

---

# Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

---

Volume I, Issue 10

May 1999

---

The Congregation of St. Athanasius - Roman Catholic, Anglican Use

---

## Notes from the Chaplain

**S**OMEWHERE along the line, I recall anglican Archbishop George Carey saying, "We sing glorious hymns as if we were paying the milk bill!" For our own small but appreciative congregation, singing in a large church building can be a bit daunting. I am glad when you give it your best, regardless of what comes out! But our enthusiasm for the Catholic faith must *not* be a well-kept secret.

What riches we have! St. John records what Our Lord Jesus had told Nicodemus: not that God *SENT* our Lord, but that God *GAVE* his Son, not just a son, one among many, but His *only-begotten Son*, to be our very own. *Christ is ours*, if we have accepted what the Father has given. He is our sin-bearer, our sacrifice, and His Resurrection and Ascension is the pledge of eternal life for those who believe in Him. Our Father's love has drawn us poor sinners close to Himself in Christ. Almighty God didn't send his Son, much like we send flowers or a note of condolence. No. He *gave* us Jesus Christ! That is the good news, not incredible good news, for we believe it.

If Christianity is a disease and Christians are carriers of the infec-



tion, do people have to worry about coming into contact with you? Of course it is not a dis-ease you bring,

but the love of One Who gives perfect rest. There is much good news, and it is entrusted to you to share it and spread it.

We begin the Mary month of May with our patronal feast, which, although preempted by the Fifth Sunday of Easter, occurs on May 2nd. You can read about Saint Athanasius, and about our preacher on the occasion, Fr. Romanus Cessario, OP, elsewhere in this paper. Please remember that Ascension Day, May 13, is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**, and that Pentecost is Sunday May 23rd. Why not volunteer to read the lesson in a foreign language at the Mass? And we encourage all worshipers to wear **RED** clothing in honor of the day.

Please remember one another in your prayers, and especially those who are under instruction in preparation for full communion or Confirmation. With blessings and best wishes for the Great Fifty Days, and always,

Father Bradford

## News about the Anglican Use

In recent months articles about the congregation have appeared in *Envoy* and *Christian Challenge* magazines. Copies are available in

the parish office and Library.

There is also a copy of the production tape of Father Bradford's April appearance on EWTN's Journey Home Program which aired April 9th.

On May 27-28, the anglican use parishes gather in San Antonio for an annual meeting and planning conference.

## SAINTS of the MONTH

St. Athanasius (c. 295-373)

Feast Day 2 May

**A**THANASIUS was born in Egypt towards the end of the third century, and was from his youth pious, learned, and deeply versed in the sacred writings, as befitted one whom God had chosen to be the champion and defender of His Church against the Arian heresy.

Though only a deacon, he was chosen by his bishop to go with him to the Council of Nicæa, in 325, and attracted the attention of all by the learning and ability with which he defended the faith.

A few months later he became Patriarch of Alexandria, and for forty-six years he bore, often well-nigh alone, the whole brunt of the Arian assault.

St. Athanasius stood unmoved against four Roman emperors; was banished five times; was butt of every insult, calumny, and wrong the Arians could devise, and lived in constant peril of death.

Though firm as adamant in defence of the Faith, he was meek and humble, pleasant and winning in converse, beloved by his flock, unwearied in labors, in prayer, in mortifications, and in zeal for souls.

In the year 373 his stormy life closed in peace, rather that his people would have it so than that his enemies were weary of persecuting him. He left to the Church the whole and ancient Faith, defended and explained in writings rich in thought and learning, clear, keen and stately in expression. He is honored as one of the greatest Doctors of the Church.



St. Bede the Venerable  
(ca. 672-735)

Feast Day 27 May

**K**INDLINESS, scholarship and modesty are three characteristic virtues met time and again in the great priests of the English Church. St. Bede the Venerable was an early and very great exemplar of this type. It may be that the legends surrounding the memo-

ries of the saints are some measure of the affection and awe in which they were held during their lives. Of Bede it is said that when once he preached a sermon in a forest, the very stones were moved to respond, "Most wonderful, O Bede!"

When he was seven he was brought by his family to be educated by the Benedictine monks of St. Peter and St. Paul in Northumberland, at Jarrow, and he remained with them for the rest of his life. He was blessed with a gentle nature, and from early on delighted in learning, teaching, and in music. Beloved of his brothers, he had just finished dictating a translation of the Gospel of St. John. When he died he was held up by the others as they sang the Gloria together.

He is best known for The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, but he was a prodigious scholar—the greatest of his age, and is remembered for the purity, lucidity, and sobriety of his writings. In many ways, but especially in his moderation, gentleness, and breadth of view, he stands out from his contemporaries. The Catholic Encyclopedia says he was undoubtedly the most learned man of his time. He was the earliest witness of pure Gregorian chant in England, and left behind not only many exegetical and historical books, but sermons, poems, and hymns.

