

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

FORDINGBRIDGE AND RINGWOOD PARISH MAGAZINE

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Fr Paul Says.....



I have attempted over the past few months to give an overview of the meaning and significance of the Mass. It is important to note, that whatever I have written, is only the ‘tip of the iceberg’. Because the Mass makes present the mystery of the Incarnation, which is the becoming human of the Word and Son of God, it is like an inexhaustible fountain, from which we drink the infinite gift of God’s love and Spirit.

All that is why the Church consistently teaches that attendance at Sunday Mass is a ‘serious obligation’ and one that we do not take lightly. In fact, the view of the Church is that attendance at Sunday Mass is an indication of how seriously we take our faith in, and relationship with, Jesus Christ. The weekly experience of Sunday Mass is offered to us as a gift, so that gradually we might grow into the risen Body of Christ and the mystery of the Incarnation. All this takes a lifetime and perhaps that is why we are given a lifetime! To allow Jesus Christ to share with us his divinity so that our humanity can grow towards the fulfilment which is a share in his life as God.

Fenland Cathedrals



I couldn’t leave The Fens last month without re-visiting Lincoln and Ely Cathedrals. I have something of a ‘professional’ interest in cathedrals now, so I can’t leave them alone!

Lincoln is very different from Salisbury, although some people describe them as twins because much of the architecture is Early English and both were building at much the same time. Both are dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. Having said that, Lincoln is much the older of the two, with a fine Norman West Portal – the remains of the Norman cathedral which was destroyed in an earthquake in 1185. It shares a similar situation to Old Sarum, being built on a defensible hilltop site and accompanied by a castle. It also has one of the four 1215 Magna Cartas to have

survived into the present day. Lincoln also once boasted a spire taller than Salisbury’s, but constructed of wood and lead, however, it fell down in a storm in 1548 and was never replaced. Salisbury is unusual in having a masonry tower. Much stronger! Most spires are actually made of wood and lead; think of Notre Dame’s burning down.



Salisbury Cathedral is comparatively spartan, some have used the term ‘skeletal’; meanwhile, Lincoln abounds in details and decoration, and certainly much of it is very fine. Unlike Salisbury, the Choir Screen is intact, and the stalls – misericords, again – are rather plusher than ours. The Bishop’s throne, or Cathedra, (that’s where the word comes from) looks a little more comfortable than ours too. Not a lot. I really wouldn’t like to sit long in Either! But then I’m not a Bishop.

Famous burials are Katherine Swinefurt, John of Gaunt’s mistress and then his wife, from whom sprung the bastard Beaufort line which lent a kind of legitimacy to the Tudors, and the visceral burial of Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I, and who died young leaving the King so bereft that he built crosses at every spot her cortege paused overnight on its journey with the rest of her body for burial at Westminster. The last Eleanor Cross was built at Charing on The Strand. What you see there today is a Victorian restoration.

Holy Communion

The great prayer of ‘thanksgiving’, the Eucharistic Prayer, comes to its highpoint with the concluding doxology. The Missal instruction tells the priest to raise up the Body and Blood of Christ and, at the same time, to sing: “Through him, with him and in him, O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, forever and ever”. In this act of offering, our own thanksgiving and praise is united with that of Jesus as our bread and wine become his Body and Blood, which is offered to the Father in perfect praise.

The Lord’s Prayer

The immediate preparation to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood begins as we say the ‘Our Father’. It is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, and it asks for the gift of ‘daily bread’. This is a recognition that all our sustenance comes from God and especially the Eucharist which is the gift of Jesus himself.

The Prayer for Peace

The Lord’s prayer is followed by a prayer for deliverance from evil and the gift of peace. The two prayers at this point lead to an invitation from the priest for us to exchange ‘a sign of peace’. Why is that important?

As we receive Holy Communion, we are drawn ever more deeply into Jesus’s risen body of which Baptism makes us members. This gift makes it our responsibility to remove all obstacles to harmony in relationships and our willingness to do so is indicated by the ‘sign of peace’. To be members of the Body of Christ commits us to unity and forgiveness in all our relationships.

