

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Aug 2022

Vicar: David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday 7th :

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: The Smithson's

Readings/prayers: T Smithson

Sunday 14th :

10am Holy Communion Patronal Service



Refreshments: M Holdsworth

Readings/prayers: M Holdsworth

Sunday 21st :

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: The Heaton's

Readings/prayers: M Heaton

Sunday 28th :

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: The Clark's

Readings/prayers: H & C



Calf Fundraising Scheme: Donate a calf (if you are a farmer), or townies can donate \$250 which will cover the costs of purchasing a 4 day old bull old calf and rearing costs. Or you could wait until the calves are sold and donate the average cash price of what all the calves sold for. It is an easy and low maintenance fundraiser that has the potential to raise \$450 per calf sold. The better the calf, the higher the price we get for it. Forms and info on the Welcome table, or see Sally-Ann & Richard

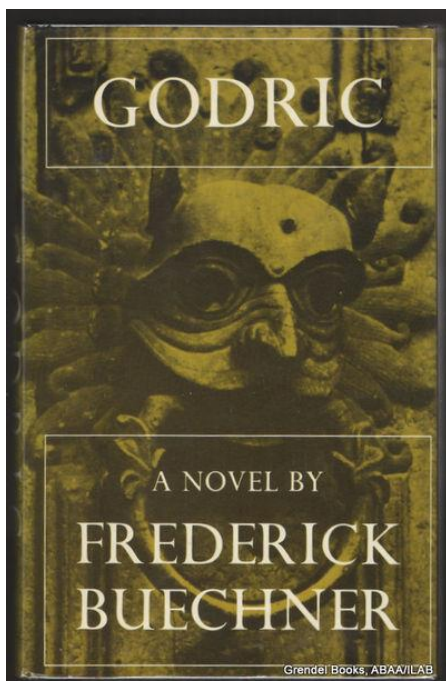


PRAYER GROUP

A new prayer group is being established, and will meet the first Sunday of the month after morning tea. Praying for our parish / family / friends / New Zealand. All welcome!

BOOK REVIEW

GODRIC by Frederick Buechner. According to history, England's St. Godric was an extraordinarily long-lived hermit (1065-1170) known for powers of precognition and healing. According to Buechner (whose theologically-tinged novels include the zesty Leo Bebb series), Godric's holiness was inextricably bound up with his guilty sinfulness--and here, in a familiar but workable format, the aged Godric heaps comic scorn on his worshipful would-be monk-biographer ("Fetch me a bowl to puke in") and insists on Telling It Like It Was. In the crusty ancient's retelling, young Godric, son of an overworked farmer, takes off from home early, leaving behind brother William (a talkative fool) and sister Burcwen (whose loving feelings seem rather more than sisterly). He peddles the hair of nuns at fairs, then sells phony relics--supposedly bearing the blood of a new "Christian martyr" (the martyr was in fact killed by Yorkshiremen who mistook him for a Jew). And though Godric meets St. Cuthbert on the holy isle of Fame and vows to do good henceforth, he is soon instead sailing the seas with Capt. Roger Mouse, robbing (in pirate disguise) the religious pilgrims whom they're transporting. Another stab at penance--a pilgrimage to Rome (disappointing) with his mother--leads to a vision of beautiful Gillian ("Repent and mend your ways"); but earthly ambitions resurface as Godric plays steward to a great (and foul) lord, then joins up again with the charismatic Mouse on a voyage East. This time, however, Godric can't go along with the pilgrim-bilking, and he washes his sins away in the river Jordan: thereafter, he sees visions, has powers over animals (two snakes are his best friends), and devotes himself to church service. Yet even in his hermitage sin intrudes: the incestuous passion for sister Burcwen is consummated at last. . . and leads to the accidental death of brother William (who has become totally dependent on his sister): "So. . . when you come to write down Godric's sins, be sure, although he struck no blow himself, to set down murder with the rest." Far from profound--the central irony of the unsaintly "saint" is clear from the start and hardly develops--but Buechner's rough, rhythmic voicings are shrewdly varied (Godric narrates in both first and third person), and the thoroughly homely, direct presentation of such a distant past is arresting enough to maintain interest through this brief, episodic study in spirituality's dark underside. You can borrow a copy from the vicar ☺



Scripture for the month:



This Month in Christian History:

1744: English religious leader Ann Lee and a small band of her followers arrive in America at New York City. Her sect, the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, is commonly known as the Shakers.