His remains were removed from Jarrow and buried together with those of St. Cuthbert and St. Oswald at Durham Cathedral in 1022. He was declared "venerable" by the Church in 836, a saint and a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

## Fr. Romanus Cessario to preach on May 2nd

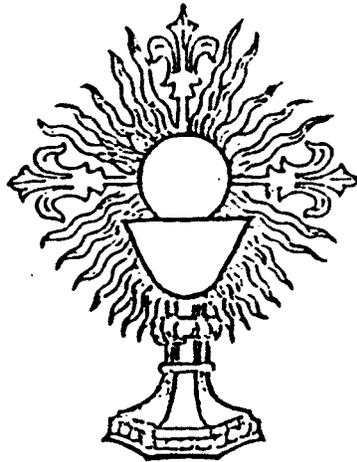
On our Patronal Feast, St. Athanasius, May 2nd, also the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Father Romanus Cessario, OP will preach at the 9:30 Mass. He is a professor of systematic theology in St. John's Seminary, Brighton, and an author of numerous works, including *Christian Faith & The Theological Life*, and collaborating with other Dominican scholars, *The Love that Never Ends: a key to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Father Cessario is senior editor of *Magnificat*, a monthly devotional companion to the liturgy and the divine office. He has previously visited our congregation for classes and to preach.

## The Ascension

The ascension of Christ is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth.

During his earthly ministry he could only be in one place at a time. If he was in Jerusalem he was not in Capernaum; if he was in Capernaum he was not in Jerusalem. But now he is united with God, he is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere. Because he is ascended, he is here now. In the person of the Holy Spirit he dwells in his Church, and issues forth from the deepest depths of the souls of his disciples, to bear witness to his sovereignty.

WILLIAM TEMPLE



Feast of Corpus Christi  
 Sunday, June 6, 1999  
 EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION  
 The Most Revd. John P. Boles,  
 Celebrant  
 St. Theresa of Avila Parish Choir  
 Richard Bunbury, conductor

Jesus does not return to his Father in isolation. It was the incorporeal Logos that descended among men. But today it is the Word made flesh, at the same time true God and true man, that enters the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus takes there with him the human nature in which he is clothed. He opens the gates of the Kingdom to humanity. We take possession, in some way by anticipation, of the blessings which are offered to us and possible for us. Places are reserved for us in the Kingdom provided we continue faithful. Our presence is desired and awaited there.

So the ascension renders the thought of heaven more present and more alive for us. Do we think enough of our permanent dwelling-place? For most Christians heaven is envisaged as a kind of postscript, and appendix to a book of which life

on earth constitutes the actual text. But the contrary is true. Our earthly life is merely the preface to the book. Life in heaven will be the text -- a text without end.

A MONK OF  
 THE EASTERN CHURCH

## The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

worshiping at

Saint Aidan's Church

158 Pleasant Street

Brookline, Mass. 02146-3149

Parish House: (617) 227-0854

Rectory: (617) 787-0553

### Weekly

**Sundays 9:30am.** Sung Mass followed by coffee and fellowship.

**Tuesdays 10:00am** Mass  
 (May 11 and 18)

**Saturdays 9:00am** Mass  
 (May 1, 8, 15, and 22)

11:30 - 1:30 Confessions in the chapel, Fr. Raphael Caamano. No appointment necessary.

### Future Events

**May 13: (Thursday) Ascension Day, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, Solemn Procession and Mass at 7:30pm.** A reception in the rectory follows the Mass.

**June 6: (Sunday) Feast of Corpus Christi, Evensong and Benediction 5pm.** Bishop Boles, Celebrant and Preacher, Choir of St. Theresa of Avila Parish, Catered supper in the Rectory at 6:00, \$12.00 or bring your own. Reservations please.

Here's where we are...



# Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius  
158 Pleasant Street  
Brookline, MA 02146-3149

### **Saint Aidan's Church, 158 Pleasant Street in Brookline. Parking Available.**

**Commonwealth Avenue:** From east or west, turn onto Pleasant Street south to the church at the corner of Freeman Street.

**Boylston Street:** From east, turn onto Harvard Street, veer right onto Sewall Avenue and left on St. Paul Street. At the corner of Freeman, turn left to the Church. From west, you cannot make a left turn onto Harvard Street. Turn right around the fire station, cross Boylston Street and proceed northbound on Harvard Street. Follow directions above.

**Beacon Street:** From east or west, turn onto James Street and right onto Pleasant Street and proceed to church.

**Mass Pike:** Exit at Allston-Brighton tolls, take ramp for Cambridge Street-Allston to Harvard Street, Left on Harvard and left on Brighton Ave. which merges into Commonwealth Avenue. See directions for Commonwealth Avenue above.

**MBTA Green Line B car,** stop request at Pleasant Street. Walk four blocks south on Pleasant Street.

