

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious Renewal

Hollywood Congregation

Rev Ben van Lieshout
3 Stewarts Place
Hollywood, Co Down
BT18 9DX
90424254
07974960570
benvl@onetel.com

Newsletter for the week of Michaelmas, 29th September.

Dear friends,

After the busyness of summer when we are more easily drawn out into outer life, in autumn we can feel ourselves coming to ourselves, reawakening within ourselves.

We take heart in the face of the coming winter's challenges.

Our hearts are the crossing point between the inner world and the outer.

It is there that we enact the consecration of the human being.

It is our heart that turns toward Christ.

It is in our heart that the fire of creative life will be enkindled.

Our heart is to become aware of the light of the spirit.

At this time of the year a call goes out to the human heart.

A call from the archangel who watches over this season.

His name is Michael.

In Hebrew, this name is a whole sentence, ending with a question mark: Mi-cha-el? , which translates as: Who is like God?

In our service he is called the guardian of The Act of Consecration.

Michael calls on us to live up to our true potential, to ever more consecrate ourselves and become true human beings who bring the divine to life within themselves so that it can work in the world where it is needed more than ever.

Ben van Lieshout

Hollywood

Tuesday 28th September Gospel Study: (Luke 7, 11-17) 20.00

Michaelmas

Wednesday 29th September The Act of Consecration of Man 10.00

Thursday 30th September First confirmation lesson for
Lucia de Villeneuve and Jed Williams 15.20

Sunday 3rd October The Act of Consecration of Man 10.00
The Sunday Service for Children 11.30

Tuesday 5th October Gospel Study: Matthew 22,
The kingly wedding 20.00

Wednesday 6th October The Act of Consecration of Man 10.00

Thursday 7th October Confirmation lesson 15.20

Glencraig

Thursday 30 th September	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30
Thursday 7 th October	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30

Mourne Grange

Friday 8 th October	Talk:” What’s evil good for?”	16.00
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Clanabogan

Saturday 2 nd October	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.30
	Through the darkness to the light, an illustrated talk on the life and work of Vincent van Goch	16.00

The gospel reading for Michaelmas is Matthew 22, 1-14

And Jesus continued to speak in parables to them:

The kingdom of the heavens arising in human hearts is like a man, a king, who prepared a marriage feast for his son. And he sent out his servants to call the guests who had been invited to the marriage, but they would not come.



Then he again sent out other servants, and said, “Say to those who have been invited, ‘Think, I have prepared my best for the banquet, the sacrificial oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered; everything is ready. Come quickly to the wedding.’”

But they were not interested and went off, one going to his field to be his own master, another falling into the hectic pace of his own business. The rest, however, took hold of the servants, mistreated them and killed them.

Then the king grew angry; he sent out his army, brought the murderers to their destruction and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "Although the marriage feast is prepared, the invited guests have proved themselves unworthy. Go out therefore to the crossroads of destiny and invite to the wedding whoever you can find."

And the servants went into the streets and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Then the king came in to see the guests, and among them, he noticed a man who was not dressed in the wedding garment which was offered to him. And he said to him, "My friend, you are sharing the meal; how is it you came in here without putting on the wedding garment that was offered to you?"

But the man was speechless.

Then the king said to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him out into the darkness, where human beings wail and gnash their teeth. For the call goes out to many, yet only a few make themselves a bearer of higher life."



A homily on Matthew 22, 1-14

When a farmer sows his crops, he knows what he is planting. He knows what will come up. Other conditions will affect what is ultimately harvested; yet what will sprout is what was planted.

In our lives, we are continually planting thoughts, words and deeds.

They grow according to their nature. Untrue thoughts, words of hate, destructive deeds we will ourselves harvest as bitter, malformed fruits. True thoughts, encouraging words, helpful deeds grow into an abundant, living harvest. What we sow, we reap, if not in this lifetime, then in the next.

God sowed our souls and spirits in fields of earth. He hopes to harvest the good, the nourishing, the sustaining, in order to support the work of his angels. Our thoughts, our words, our deeds, the way we are, all is ultimately food for the angels. They need nourishment to sustain them in their work of helping humanity to evolve.

Originally, God's fields were planted with all 'good seed'. But adversarial forces interfered. They helped sow weeds, thistles among the grain. God's harvest became meagre, filled with the unusable. God and his angels have to sort out the good from the useless. What they cannot use they give over to the purifying fire.

Our thoughts, our words, our loving deeds, are bread for the angels. Here on earth we are preparing a banquet for the wedding feast of God our king. Our noblest thoughts, our loving hearts, our devoted deeds are bread of the angels. Our soul offerings are sustaining them in their work. And so we make our offering:

Praised be thou, eternal God, King of the Universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.*

*From the Hebrew blessing of the bread: "Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth."