

ONE YEAR ON

Dear Friends,

Well this month will be the one year anniversary of the first Sunday that we were unable to meet in church - which I reckon was the 21st March, 2020. I remember thinking at the time that this is likely to take a while... maybe even until after the summer! With a few months still to go until restrictions are lifted, it sometimes feels that this time will never pass - but it will!

I wonder how this experience will have changed us - moving forward?

CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOUR

It has been part of the Christian tradition through the centuries to keep special times during which we change our behaviour - fasting and giving things up that could be a distraction from our walk with God or taking things up to shape our lives to be more like our Lord. Praying, fasting and giving alms was the way inherited through the centuries. These times of special discipline were aimed at shaping our behaviour and attitudes so that we are able more fully to embrace the reality of God's presence in our lives and prepare ourselves for our eternal life. As the wonderful collect puts it - that we will pass through things temporal in such a way that we do not lose sight of things eternal.

I'm sure, though, that we have all experienced the sense of relief when we have the first glass of wine on Easter day or break open the first chocolate egg! It wasn't so much a change of life as a suspension of normal life and returning to it with a smile and a sigh of relief.



Change is never easy! It often feels like we are tied to the normal "us" by a rubber band and we can stretch away from ourselves for a while but the pull inexorably returns us home with a twang!

So how do we find a way to make sustainable changes in our spiritual lives that will last? As always, I am very aware of the experience and faithfulness in our community and I am sure that there is a lot of advice we could share. I would like to offer three simple thoughts that seem to get to the heart of God-initiated change.

Firstly, real change comes from a change in our desires. We will always either be chasing what we desire or fighting the desire to do so. Nurturing different desires -

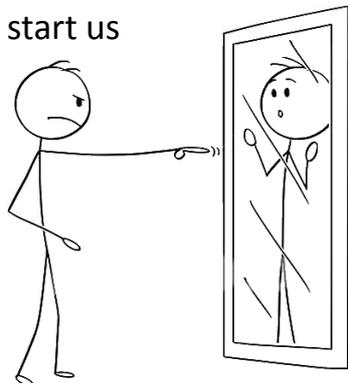
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or 'desiring to desire' a deeper more loving and peaceful way to be within ourselves is the first step. This shift in desire comes from our faith and from the love and grace we have received, reflecting on what we have been given in Jesus and the generous heart of God can release the desire to be closer to him.

THE WORK OF GOD

Which leads to the second thought. We know that just as life is a gift so changes in our lives are a gift - the work of God within us. So often, we admire brute force and willpower to plough on through and for us to get the things done we sometimes don't feel like doing. But when we battle in this way, it is always going to be a relief when we stop fighting! And if we don't push on through then feelings of failure and condemnation can easily start us "finger-pointing" at ourselves. But deepening our spiritual life is a gift from God - His work in us. Something we desire and he fulfils. Leaving the pride behind is a big step in *receiving rather than attempting to force change*.



Thirdly, we very often fall into the trap of wanting to see the big change! The shocking before and after photographs that show just how far we have come and so quickly! And yet, spiritual growth comes in the small things of life. It's not so much about controlling appetites as letting our proud selves go in the name of love. A kind word where once there was impatience; a gift given in a

time of need because our heart can no longer bear not to; an irresistible call to act for reconciliation or hope in the face of pain and despair. Each small step moving us along His path. One small change at a time.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

And all this does take time. And patience. And steadfastness. And the spiritual change becomes continuous, one day at a time... and one day we'll look back on ourselves, when we are fully in His presence and see just how far He has led us.

Meanwhile, we continue the journey. And as we emerge from this experience shared across the globe, we emerge into a world which must change in the years ahead. There is an acceleration in the pressure to act collectively to face the climate issues, growing inequality, the impact of technology. It will be a big mistake if we simply breathe a sigh of relief and return to our old ways when restrictions are lifted. Just as every soul is on a spiritual journey of change, so together we are on a shared journey collectively. The two go hand in hand. How will we face these global challenges without a spiritual transformation of the human race. Jesus' mission to teach us all to love as He loves remains key to releasing the human race from the destructive desires of the past into new ones that will shape the world in a new way.

So we keep praying, hoping and looking for His change in our lives and in our world.

With every blessing,

Jules.

