

The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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Email: revgeoffreyrobinson@ntlworld.com / Tele: 07817 82562

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have read the account of how Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out (*Mark 6:7-13*). We hear how he instructed his followers not to take anything for the journey: No food or extra clothing.

Now of course, it is this piece of scripture which is often quoted as part of the basis of the Religious Life. St Benedict in his well-known Rule uses similar instruction to his monks when they are about to leave the monastery on a journey.

All this may be so familiar to you that I thought I would try and draw out from the portion of scripture, something a little more unusual to consider.

Let's just look at the opening words which run as follows:
'Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits'.

Now, I think those few words give us another angle by which we can look at this passage, particularly where we are told that Jesus sent them out in pairs.

Did he do that because it was dangerous for them to go alone? Did he do that so that they could keep each other company? Or did he do that in case they forgot the point of the mission.

While some of those possibilities should not be overlooked, I believe that the reason Jesus actually sent the Disciples in pairs was for nothing more than mutual support.

How many times in life are we placed in a situation that we have no other option than to walk away from what is familiar to us. We all have experienced changes of one sort or another in our lives. Changes which can occur when we leave home to be married, when we have children, when we change our jobs or when someone we love dies.

In general terms, we tend to manage these and take them in our stride. But what I think is more difficult to achieve, is that 'Mutual Support' which I hinted at earlier.

The Christian Life is probably the most difficult thing which each one of us has to face. Jesus knew that if people were left on their own they would drift off and probably lose their faith.

I am sure that you and I have witnessed for ourselves just how easy that can be - even the Church can lose sight of the love and care which every Christian person should hold for one another.

So as members of the Order of St Raphael, let us resolve to set our faces against all the wrongs which we see in our world today. Let us try to offer mutual support to each other in whatever practical ways we can.

There is no doubt that we can often experience both sadness and joy as we tread the path of life. It may be too that on occasions we feel let down by those around us. But, if we remain faithful on our Christian pilgrimage we will eventually be lead to God, the true lover of every Christian soul.

+ Geoffrey



Cook's Corner:

SAVOURY PIELETS

Ingredients:

Pastry: 1lb plain flour / 1 tsp salt / 8oz Dutch butter / 6oz Gouda cheese – finely grated.
Filling: 1lb potatoes – boiled and sliced / 4oz Gouda, grated / 1 onion, sliced / 4oz streaky bacon, chopped / 2 tomatoes, sliced / 1 egg, beaten.

Method:

Make cheese pastry with the above ingredients. Roll out and line four inch Yorkshire pudding tins; cut lids from remaining pastry. Fry the onion and bacon together until soft and golden brown. Mix with the potatoes, Gouda, salt and pepper. Divide the mixture evenly between the four tins and top with sliced tomato before covering with the pastry. Brush with beaten egg

and bake in a hot oven Gas Mark 6 or 200C for twenty-five minutes, until golden brown.

For your Prayers:

Baby Isobel:

(In hospital with heart related problems)

Reece Ryan aged 4:

(Recovering at home after 'Proton' treatment in America for a brain tumour)

Mary Dalton & Brian Keane

(Both Members of our Order who are now recovering from individual illnesses)

Anne & Gordon Gentry

(Members suffering with heart and chest related illnesses)

Calendar of Saints:



SAINT MARK OF GALILEE

Feast Day 28TH APRIL

St Mark died in the year 92AD It is said that he was a Galilean by descent and the first missionary bishop and martyr in the province of the Marsi (Abruzzi) in Italy.

SAINT MARK FANTUCCI

FEAST DAY 10TH APRIL

St Mark lived from 1405 -1479. He was born at Bologna, he first studied law and in 1430 became a Friar Minor. He held several offices within the order and preached throughout Italy, Istria and Dalmatia, visiting also the friars in Austria, Poland, Russia and the Levant. He died at Piacenza.

The Office of Grand Chancellor



Barry was born and educated in Blackpool in Lancashire. He joined the Civil Service in 1958 as a Plans Officer in HM Land Registry and later qualified as a land surveyor within the Registry. After a brief transfer to the Register of Sasines in Edinburgh he transferred to HM Customs and Excise and finally retired as a Commissioned Senior Officer of HM Customs and Excise in 1994.

Married to Dianne for forty-seven years, Barry has suggested that he should receive a very big medal for this achievement, but Dianne disagrees saying that it is she who should

receive a very big medal hanging from a very big bow! They have two daughters, Lorraine 41 and Sarah 36. Eleven years ago Barry received the Freedom of the City of London and is currently a member of The Freemen of England and Wales. On St Andrew's Day 2003 Barry was elected a Fellow of The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

For many years Barry was a member of The British Falconers Club, learning 'the sport of Kings', firstly by controlling a lowly kestrel and finally was one of the last falconers who was granted a license by the Department of the Environment under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, to take a bird of prey from the wild for the purposes of falconry.

