

# T H E B U L L E T I N .

The Annunciation Marble Arch

A welcoming and international community centred around a devotional life rich in worship, prayer and music

FEBRUARY 2017

Easter is later this year with Easter Day on 16 April. So, there's a bit more time in February to prepare for the Great Forty Days. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1 March.

In Lent notice the change of atmosphere in church. The clergy wear purple vestments. The doors of the great triptych at the high altar are closed. The music is more restrained. This is a season of fasting.

As in church so we are invited to reflect this mood in our lives. Not that we are to look miserable. 'Rend your heart not your garments' says the prophet Joel (2.13). But we are to be more restrained in our activities and spending. Our Muslim brothers and sisters have much to teach us about fasting.

During Ramadan, nothing is eaten during daylight hours and substantial donations are made to charity. It puts giving up chocolate in the shade. So please think about how you and your household might observe Lent more intentionally.

Perhaps begin by asking: What is the difference between what I need and what I want? Our desires can be endless but our needs (at least during the Forty Days) are minimal. We need to eat and pay the household bills and there's always that unexpected emergency like the washing machine breaking down.

But our houses are packed with things that have sat in cupboards or on shelves for years let alone what's lurking in the fridge and the freezer. Do we need more when we have so much? Do we need any of it at all? Might Lent be the time for a Spring clean and a visit to the charity shop?

There are many people who buy their clothes, household goods and children's toys from charity shops because it's the only way to make ends meet. The charities that run the outlets and money also contribute to those in need.

Giving things up and giving things away reflects the trajectory of Lent as we head towards Passiontide and Holy Week. Jesus dying naked on the cross is an uncomfortable image to put it mildly. No wonder the church has spent vast sums of money covering it up with sanitized bodies in repose covered with gold and jewels.

But no matter how much artistry goes into crucifixes nothing should hide the brutal fact that what happened 2000 years ago, goes on happening every day. Now. To millions of people. In myriad ways. We can do something about it if we look outwards.

When people lose weight by dieting they are seen differently by themselves and others. When we lose some of the 'fat' of our lives we have our eyes opened. And once opened they should never be closed.

Yours in Christ

Fr Gerald

## BISHOP OF LONDON'S FAREWELL ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

London said goodbye to the 132nd Bishop of London at the Candlemas service held at St Paul's Cathedral, celebrating Bishop Richard's 33 years of ministry in London.

Before beginning the formal service, the Bishop and a procession of over 200 clergy welcomed crowds at a 'pop-up' cathedral in Paternoster Square.

During the service the Bishop handed over his Crozier, his symbol office to the Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent, who will be Acting Bishop of London until a new appointment is made.

Bishop Richard gave his valedictory sermon which discussed his time as Bishop and the team he has assembled in London. He also spoke of the need to tackle climate change, and embrace difference and diversity. In particular, he called on the church to remember its identity in a post-denominational, multi-polar world, saying:

*We are simply Christians seeking to serve the world in a spirit of humility. Jesus Christ, as our second lesson (in this service) reminded us, teaches that the first step in becoming a mature human being is to refuse to be a little god. He came in the form of a servant and so should we.*

The farewell service was attended by clergy from across London and the UK, as well as by a number of visiting bishops and clergy from across the world. Guests included the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, the Primate of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland, Bishop Jovan of Slavonia, and the Secretary of the Methodist Conference. There were also representatives of the Bishop of Berlin, the Diocese of New York; and the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.

Following the end of the service, Bishop Richard came to the West Doors of the Cathedral and blessed the capital and its population one last time, a mirror of the blessing he performed when he was first installed as Bishop of London.

A collection was taken for The Richard Chartres Fund for London, to work across London to deliver the Capital Vision aims of being a more Confident, Compassionate and Creative Church.

*(edited from the Diocese of London website)*



## THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S LENT BOOK

*Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace* (Bloomsbury Continuum 2017)

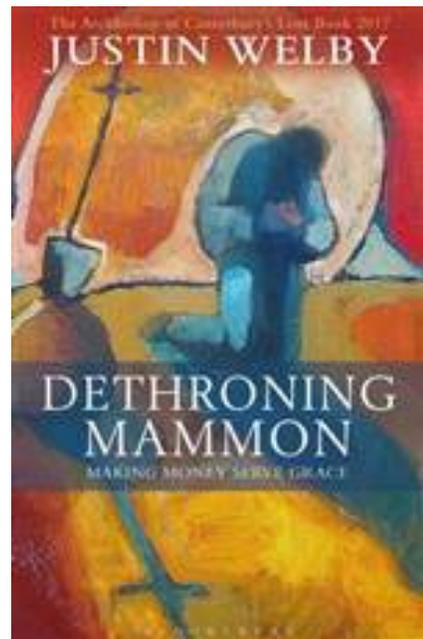
In his first full-length book Archbishop Justin Welby looks at the subject of money and materialism. Designed for study in the weeks of Lent leading up to Easter, *Dethroning Mammon* reflects on the impact of our own attitudes, and of the pressures that surround us, on how we handle the power of money, called Mammon in this book. Who will be on the throne of our lives? Who will direct our actions and attitudes? Is it Jesus Christ, who brings truth, hope and freedom? Or is it Mammon, so attractive, so clear, but leading us into paths that tangle, trip and deceive?

Archbishop Justin explores the tensions that arise in a society dominated by Mammon's modern aliases, economics and finance, and by the pressures of our culture to conform to Mammon's expectations. Following the Gospels towards Easter, this book asks the reader what it means to dethrone Mammon in the values and priorities of our civilisation and in our own existence.

In *Dethroning Mammon*, Archbishop Justin challenges us to use Lent as a time of learning to trust in the abundance and grace of God. The book seeks to straddle the worlds of the executive and the ordinary reader. Its full of both analysis and anecdotes.

Before ordination Archbishop Justin was an oil man. Working for the French oil company Elf Aquitaine, and then becoming the treasurer for Enterprise Oil PLC, he has spent a career amongst the wealthy and the powerful. He speaks from a privileged position of experience, and it is from the observations and connection in this life that gives him the authority to explore Mammon in its systematic, as well as personal, influences.

The book is available through bookshops, Amazon.com and other outlets.



## SERVICES & EVENTS

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### 1 MAR Wednesday 1 March

12.30pm Ash Wednesday Said Mass with the Imposition of Ashes

*There are also evening sung masses at All Saints Margaret St (6.30pm) and St Cyprian's Clarence Gate (7.30pm)*

### 5 MAR Sunday 5 March

10.30am Preacher: Ven Luke Miller, the Archdeacon of London. After mass there is a PCC meeting to agree the 2016 accounts and look at plans for the crypt

### 19 MAR Sunday 19 March after mass

Visit by Members of the West London Synagogue Youth Group

### 25 MAR Saturday 25 March

12.00pm High Mass & Procession of the Feast of the Annunciation. Preacher: The Revd Canon Leanne Roberts, Canon Treasurer of Southwark Cathedral

### 26 MAR Saturday 26 March

10.30am Mothering Sunday Mass with the Children's Choir

### 7, 14, 21

**MAR**

Children's Choir  
Children's Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays 7, 14, 21 March, 3.45pm in church

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

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The beginning of the Year of the Rooster was celebrated in style at the Annunciation on Sunday 5 February with church members of Chinese and Asian heritage providing traditional food after mass and wearing beautiful costumes. Many thanks to Annie Ee who organised the event this year.



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