Introducing the New Catholic Archbishop of Corfu, His Eminence Fr. Georgios Altouva.



The elected Archbishop was born in Athens on September 28, 1973. He completed his studies at the Leontio School of Athens (Patision) from 1979 to 1991. He studied philosophy and theology at the Pope Puglia Theological School "Pios the 11th", in Molfetta, Italy, from 1992 to 1997.

Fr. Georgios was ordained a Deacon by the Reverend Archbishop of the Catholics of Athens Nikolaos Foskolos on October 5, 1997 at the Holy Temple of St. Louka, in Heraklion, Attica (his Home Parish.) Then he enrolled in the Pontifical School of Spirituality "Teresianum" for a Master's degree, where he studied for two years and presented his work.

He was ordained an Elder by the Reverend Archbishop Nikolaos Foskolos, on October 3, 1998, at the Cathedral of Agios Dionysios.

Fr. Georgios was appointed Vicar of the Parish of Ag. Barbara Lavriou and Voula since 2001. For three years, he was an Ecclesiastical Representative for the Adolescents of the Ecclesiastical Province of Athens. He was then appointed Assistant Vicar at the Cathedral of St. Dionysiou in 2011 and Pastor in the same church from 2015.

He has been a member of the Council of Elders of the Archbishop since 2007 and Judge at the Primary Ecclesiastical Court since 2013, Director of Pontifical Missionary Works in Greece since 2014 and member of the Synodal Committee for Divine Worship.

Fr. Georgios has been teaching Religion at the Leontio School of Nea Smyrni since 2001 and at the Greek-French School of Ag. Joseph in Pefki, from 2016 to 2019.

On September 14, 2020, A.A. Pope Francis, elected him Archbishop - Metropolitan of Corfu, Zakynthos - Kefallinia and Apostolic Vicariate of Thessaloniki.

The Enthronement took place on the 14th February in St. Jacob & St. Christopher the Catholic Cathedral "Doumo." which was televised by the local Corfu television channel 'Start'. The ceremony was attended by Archbishop Ioannis Spiteris, the Metropolitan of Corfu, Paxos & the Diapontian Islands Mr. Nekarios, the Regional Governor Mrs Kratas, The Mayor of Central Mrs Idreou and the Deputy Mayor Mr. Metallinos.



† **George Altouvas**
Archbishop of Corfu, Zakynthos & Cephalonia

No. Prot. 013/2021
F. 104/8

Corfu, February 22, 2021

Rev. Father Julian Wilson
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Corfu

Dear Father Julian,
Dear members of the Anglican Community of Corfu,

It was a great pleasure for me to receive your kind wishes for my installation in Corfu. I have been informed about the very fraternal relations that have been developed, these past years, between our Communities and I look forward to the moment when we will meet and get to know each other better.

Allow me to wish you, to your family and the whole Anglican Community health and all the best and may our Lord bless and protect you.

In Christ
+ George Altouvas
Archbishop

PULSE PRAYERS



“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you again a slave to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. And by him we cry Abba Father” The spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are Gods children” Romans 8.15-17

We give thanks for:-

- The sacrifice of Jesus bringing us New Life in The Spirit. As Children of God, we call out to **Abba Father**.
- Our continuing ecumenical relationships and the kind use of St Francis Catholic church for afternoon communion.
- The success of the Christmas catalogue.

We pray for:-

- Jules, our wardens and church council.
- The World Day of Prayer service, for Pauline, Veta, Anna Marie who will be leading the service from church. For those reading their parts from home, and that connecting technology works perfectly.
- The New Catholic Archbishop George recently enthroned in Corfu.
- For Richard Bromley and the staff of ICS all working from home. For Jim Perryman and Jules in the planning of summer mission.
- Café Logos plans to progress.
- The preparation of the upcoming Easter Catalogue in support of HTC and charities, and as an outreach.

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‘TOGETHER and APART’

We will continue to provide online ‘Together and Apart’ services, as well as the live Sunday service. There are also prayer meetings on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please contact us, if you would like details of how to join us.