The Breaking of Bread and the Invitation

The priest breaks the large host (the Body of Christ), showing the action to the people. This commemorates the action of Jesus who took the bread and broke it at the Last Supper. At the same time, and again visible to the people, the priest drops a small fraction of the host into the chalice. The prayer at this point gives the meaning of the action: “May this mingling of the Lord’s Body and Blood bring eternal life to us who receive it” This action shows that the Body and Blood of the Lord, in the ‘form’ of bread and wine, is one single reality. As Holy Communion under both kinds begins to resume, the action of the mingling shows that we receive Christ fully when we receive the Body of the Lord and not the Blood of the Lord. The chalice is always optional.

The Invitation

Then the priest shows a broken host to the people as he says: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, happy are those who are called to his supper”. It is then for us to decide if we are called to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood.

The Reception of Holy Communion

The priest shows the host to the person who

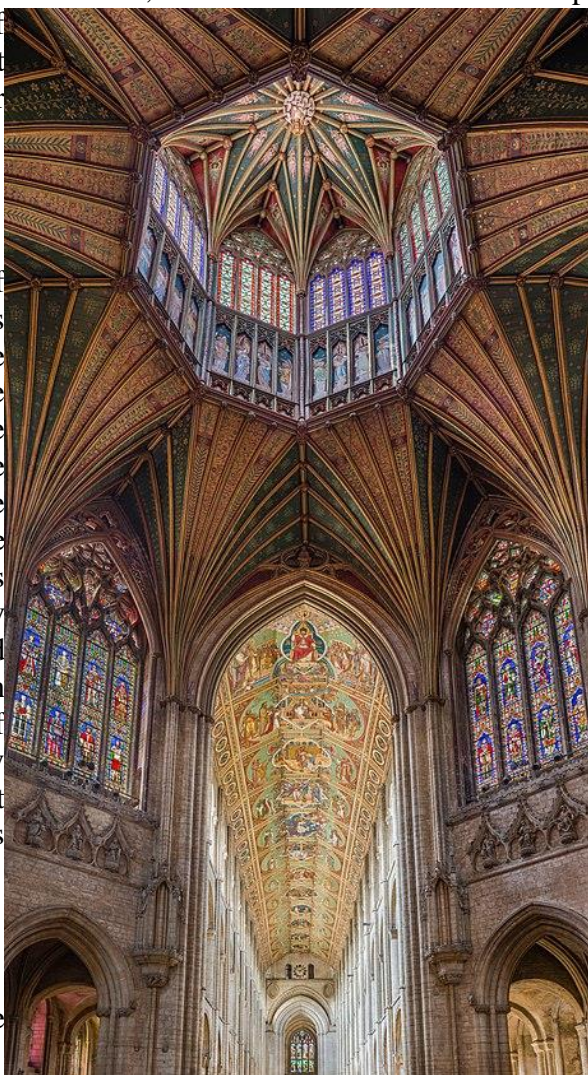
Ely is very different again and, like Lincoln retains medieval work from a number of periods and styles, the dominant style, however, is Norman, so impressively massive and round arches!

Built on an island in the middle of the surrounding Fens, today it stands out as a hilltop. (There are, actually, ‘hills’ in the fens and it is just a question of exactly what you perceive a hill to be that colours your judgement. The ‘hill’ in our village rose something like two feet above the lower settlement, but that could matter when the surrounding land was inundated. Chatteris, March and Crowland are now also on hills which once were islands.)

Ely Cathedral is often called “The Ship of the Fens”, because, seen from a distance, it seems to sail along against a background of passing clouds. It certainly is majestic.

Ely is also a seriously ancient foundation. In 672 Ethelreda, a princess (later St Ethelreda) founded an abbey on the desolate island (Ely actually means ‘The Island of eels’. In The Fens eels were once a form of currency; you could pay your rent in them.) which became a cathedral in 1109, and it is from that period that the earliest parts of the current cathedral were built, although there are many later features including the fabulous Lantern, which must rank amongst the greatest masterpieces of Medieval architecture anywhere. The vaulting is painted and a riot of colour and design. I think it has to be my favourite Cathedral. When I arrived in June I was not alone and my companion was not interested in Cathedrals so I couldn’t stay long. The entry was £14 – dearer than Salisbury. I hesitated and explained to the cash desk. Somebody said you can go in free if you want to light a candle. I did, and duly lit one before I left on my short visit.

