mass 10.00am Young people and teachers on school and university holiday. Pray for our school, St Johns, children, teachers, staff and volunteers. Also all those families in the parish and our university staff and students. |
| Sat 20 | Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux 1153 World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. Pray for the work undertaken by humanitarian organisations; that they are able to address the huge challenges they face. |
| Sunday 21 | 10th after Trinity Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30am |

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below ;

Parochial Church Council of All Saints

Account No. 65256747

sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office

office@allsaintsclifton.org