<https://sites.google.com/view/holytrinitycorfuonline/home>



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‘Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen, to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the rope, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter’ Isaiah 58.6

We pray for:-

- Sabina in Yemen and her work with the food kitchen.
- Emily and Callum in their work in UK and Uganda with Irise.
- The Hellenic Red Cross

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city I have carried you into exile, ...pray to The Lord for it ,then you too will prosper “Jerimiah “28 .7

We pray for:-

- The leaders of the churches on the island
- Our Mayors, Merope Hydraiou, (central); Giorgos Mahimaris, (North) and Kostas Les-sis, (South).
- The special needs vocational school now operating in new suitable premises. Protect them Lord and bless both teachers and pupils that their learning may be a joy and bring future hope.
- This summer season will provide provision and profit in tourism

Lord, we thank you for bringing us to this beautiful island, we thank you for bringing us together in your family at HTC. Bless and strengthen Jules as he leads and inspires us. We ask that you continue to protect the people of Corfu and the islands, bless them with your Holy presence and every provision. Direct us Lord, show us more opportunities and use us as your light to shine your goodness and hope. May your Name be glorified. Thank you Jesus Amen!

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8.26-27

Keep us good Lord under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low, that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

corona conversations

two for the price of one?

As many of you will know, I live in Corfu and work in the UK doing one month on and one month off.

When COVID initially impacted the world and the first lockdowns were initiated I was stranded at Stansted Airport for five days with all flights cancelled. The chances of getting back home were nearly zero; however, we know that with God all things are possible.

After spending 4 days sleeping at the airport I went to a hotel that, despite the lockdown, was allowing those of us stranded to take a room. Whilst in the shower I had the impression that we would be flown home tonight, this was despite there being a total ban on flights to Greece and as yet the Greek Government refusing to arrange a repatriation flight. I questioned the impression and felt the Lord say I believed so therefore I spoke. Immediately I went and told my fellow stranded passengers. They laughed and said they hoped that I was right.

Sure enough that evening the Greek Government arranged a repatriation flight for some of the people stranded together with some other people that had contacted the embassy trying to return.

By the grace of God, even as a non-Greek I was included on the passenger list and flew home that night.

One of the stranded passengers said to me "You must be the closest person to God I know!"

Fast forward to January 2021.

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I ordered a COVID test kit to be delivered to the vessel when it was in port. Sure enough the next day a kit arrived from Randox health.

About a week later, a second kit that I had not ordered turned up. I phoned Randox and was told to keep the kit.

As Greece insists on a negative test 72 hours before arrival in Greece and not departure as is the case with most countries this makes getting results through very tight.

I duly did my test and sent it with UPS, paying for a guaranteed delivery time the next day. I then had the thought to take a second test with the spare kit and send via Royal Mail. I was pretty sure that the UPS sample would get there on time and that the Royal Mail would not make it.

It was in fact the other way around. The Royal Mail test arrived in Belfast on Thursday morning and by Thursday night I had my results.

However, the UPS sample did not arrive and instead was stuck at a user centre in the UK having been overlooked.

As I sit here at the airport the UPS sample has only just arrived at the Lab, it will be between 12, and 24 hours before the results are through.

If the Lord had not arranged for me to have two kits sent, even though I only ordered and paid for one, I would not be sitting at the airport right now. It would have resulted in me missing my flight and having to re book and spend money on another COVID test together with paying for a hotel.

At the beginning of my trip, I was very concerned about getting back home when I believe the Lord gave me this verse ...and he delivered him from all his fears. I had double confirmation of this verse first being reminded of it in Psalm 34 then actually reading the same words in Jeremiah.

I hope that this encourages all of you.

Douglas Lanfear



CORONAVIRUS TESTING AVAILABLE

- At-home swab kits for COVID-19 diagnosis
- COVID-19 antibody blood tests

www.randoxhealth.com
0800 2545 130





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

To be hosted by HTC 5th March 2021. 18:00

‘BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION’

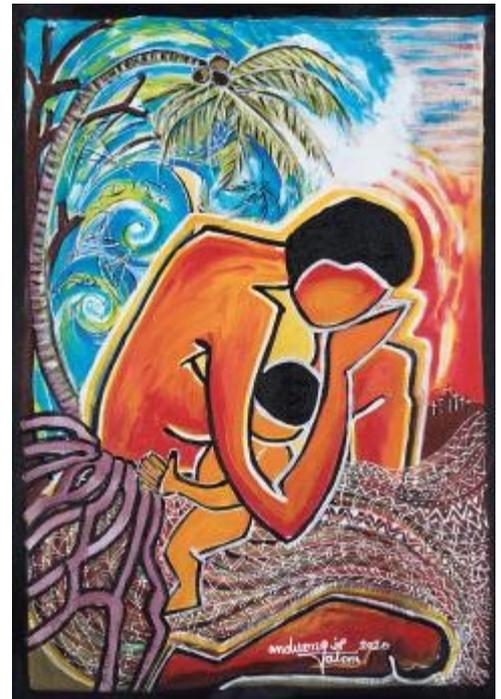
The World Day of Prayer will be different this year due to the pandemic as we are still in lockdown. Just as the priests of the four churches came together in January for Christian Unity, the women of the Catholic, Evangelical and Anglicans churches will come together for the World Day of Prayer for Vanuatu. It is important that these shared Ecumenical Services should continue even though they are held behind closed doors.

The advantage we have is that they can be followed on Social media and Zoom.

The service will be displayed in English and Greek. Only the technical team, musicians, leaders and maybe priests will be attending the service at Holy Trinity. All those participating in the service will be joining in on zoom from their homes.

In preparation for the service, have a candle and a white or any stone taken for your garden. The candle is to be lit when the service commences as Christ is in our midst as "The Light of the World". The stone will represent personal prayers and a commitment to God in the year ahead.

The service will be held at Holy Trinity at 18:00 behind closed Doors.



TAIZE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

When Jules attended the Service of Christian Unity in the Catholic Cathedral in January, Archbishop Ioannis Spitis offered the use of St. Francis to both Pastor Miltardes Pantelios from the Greek Evangelical and the Anglican Churches for Sunday Worship. The Archbishop was aware that we are holding Sunday Services online with zoom because our premises are too small to have a congregation during lockdown.

St. Francis is the oldest Catholic Church on Corfu, the exact date of construction is unknown. The oldest part was dedicated to St. Angelo and was used by a group of Greek Sisters during the period of the Despotate of Epirus, Angelo Komninon.

On 20th May 1367 the church was bequeathed to the Order of the Brothers of St Francis when it became a renowned Religious Centre and Monastery until the Army of Napoleon arrived in 1797. Many of its treasures were then destroyed or stolen and this ended the Brothers of St. Francis here. The Monastery was used by the French Ionian Academy and later, from 1811-1815 by the Corfiot School of Arts.

During WW2 the Monastery was bombed by the Italians destroying the ceiling decorations. In 1943 during the Ger-



man bombing raid of Corfu Town the Catholic Cathedral (Doumo) was severely damaged, and the Church of St. Francis became their Cathedral until restoration on the Doumo was completed in 1970.

A point of interest, a Chapel to the right, dedicated to St. Anna, was renovated by the British Army in 1850 and more recently by Archbishop Ioannis Spitis.

It was in this historical atmosphere that Jules decided on a Taize Eucharist Service and placed tea-lights on the altar and hand rails. Twelve people attended (with all the necessary precautions in place) and it was wonderful to be able to meet and to share in the Eucharist with each other and, afterwards to be able to chat face to face after so long.

Our grateful thanks to our brother & sisters in the Catholic Church for inviting us to worship in the beautiful and historic Church of St. Francis of Assisi



covenanting together

It's almost a year since I joined the Zoom services from HTC, a church where I and my husband have worshipped when visiting the island.

The services have been a spiritual uplift during the pandemic and I have been encouraged on my faith journey by Jules and all those who have taken part in the services. A big 'thank you'! Also to Peter for his technical skills and weekly emails and to Mark for the Pulse each month. We have remained connected!

My home church in the UK is also called Trinity - Trinity Methodist Church - and I thought to share with you something from my tradition.

The first Sunday in January in Methodist churches is when we have our annual Covenant Service. Of course, this year it hasn't happened! So I have reproduced the central part of the service for you to look at. The hymn is one of Charles Wesley's (naturally)! and for me this begins the part of the service which I find very moving and emotional. It makes me very aware of the commitment I am making and how so often I fall short of what I am saying.

The words of the Covenant Prayer, which begins 'I am no longer my own but yours' are very challenging and perhaps it's a good thing that we renew this

commitment every year, that however much we've fallen by the wayside, we have, by the Grace of God, the chance to begin afresh.

It's a very personal moment. Even though you are saying the words at the same time as the rest of the congregation, it's very much between me and God. I find that both powerful and humbling!

The service continues with prayers of intercession and then the congregation receive Holy Communion.

Jenny Wilcock (aka Peter Wilcock on the Zoom service).

(The words of the hymn & service are on the next page)

Covenant *noun*

/ˈkʌv.ən.ənt/

a formal agreement or promise between two or more people:

*The contract contained a **restrictive covenant** against building on the land.*

Synonyms

accord

agreement (SAME OPINION)

compact (AGREEMENT) formal

concordat specialized

pact; treaty

HYMN

Come, let us use the grace divine,
And all, with one accord,
In a perpetual cov'nant join
Ourselves to Christ the Lord:

Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power,
His name to glorify:
And promise, in this sacred hour,
For God to live and die.

The cov'nant we this moment make
Be ever kept in mind:
We will no more our God forsake,
Or cast his words behind.

We never will throw off his fear
Who hears our solemn vow;
And if thou art well pleased to bear,
Come down, and meet us now.

To each the cov'nant blood apply.
Which takes our sins away;
And register our names on high,
And keep us to that day.

The people remain standing and the presiding minister says:

'Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us again accept our place within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.

Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests others are contrary to both: in some we may please Christ and please ourselves: in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

Eternal God,
in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ.
In obedience we hear and accept your commands:
in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you.
We are no longer our own but yours.

**I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do
and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me
and when there is none;
when I am troubled
and when I am at peace.**

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**Your will be done
when I am valued
and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment
and when it is lacking;
when I have all things,
and when I have nothing.**

**I willingly offer all I have and am
to serve you,
as and where you choose.**

**Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

**May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth
be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.**

*Some material included in this service is
copyright: 1989 National Council of Churches,
1999 Trustees for Methodist Church
Purposes.*



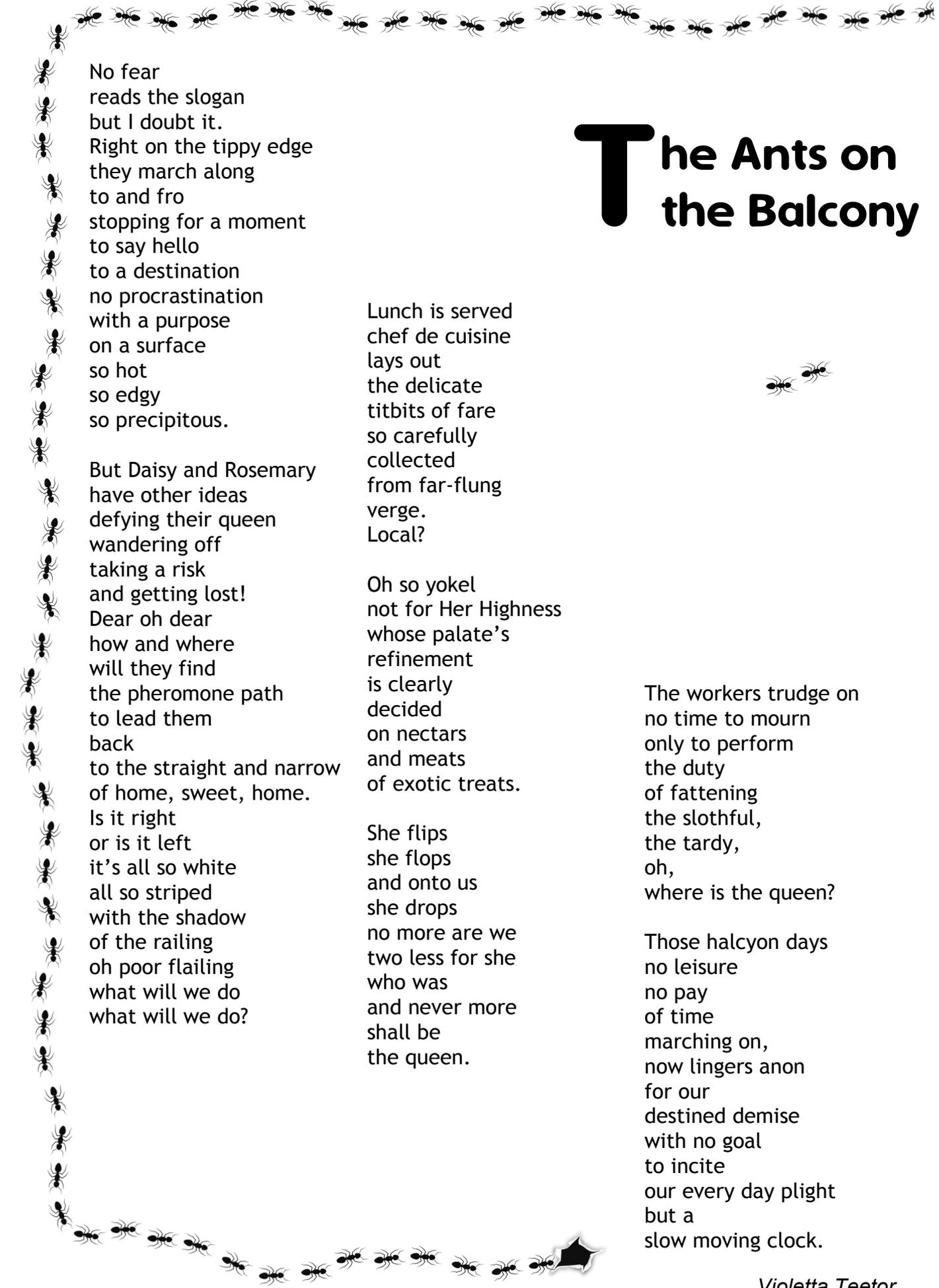
Cartoons (with thanks to Reverendfun.com)