In 1322, the Norman central tower collapsed and had to be replaced. The resulting Octagon and Lantern are a feat of engineering by any standard. The Lantern itself is made of wood and is suspended high above the floor. When I visited first, in about 1982, with a group of girls, the canon who was showing us round suggested we all lay on the floor and looked up into it to appreciate the spectacle. A couple of them made quite a good fist of drawing it in colour in their notes. No phone cameras in 1982!



Now I’ve raised the issue of the visit, I have to confess that when we ascended the (only two-hundred foot) tower – no guide, just Mr Basham in front – we came off the stair at the Clerestory and I was completely overwhelmed by vertigo. The girls (They actually became my form for five years - this was to be a year seven bonding experience, so they were only eleven!) were not at all phased and politely passed me spread-eagled against the wall, each saying “Excuse me Mr Basham” as they made their way to the top of the tower. I had no choice but to follow them, and by the time I belatedly arrived to supervise, they had become bored with the view and were experimenting with the lead roof to see if they could slide down it. Speechless! Down!

There is also a labyrinth in the entrance. We did that too.

(Chris Basham)

wishes to receive Holy Communion and says, “The Body of Christ”, or if offering the chalice “The Blood of Christ”. The response is ‘Amen’ which stands for the act of faith and the belief that we are taking into ourselves the Body and Blood of Christ. We may receive Holy Communion in the hand or on the tongue.

A moment of silence follows the reception of Holy Communion. This is a time for thanksgiving, for listening to the Lord speaking to our hearts and for reflecting on how we appropriately respond to the gift.

After the silence, the ‘Prayer after Communion’, the Blessing and, finally, the dismissal follow. As we leave the church we commit ourselves to becoming the presence in our world of Christ whose Body and Blood we have just consumed.

The Tabernacle

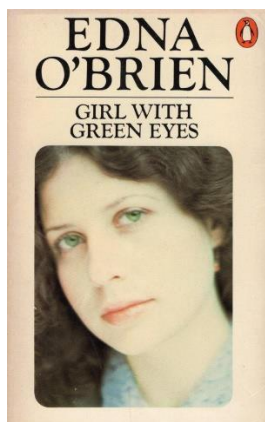
Every church has a tabernacle. This is where the ‘Body of Christ’ is kept once Mass is over and there are hosts left from the celebration. We speak of the reserved ‘Blessed Sacrament’ which is kept to be taken to the sick and the dying. Because the Blessed Sacrament is reserved we can come and pray in the Lord’s presence which is why our churches are always kept open during the daytime.

How do we know the Blessed Sacrament is reserved? There will always be a white candle burning in the sanctuary when the tabernacle contains the Body of the Lord. Sometimes the candlelight is displayed as red but white is the preferred colour. This is called the sanctuary lamp and one of the priest’s jobs is to keep it burning. We are not permitted to reserve the ‘Precious Blood’ in the tabernacle.

A Word about Words

When we receive Holy Communion we receive the ‘Body of Christ’ and the ‘Blood of Christ’. What we receive is not bread and must not be called bread and the Blood of the Lord must not be called wine. Better to refer to the Blood of the Lord or the Precious Blood.

Reading Recommendations



When I heard of the recent death of Edna O’Brien, I decided to re-read one of her early novels. This one is part of a trilogy she wrote in the early 1960s.

Jubilee Year



In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or ‘Holy Year’ was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation.

The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII on 22nd February 1300 (Feast of the Chair of St. Peter), to mark the beginning of that century. He later recommended

it occurring every 100 years.

Various other Popes changed the length of the interval between the observances. But Pope Saint Paul II set the present 25-year interval in the 1500s. So Holy Years are “ordinary” when they occur at regular intervals (25 years in these modern times) and “extraordinary” when they are proclaimed for a very special reason.

More recently a Great Jubilee was declared in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II to celebrate the new millennium. That Jubilee year brought the total number of universal Jubilee years to 28 that so far had been celebrated by the Church.

