

The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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Email: revgeoffreyrobinson@ntlworld.com / Tele: 07817 825624

Dear Members

An old farmer was once sat on the steps of his small shack chewing on a piece of straw. He was approached by a passing stranger who was looking for a cool drink of water. Wishing to start a conversation with the farmer, the stranger asked, "How is your cotton crop coming on this year?"

"I ain't got none", replied the farmer.

"Didn't you plant any?" asked the stranger.

"Nope," said the farmer, "I was afraid the boll weevils would get it."

"Well," asked the stranger, "how is your corn?"

"Didn't plant any corn either," replied the man, "I was afraid there wasn't going to be any rain."

"If you didn't plant any cotton or corn, what did you plant?" asked the man.

"Nothing," said the farmer. "I just played it safe!"

Well, I guess if you don't plant anything, it makes the harvest a lot easier, doesn't it?

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus told the story about two brothers who were sent to work in their father's vineyard to bring in the harvest.

The harvest Jesus was trying to illustrate was not cotton, fruit or vegetables. He was sending out workers to bring people into the kingdom of God. He said that there were many souls who were ready to be harvested, but there were not enough workers.

One reason it was hard to find workers was that it is very difficult work.

Jesus warned that the workers in his kingdom would often be treated very unkindly. Only the other day I read a newspaper report about a very senior clergyman doing wrong. Is there any wonder that people are very often put off organised religion by those who should know better!

But, Jesus is still looking for people who will work for him and bring people into his kingdom. That is what the church is supposed to do. It won't always be easy. In fact, at times it will be hard.

Then there are people in the church who are like the farmer in our story -- they are "just playing it safe." It has been said that eight out of ten church members have never invited anyone to church and that nine out of ten church members have never won anyone for Christ.

Are you willing to work for Jesus and invite people to come to church? Will you go and tell people about Jesus' love and that he died on the cross so that they could have everlasting life?

There are many souls, who even today, need to be brought into God's kingdom, but there just aren't enough workers.

I am in the business of harvesting souls for Christ – How about you?



+ Geoffrey GRAND PRIOR

For your Prayers:

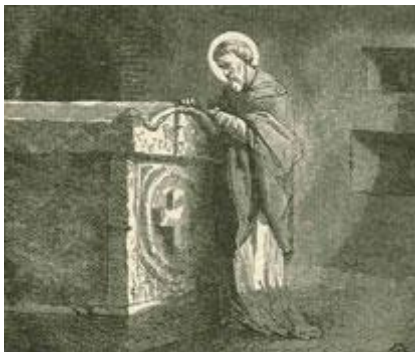


Beryl Anderton / Mary Gallagher / Gillian Gaiter / Lesley Fudge / Thelma Thompson / Paul Shaw / Sheila Hogarth / Ivy Holland / Maddie and Alan Penlington / Ruth Barr / Kathleen Roberts / Suzie Jeng / Hilery Robinson / Tracey Solley / Ian & Anne Weatherall / Marlene Addy / Pauline Weatherall / Ray & Doreen Connell / Margaret Smith / Florence Palmer / Sadie Sutton / Peter Bell / Norman Winstanley / Ruby & Calvin Brindley (Gozo) / John Leatherland, bishop / William Collier / Tania Walker / Tommy Ryan / John Bartle / Michael Greer / / Brian Adams / Gwen Cordell / Vicky Grimshaw / Patricia Grant / Elena Grady (and parents) / Brian Barber / Elizabeth Mills / Helen Kalli / Christine Felton / Lidia Flemming / Vera Balmforth / Tracey Rouse / Paul Sheridan / Roy Howard / Elaine Ingham / Carol Sagar / Albert Jones / Diane & Derek / Baby Charlotte Park / Nicole Vendettuoli / Tyler Page / Stephen Ashton, priest (near death) / Pat Crawshaw.

Answers to Locations:

1. Ripon Cathedral / 2, Whalley Abbey / 3. Rochester Cathedral

Calendar of Saints



SAINT WILFRID

HIS FEAST DAY IS OCTOBER 12TH.

Born in Northumberland in 634, St. Wilfrid was educated at Lindisfarne and then spent some time in Lyons and Rome.

Returning to England, he was elected abbot of Ripon in 658 and introduced the Roman rules and practices in opposition to the Celtic ways of northern England. In 664, he was the architect of the definitive victory of the Roman party at the Conference of Whitby.

He was appointed Bishop of York and after some difficulty finally took possession of his See in 669. He laboured zealously and founded many monasteries of the Benedictine Order, but he was obliged to appeal to Rome in order to prevent the subdivision of his diocese by St. Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury. While waiting for the case to be decided, he was forced to go into exile, and worked hard and long to evangelize the heathen south Saxons until his recall in 686. In 691, he had to retire again to the Midlands until Rome once again vindicated him. In 703, he resigned his post and retired to his monastery at Ripon where he spent his remaining time in prayer and penitential practices, until his death in 709. St.

Wilfrid was an outstanding personage of his day, extremely capable and possessed of unbounded courage, remaining firm in his convictions despite running afoul of civil and ecclesiastical authorities. His brief time helped bring the discipline of the English Church into line with that of Rome.

He was also a dedicated pastor and a zealous and skilled missionary; his spent in Friesland in 678-679 was the starting point for the great English mission to the Germanic peoples of continental Europe.

Poetry Corner



*'Have mercy on me, O Lord,
thou Son of David!'* Matthew 15:22

**A Canaanite woman cried out unto Jesus,
Have mercy upon me, O Lord!
My daughter is grievously vexed with a demon.**

But He did not answer a word.
 The men who were with Him: His trusty disciples,
 Were urging Him, Send her away!
 But she kept persisting with her interjections,
 And would not be silenced this way.
 Then Jesus declared to this woman who followed,
 The purpose for which He was sent:
 I came not except to the lost sheep of Israel.
 But she did not lose her intent.
 She worshipped Him openly, saying,
 Lord, help me!
 But Jesus went on,
 Furthermore, It's not good to take bread prepared
 for the children
 And cast it to dogs on the floor.
 The woman said,
 True Lord; she caught His expression,
 Alluding to those in her land,
 Yet even the dogs eat the crumbs from the table
 That fall from it onto the ground.
 Then Jesus acknowledged this
 woman's persistence,
 O woman, how great is your faith!
 So let it be done for you as you desire it.
 Her daughter was found well and safe

Cook's Corner



LEMONADE SCONES

INGREDIENTS:

250g (9oz) self-raising flour / 50g (2oz) butter /
 25g (1oz) caster sugar / juice and finely grated
 zest of one lemon / 150ml (5fl oz) lemonade.

METHOD:

Pre-heat the oven to 210C / Fan Oven 190C /
 Gas mark 7.

Sift the flour into a bowl. Cut up the butter and
 rub into the flour. Add the sugar and lemon
 zest. Add two tbsp of lemon juice to the
 lemonade. Add the lemonade to the flour
 mixture. Mix with a knife until it forms a soft
 dough. Add more lemon juice or flour if
 necessary. Dust the work surface with flour and
 gently pat the dough out until 2cm thick. Cut out
 rounds with a biscuit cutter and place on a
 baking sheet. Bake in the oven for 15-20mins.

Guess the Locations:



1.



2.



3.



A Prayer for Healing

*At every moment of our existence
 you are present to us, God,
 in gentle compassion.*

*Help us to be present to one another
 so that our presence may be a strength
 that heals the wounds of time,*

*and gives hope that is for all persons,
 through Jesus our compassionate brother.*



The Healing Teaching & Chivalric Order of St Raphael