The License was for a Common Buzzard which has the romantic Latin name Buteo but in reality, the bird was named Balla Wray after the wood where the nest was located in the English Lake District. Nowadays of course, all birds of prey used by falconers are aviary bred. (they don't make falconers like they used to!). it is an energetic sport and Barry is now quite happy for the younger men to take over.

Barry's main interests now are with the Orders of Chivalry and in The Healing, Teaching and Chivalric Order of St Raphael where he holds the position of Grand Chancellor being a Knight Grand Cross of the Order (GCSR). In 2009 he was promoted to Deputy Grand Master of the Appendant Order of The Most Meritorious, Spiritual and Military Order of St Mark with the corresponding accolade of Knight Grand Cross (GCSM).

Barry is now enjoying retirement in the sleepy hamlet of The Green in the Lake District and sometimes breaks the silence by going for a long ride in the hills on his 1957 Matchless 500cc twin motorcycle. The surname 'Uttley', according to the English Placename Society, is derived from 'Utta's leah' ie: utta's forest glade or clearing.

The three oak trees on Barry's shield surround the forest glade beneath in allusion to the origins of the surname. As you know, in heraldry, the shield is read from right to left as the knight was behind the shield in battle. The

right hand rose represents his eldest daughter, Lorraine and the rose on the left represents his youngest daughter, Sarah. The rosebud in the centre represents his daughter Eleanor who died when she was only two years old and therefore did not develop into a full English Rose.

This shield has now taken on a very permanent appearance as it is carved in stone and forms the centrepiece of the lintel over the new fireplace, recently installed in the family home at Low Beckstones.

Hey Diddle Diddle!

Hey diddle diddle

The cat and the fiddle,

The cow jumped over the moon,

The little dog laughed to see such fun

And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Richard III has received a bad press down the centuries but it is unlikely he had a humpback and there is evidence to suggest he was not as bad as made out. This rhyme does not agree which only goes to show that history is written by the winners!

Richard, as regent, looked after his nephew Edward V who then mysteriously disappeared from the Tower of London with his younger brother, also called Richard. Whether they were murdered has never been proved but some sources suggest they were spirited away into the Kent countryside where they lived under assumed names knowing it was a good idea to keep their identities secret. It is unlikely we shall ever know the truth.

Richard III was supported by Sir Richard Catesby, nicknamed 'Catte', while another supporter and also a cousin, was Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick whose family emblem was thought to be a cow. A further cousin was Henry Percy whose emblem was a moon, but he was on the opposite and losing side in the War of the Roses, hence 'The cow jumped over the moon'.

Viscount Francis Lovell was a childhood friend of Richard III and his influence was well known, as in the contemporary rhyme 'The Catte, the Ratte and Lovell our Dog, rule all England under a hog'. When Richard was made king, therefore, 'The little dog laughed to see such fun'.

The final part of the rhyme is unclear but it may relate to Richard III being the dish, with the

spoon referring to either the anointing spoon at his coronation or alternatively it is thought he may have pinched the royal sceptre!

(To be continued)

I am become like a broken vessel

On the sixth day of each month for almost twenty-five years, I would recite psalm 31 as part of Morning Prayer. Whenever I did this, one verse in particular always stood out in my mind: *'I am clean forgotten, as a dead man out of mind: I am become like a broken vessel'* (v14).

Now it may have been the way in which the language of the Book of Common Prayer put it, I don't know, but whatever the reason it is a phrase I have never forgotten.

Well, I wonder what you would do if you smashed a prized ornament? The answer I suppose would depend upon the extent of the damage, but I suspect that most of us would pick up the fragments and try to glue them back together.

However, if you had dropped and broken a clay flower-pot, what would you do then? I suspect that you may well simply sweep up the shards and throw them away without even a second thought. It is only when something means a lot to us that we take time to try and repair it.

If we think about it, like David in Psalm 31, we too can feel battered and broken by life, perhaps even shattered beyond repair.

As Christians, we may even begin to doubt that God could care enough about us to spend time rebuilding our lives – if you like, putting the pieces back together again! Yet God does precisely that, no matter how long or how painstaking a process it may be.

Never forget that each one of us means a lot to God and he is always seeking ways in which he can heal and renew us no matter how broken we may be: We are never beyond his restoring touch.



**The Healing Teaching &
Chivalric Order of St Raphael**