The 2025 Jubilee, which has the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope” will be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate.

Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God’s mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

In preparing spiritually for the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis has asked Catholics to:

a) Study the key documents from the Second Vatican Council, held between 1962-1965. The four constitutions of Vatican II are:

- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – Sacrosanctum Concilium
- Dogmatic constitution on the Church – Lumen Gentium
- Dogmatic constitution on the Divine Revelation – Dei Verbum
- Pastoral constitution on Church in the modern world – Gaudium et Spes

b) Begin 2024 by focusing on prayer.

The four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, together with the Magisterium of these recent decades, will continue to provide direction and guidance to God’s holy people, so that it can press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone.

Letter of the Holy Father Pope Francis for the Jubilee 2025

The Jubilee of Hope will begin in December 2024 with Pope Francis opening the “holy door” in St. Peter’s Basilica, offering the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

(Provided by Fr Paul)

Creativity Transfer

I have spent the last few days with some wonderful people, Liz who spins and creates gorgeous fibres for knitting and crochet and Viv who is a master woodturner and carver and creates lovely wooden items both functional and decorative. They were my guest creatives at our 2024 Hampshire Open Studios and their work gave a lovely contrast to my paintings.

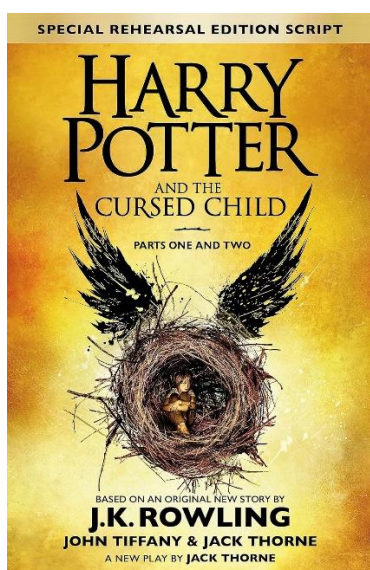
When you get a few creative people together it sparks new and interesting ideas and this year was no exception. By the end of our time together Viv was making wooden sheep and other items for Liz to display her wonderful spun wool on. I was particularly captivated by the colour combinations that were spun together to make her unique yarns. She takes photos of plants and flowers in their natural environment and then chooses matching coloured fibres to spin into yarn. So harnessing nature’s natural palettes the colour combinations work beautifully. The yarns are given great names like Woodland Snowdrops for a green and white mix and Peony and Lily Mix.

Edna O'Brien was born and raised in rural Ireland. Her parents were strict, religious and repressive. After training as a pharmacist in Dublin, she moved to London to work for a publisher, where she was commissioned to write a novel. She wrote *Country Girls* and then the novel I am reading.

In *The Girl with Green Eyes*, friends Baba and Cait have moved to Dublin from their rural homes. They go to the cinema, drink in bars with strange married men, they wear high heels and cheap clothes and smoke cigarettes. It all sounds quite normal to us but this behaviour was considered so immoral that the books were banned in Ireland, and the author was denounced by the Church.

This is quite a touching story and we follow Cait as she falls in love with a divorced older man, who inevitably breaks her heart. It is really interesting for the modern reader to think that a couple of girls wanting a good time, and a girl falling in love with an unsuitable man, should cause so much outrage in the church and Irish society. Edna O'Brien writes convincingly about the power of the church in Ireland in the 1950s. Her later writing becomes more political and she tackles contemporary issues such as immigration.

(Penny Sharp)



I went to see this at the theatre with my father, as it is a play and the book is in script form.

It is the eighth Harry Potter story, and in it Harry is an adult. He is married to Jenny and has three children. This story is about the second child, Albus, who is a now student at Hogwarts. He struggles under his father's name, and to make things worse, he is placed in a different house, Slytherin, while everyone else in his family is in Gryffindor.

Things improve when he meets the son of Draco Malfoy, Scorpius, and they become friends. This is the story of their adventures, and their enemies, and the challenges they face.

I like this book as I loved the play and I have been a Harry Potter fan since my father started reading the books to me when I was five.

Reviewed by Dora Denning (aged 10)



From our garden she chose red campion and produced a vibrant red/pink and silvery green mix.

I had been making felted birds, robins, kingfishers, wrens etc but on seeing a particularly bright mix of pinks I decided to have a go at a more quirky and colourful bird. The outcome was that when we had a wet day and not so many visitors I ended up finishing my pink bird and have since made others in different colours. They have made our visitors smile, Liz is now using photos of them to

advertise her spinning classes and I have found yet another artistic hobby that I think I may be becoming addicted to.

As I said earlier when creatives get together the ideas flow and so does the laughter and fun. So next year when you see Hampshire Open Studios advertised perhaps you will pay a visit and hear the artists talk about what and who inspires them.

(Teresa Rogers)

The August gap... revisited

I wrote about this problem time of the year a couple of years ago, and although by the time our wonderful parish magazine is published, "the gap" may be just about over, I think with our changed summers we could easily say the August/September gap. And just having come in from my usual morning wander around the garden with my first cup of tea...to check on how everything is... I can see the second flush of the roses are coming on rapidly now and the rudbeckias and helianthemums are in full flower and better still are attracting the bees. I also grew the Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*) this year in a container next to a warm wall and it has responded by flowering well.

So here we go again with the previous article:

June and July... gardens at their best, with roses galore, herbaceous in full flower, vegetables cropping well and soft fruit coming on... And then along comes August, which is in some ways the most difficult month in the garden. There is often a gap in flowering combined with sometimes drought conditions...

So what to do to liven the borders up for August?

Start with basics: you should have by now cut down early summer flowering perennials and given most of your roses, depending on the type, a good strong dead head back to good growth points and a second feed; after all they have been working hard for you. They will respond with fresh growth and hopefully more flowers.



After a good water (preferably with stored rainwater or grey water!) mulch your borders with well-rotted garden compost or bought in mulch. This will help to conserve the moisture you've just added and additionally improve the look of the borders.

There are some plants which will carry on flowering into August; hardy geraniums are great value and respond to regular deadheading by flowering from May through to September and sometimes longer. Japanese anemones are an August flowering specialist and will continue to flower through the autumn: they are suitable for both full sun and shady conditions. Echinaceas, Heleniums and Rudbeckias provide lots of colour with daisy type flowers ranging from yellows and oranges through pinks and purples. And phlox have always been good value, though they seem to have fallen out of fashion somewhat. Eryngiums and Echinops add a good blue top up to August border colour and dahlias in a huge range of colours should be in full flowering mode. Exotics such as cannas and tithonias (Mexican sunflower) are also available.

The secret is advance planning; assess your borders in the spring and make your plan for August...

Happy Gardening! (Sheila Wade)

Poetry Please!

The following poem was sent in by Fr Paul. Ben Okri is a modern day Nigerian-born poet.

Gaza



I don't know how many have died
Or how many died before war flared up.
There must be a way to listen to all
The pain that burns in a people
Must be a way to hear all that anguish.
Pain creates pain creates deadness
Of heart. Distance makes all that suffering
Unreal. How else can great powers
Add bombs and missiles to an agony
That's engulfing the world in fire and rage?
How did we become so deaf to the death
Of innocent children and their mothers?
How did we get to measure the value
Of one death against another, with one
Worth a thousand of the other?
Surely the heart of the world has died.
Surely we have turned to stone in our veins.
I sit here staring at the sky wondering what
Could change the coldness in the soul
That makes it possible for us to eat our food,
go to work and laugh with our families
When we know that over in Gaza, a brief dream
Away, hundreds of thousands starve,
Their homes destroyed, their lives broken.
There ought to be no religion that lets
Us be indifferent to all that suffering.
Surely something's wrong with the world.
Something's twisted in our humanity.
I have friends who weep at the loss
Of their dogs, but whose ears are closed
To the wailing from the flattened houses
Of Gaza. Complexity ought not to stop our
Souls from feeling. For pain creates pain
Creates stones instead of human beings.
There are in truth no distances in the spirit
Of humanity. Any great injustice makes
The sleep of the world howl. We breathe in
The destruction of lives that we don't see.
In our dreams we die with them. In our sleep
Our souls grieve with them, for their deaths
Are ours, whoever they may be. We grow
Sick with the times. We become twisted with
The wounds. Whether we are silent or not
We are poisoned by the massacres. No
Civilisation can survive on the murder
Of a people. We are watching our demise
In our silence. Peace is not ignorance or lies.



Cookery Corner

Sticky Cauliflower Turkey Baguettes

- 75g lighter mayonnaise
- 1 tsp sweet chilli sauce, plus extra to serve (optional)
- 1½ limes, 1 juiced, ½ cut into wedges to serve
- 1 large fresh baguette or 2 bake-at-home baguettes, baked
- 15g fresh coriander
- 10g fresh mint, leaves picked and chopped
- reserved turkey and cauliflower mixture (see recipe linked above)
- 1 carrot, peeled into ribbons
- ½ cucumber, peeled into ribbons
- 110g baby spinach leaves



Method

1. Mix together the mayonnaise, chilli sauce and lime juice. Cut the baguette into 4, slice open and spread with the chilli mayo.
2. Stir the coriander and most of the mint into the reserved turkey and cauliflower mixture, then spoon into the baguettes with the carrot, cucumber ribbons and spinach.
3. Serve scattered with the remaining mint and a small lime wedge to squeeze over, with the spinach alongside. Add an extra drizzle of sweet chilli sauce, if you like.

(Kindly provided by Mr Tesco)

Fabulous Forest

Well, we are getting round to the time when 'drifts' take place and the ponies are rounded up for veterinary checks, branding and the like. Sick and injured animals are removed and some of the stock is sold off at Lyndhurst. Fancy a filly for fifty pounds? My daughter bought several, but don't kid yourself that you will make money, you just 'saddle' yourself with a great deal of work.

The heather is out and the school holidays ending. My daughter has taken the twins to France. I was not invited this year as I have to take care of the two rowdy spaniels - if you are in The Forest, watch out!

A Reminder



Following the successful indoor 'Kurling' last September in Ringwood, the Joint Ringwood and Fordingbridge CAFOD Group is organising another one, this time held in the hall at Fordingbridge.

Tickets are only £5 or £12 for a family. There will be prizes, a licenced bar and a raffle. Bring and share your own food.

This is such a great evening for everyone of all ages and abilities. Like a grown-up version of Shove Ha'penny with long handled pushers to save any bending and it is easy to pick up the 2 rules.

Here is some of the feedback from last year:

'A fabulous evening! Lovely to be able to spend time with our parish community, make a few new friends, and curling was a first for me. All in an excellent cause. Thank you CAFOD.'

'What a brilliant evening! So good to catch up with friends from both churches! It's amazing what food turns up in a pot luck supper – a superb spread. The curling was fun for all ages and abilities. Well done to all the organisers and a big Thank You to all the helpers.'

'A very fun event which brought both our parish communities together. Generosity abounded as a fabulous supper suddenly materialised. Loved the curling – and all for a wonderful cause.'

Tickets are limited as we cannot accommodate very large numbers so don't delay and get your ticket while you can.

All proceeds will go to CAFOD which is working so hard in the many problem areas around the world.

We look forward to seeing you.

The CAFOD Group

End Bits

Something of a 'scratch edition' this month. Thanks, as always to all contributors. It was a bit of a struggle this time because I started with very little material to go with, so I had to send an SOS! Particular thanks to those who responded in a hurry with new material just before deadline. It is amazing just how quickly people can come up with something, which leads me to suspect others may be hiding their lights under bushels, so please get writing for next month! I even have a bit left over for next time. Don't let that put you

We are measured by what we tolerate,
The agony we ignore, keep quiet about,
For our peace of mind. Silence helps
Those missiles. Our silence is touched
With the blood of those children. And every
Day that we turn away, and shut our hearts,
Below, in the common earth of all humanity,
The spilled blood rises and ghosts feed on our
Prosperity. For Gaza is not there. It's here.

(Ben Okri)



Charlie and Flash.

(Chris Basham)

off contributing.

Managing the two miscreants pictured opposite is being distracting too, so apologies for any mistakes, omissions or downright blunders. The fault is all mine, not theirs!

Chris

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