

April 2021 Columbine



Spring has well and truly sprung. Hoping this edition of Columbine finds you all a bit more cheerful after the dark days of winter. And what a blessing to be able to go to Mass during this Easter season.

It was so sad last year that our churches were shut. Many of us have discovered lovely online masses, but nothing beats joining together as a community. We wish you a blessed and holy Easter season.

Jan and Kathy



Our Lady's Medjugorje message 25th Mar 2021:

"Dear children! Also today I am with you to tell you: Little children, [he] who prays does not fear the future and does not lose hope. You are chosen to carry joy and peace, because you are mine. I have come here with the name 'Queen of Peace' because the devil wants peacelessness and war, he wants to fill your heart with fear of the future - but the future is God's. That is why, be humble and pray, and surrender everything into the hands of the Most High Who created you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Our beloved dead

Ruby Leyden	1st April 19
Stephen Coyle	17 April 81
Fred Head	11 April 92
Les Colley	16 April 03

In this edition:

On **page 2** we find out a little more about two saints who have feast days this month: St. George and St. Catherine of Siena, plus a saint you may not have heard of: Richard of Chichester.

On **page 3** we remember SJP artists past and present.

On **page 4** we have a little more humour!

Jesus washes Judas' feet

That moment, when you knelt before him,
took off his sandals, readied the water,
did you look up? Search his eyes?
Find in them some love, some trace
of all that had passed between you?
You washed his feet, holding them in your
hand,
watching the cool water soak away the dirt,
feeling bones through hard skin,
you knew he would leave the lit room,
and slip out into the dark night.
And yet, with these small daily things –
with washing, with breaking and sharing bread,
you reached out your hand, touched, fed.
Look, the kingdom is like this:
as small as a mustard seed, as yeast,
a box of treasure hidden away beneath the dirt.
See how such things become charged,
mighty, when so full of love. This is the way.
In that moment, when silence ebbed between
you,
and you wrapped a towel around your waist;
when you knew, and he knew, what would be,
you knelt before him,
even so, and took off
his sandals, and gently washed his feet.

Andrea Skevington

Saints we commemorate in April

St. George – solemnity April 23rd

Born in Cappadocia, in modern day Turkey, Tradition holds that Saint George was a soldier, martyred in Israel around 303 AD, during the persecution of Diocletian. His cult as a soldier predates the legend of his slaying the dragon and spread quickly through both East and West.

During the crusades George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry. King Richard I placed his crusading army under his protection, and 1222 his feast was proclaimed a holiday. He was probably not adopted as Patron Saint of England until the 14th century, when Edward III made him patron of the newly founded Most Noble Order of the Garter.

He is venerated throughout the Eastern Orthodox and Islamic world. As well as England, he is also the patron saint of Ethiopia and Georgia. Other countries that celebrate St. George's Day include Canada, Croatia, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.



St Catherine of Siena (died 29th April 1380)



Born the 24th of 25 children, Catherine experienced visions from an early age. In 1365 she joined the Dominican tertiaries, took the habit, and remained at home in prayer for 3 years. Jesus joined her to himself in a "mystical marriage".

She attended to plague victims, brokered peace between warring factions in Italy, and dictated her *Dialogue* – a conversation between the soul and God. She was instrumental in persuading the Pope to return from Avignon to Rome. She died at the age of 33.

In 1970 Pope Paul VI named her a Doctor of the Church. Catherine was the first woman and first lay person to be so named. The devotion around Catherine of Siena developed rapidly after her death. She was canonized in 1461, declared patron saint of Rome in 1866, and, in 1939, was named patron saint of Italy, together with St. Francis of Assisi.

St Richard of Chichester (died 3rd April 1253)

Richard was born in Wych (now Droitwich) near Worcester. He became a distinguished scholar studying in Oxford and other European cities and was eventually ordained in Orleans.

During a time of political upheaval during the reign of Henry III he was appointed Bishop of Chichester, but was unable to take his post due to a disagreement with the king about his appointment but travelled round Sussex penniless, on foot, preaching. When he was able to return to the cathedral he continued to live frugally. He never ate meat, would not eat off silver and wore a hair shirt under his clothes. He also set about reforming the behaviour of his clergy, while strongly defending their rights. He overruled Henry III on many occasions, for example, defrocking a priest who had seduced a nun. Richard instituted yearly offerings from the parishes to pay for the upkeep of the Cathedral, which were later known as 'St. Richard's Pence'. There had been two fires in the twelfth century and, although the Cathedral had been re-consecrated in 1199, rebuilding and enlargement continued in Richard's time and he dedicated the first chapel to his friend St Edmund.

In 1253, the Pope asked Richard to go on a preaching tour to rekindle enthusiasm for the Crusades. He traveled along the coast and on into Kent, but it took a severe toll on his health. He dedicated a chapel to St Edmund in a cemetery for the poor in Dover, but collapsed the next morning. He died at a hospice called Maison Dieu on April 3rd 1253, aged about 56. The wall painting above shows him as a bishop with a chalice on its side at his feet because he once dropped the chalice during mass and nothing spilled from it.



Remembering Ann Bates' art class of 2013/14



St. John Payne Painters Calendar 2014

Starting top left, Russell Crook RIP; Sister Agnes; Sister Magdalene; Holly: George Bulmer; John Farrell; Teresa Diaferia; Helen: Veronica Campbell RIP; Coral Stephenson; Delia Dinsdale RIP; Alice Reid RIP; Anne Chapman RIP; Rosemarie (Teresa Diaferia's daughter) Susan Scott; John Chapman RIP Father Fred Smith RIP

Our Paintings from 2013



The story of Adam and Eve (and their pets!)

Adam and Eve said, 'Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us.'

And God said, I will create a companion for you that will be with you and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves.

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve

And it was a good animal and God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, 'Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal.'

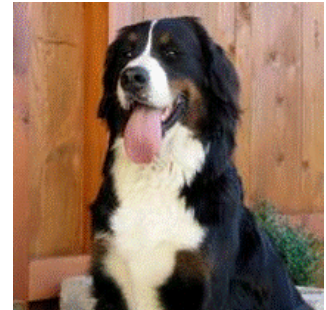
And God said, 'I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG.

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted.

And God was pleased.

And Dog was content and wagged his tail.



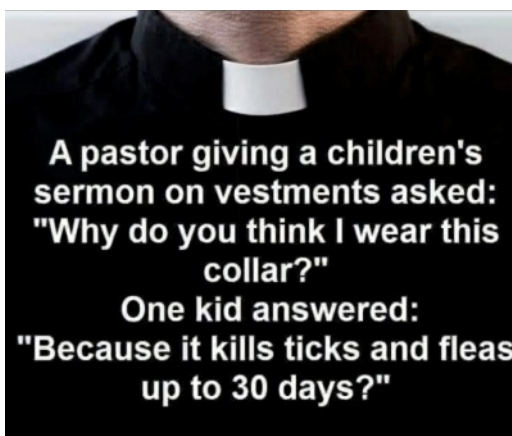
After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, 'Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well.'



And God said, I will create for them a companion who will be with them and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration.'

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. **And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the Supreme Beings.**



From Children's letters to God

"Dear God I am doing the best I can" *Frank*

"Dear God I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions" *Ruth M*

"Dear God thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a pony." *Joyce*

"Dear God do animals use you or is there somebody else for them?" *Nancy*

"In Sunday school they told us what you do. Who does it when you are on holiday?" *Jane*