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld 05-13-1999
WELL, I DON'T REALLY SNEEZE THAT OFTEN ... BUT IF I DO I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY 'GOD BLESS YOU'



(See Exodus 14) 04-20-1999
I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES



No fear
reads the slogan
but I doubt it.
Right on the tippy edge
they march along
to and fro
stopping for a moment
to say hello
to a destination
no procrastination
with a purpose
on a surface
so hot
so edgy
so precipitous.

But Daisy and Rosemary
have other ideas
defying their queen
wandering off
taking a risk
and getting lost!
Dear oh dear
how and where
will they find
the pheromone path
to lead them
back
to the straight and narrow
of home, sweet, home.
Is it right
or is it left
it's all so white
all so striped
with the shadow
of the railing
oh poor flailing
what will we do
what will we do?

Lunch is served
chef de cuisine
lays out
the delicate
titbits of fare
so carefully
collected
from far-flung
verge.
Local?

Oh so yokel
not for Her Highness
whose palate's
refinement
is clearly
decided
on nectars
and meats
of exotic treats.

She flips
she flops
and onto us
she drops
no more are we
two less for she
who was
and never more
shall be
the queen.

The Ants on the Balcony



The workers trudge on
no time to mourn
only to perform
the duty
of fattening
the slothful,
the tardy,
oh,
where is the queen?

Those halcyon days
no leisure
no pay
of time
marching on,
now lingers anon
for our
destined demise
with no goal
to incite
our every day plight
but a
slow moving clock.

Violetta Teetor

WHAT'S ON at HTC

Keep up to date with what's on at Holy Trinity Corfu by visiting our website calendar.

<http://holytrinitycorfu.bravesites.com/whats-on>

OR



Links



<https://europe.anglican.org/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>



<https://www.ics-uk.org/Pages/Category/prayer-diary>

The Agiot

<http://www.theagiot.com/>



<https://enimerosi.com/en>



https://www.facebook.com/groups/CorfuForum/?ref=group_header

We always welcome contributions to our publications; however, we will not publish any material which infringes copyright. When sending in items for inclusion please state your source and the name of the author.

We are happy to accept prayer requests for inclusion in Pulse or in the morning service. If you are requesting prayer for someone other than yourself please make sure you have their permission to be mentioned publicly.

*Please remember the submission **deadline for PULSE is 25th of each month**. Articles, news, information etc. received after this time may not be included and will be carried over to the next edition if appropriate. Thank you.*

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HOLY TRINITY CORFU

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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
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