



Anglican Catholic Church



## Diocese of the United Kingdom

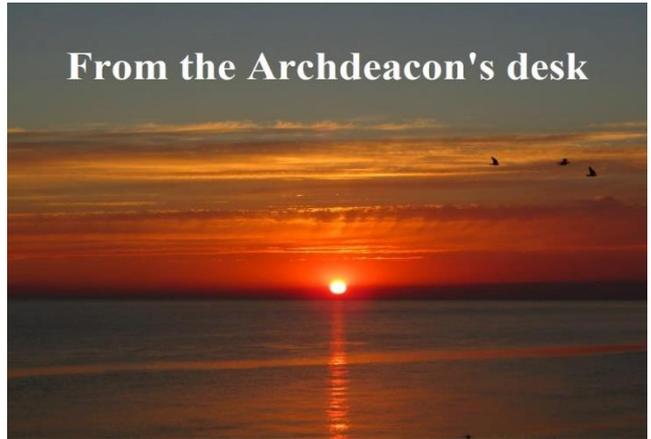
Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

April 2019

*My dear friends and colleagues,*

Easter is the most joyous of all Christian holydays – the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This is what makes our faith different from any other faith in the world. While other faiths are based on myth and legends, our faith is based on eye-witness accounts of this wonderful miracle. Not something made up years or centuries after a supposed event, but actual testimony of people who witnessed the events first hand. Just consider the amazing sacrifice our Lord made for us. And while His sacrifice made eternal life possible for all who believe in Him, it also makes our duty to Him that much more of an obligation. Unlike some faiths, where the emphasis is placed on looking inward, or where salvation is based on forcing others to live a certain way or by a certain set of rules, our faith emphasises our reaching out beyond ourselves to share the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen and to help others to believe. To believe not because they are forced to, but because Christ's Holy Spirit touches their hearts.

### From the Archdeacon's desk



There has never been a more urgent time for us to share His message. One only has to turn on the TV, the radio, or read a newspaper, to see that our world needs Christ and His salvation more than at any other period. These are turbulent times, and there's plenty of work to do.

We are not called to sit idle, comfortable in our assurance of salvation. No, as Christians we are to proclaim to all the world that Christ died and rose again for the salvation of all people who call on Him. And this is where the single most important job for any Christian lies. Our Lord has called each of us to preach the Good News. The preacher isn't just the man in the funny collar, or those who work in the mission field. Every one of us is a "preacher" of the Living Christ.

Here in the DUK we have no great choirs, no listed buildings, no peals of bells. What makes our Church so special is that we have that one thing all Churches should have – we have a CALLING. Yes, it is God's calling in each of our hearts, and the gifts of His Holy Spirit in each of our lives, that make our Church what it is. How lucky we are!

A very joyous Easter to you all.

*Fr. Raymond Thompson*

Archdeacon

Mobile: 07443 438465 Email: [rthompson@anglicancatholic.org](mailto:rthompson@anglicancatholic.org)

Diocesan website: <http://www.anglicancatholic.org.uk/>

Email: [diocesanoffice@anglicancatholic.org.uk](mailto:diocesanoffice@anglicancatholic.org.uk)

## A Proper Church



It has been said of the ACC that we are not a “proper Church”. Usually that comes from misinformed or prejudiced members of the Church of England, sometimes from members of “Forward in Faith” (FiF) (sometimes also known as the Society of S. Wilfrid and S. Hilda), who presumably believe that theirs is a proper Church, and who are trying to justify their increasingly untenable and disingenuous position by ridiculing our small (at least in the UK) size. Size is not everything. Our priests

have a firm grounding in sound theology. This is in sharp contrast with the cosy and woolly “sociology” taught in most C of E theological colleges.

One might wonder how these jibes can be levelled against us by members of a body where theology and liturgy can mean whatever you want it to, take it or leave it, pick and mix, bishops openly deny the Virgin Birth and our Lord’s Bodily Resurrection, and a sizeable proportion of its adherents do not recognise the orders or sacraments of another sizeable proportion of the same body. Special provision has to be made to provide “sound” episcopal oversight to parishes where the diocesan bishop is not welcome to exercise sacramental ministry. What muddled thinking this is where the Catholic and Biblical concept of a bishop presiding over his flock as the spiritual and sacramental focus of unity is officially permitted to be disregarded. This thinking is even more muddled when we consider that these very same episcopal visitors are consecrated by Archbishops whose actions have put them outside the Catholic Church, but with whom they remain in communion. An attempt is made, of course, to wriggle out of this by using the term “impaired communion”, but what on earth does this mean? You are either in bed or you are not, in love or not, in communion or not. The muddle doesn’t stop there either. Who is it that gives permission and commission to the episcopal visitors to perform a bishop’s functions in the diocese? Why, it is those self-same diocesan bishops who are not welcome themselves (and who may very well be a woman and therefore not even in Holy Orders according to Catholic doctrine), who may or may not graciously allow the Visitors to act *for them* and *on their behalf*. The C of E understanding of what a bishop is is seriously compromised and fudged. This is bad enough, but FiF claims to be a traditionalist body – so what traditions do they follow? Fudge is present in FiF, to suit those who think it is ok to “pull up the drawbridge” and make a little island of their organisation or their local parish church where the modern C of E cannot penetrate. Too late. It already has. It was already there.

Does the above describe a “proper Church”? Obviously not. But that title can and does fit our own ACC, where its Sacred Orders are not doubted by some of its own membership; where Biblical and Catholic tradition is not discarded because it does not suit modern transitory social whims or political correctness; where our bishops, clergy and lay people uphold basic Christian revealed truths about the Virgin Birth and the Bodily Resurrection of our Lord; where the Apostolic Succession is unbroken in its descent through the Anglican Church and the Episcopal Church of the USA before their apostacy; where the *difference* between the sexes is upheld and celebrated; and where clergy and people are of one mind about the nature of the Sacraments, particularly the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders.

THAT is a proper Church.

People who live in glass houses . . . !

*(At the risk of self-indulgence I will often use as a “desk picture” some Isle of Sheppey scenes photographed from my desk, from the garden, or within a few minutes of it!)*