



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST *In the Diocese of Plymouth*

VI Sunday after Pentecost

17th of July 2022

The Legacy of St Elijah the Prophet.



St Elijah is regarded as a father to the Carmelites who trace their origin not only to Mount Carmel, the Mount of St Elijah, but to his spiritual legacy upon that mount, a long history of hermits who lived there and sought the Lord. His feast day is observed by the Carmelites on the 20th of July.

Who is this prophet of God and what legacy has he left us?

First of all this mysterious figure suddenly seems to come out of nowhere, makes a dramatic appearance, challenges King Ahab, and then disappears in 1Kings 17:1. Scripture identifies him as a Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, which was probably “the rocky region” that lay on the east of Jordan. We learn nothing of his parentage or background. We are confronted only with a man of unusual courage who takes to task the king, who has abandoned the one true God of Israel to pay homage to the pagan idols of his Phoenician wife Jezebel.

Courage

Elijah identifies himself to King Ahab as God’s servant – sent to do His Will. “As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word” (1Kings 17:1). Elijah is a man of prayer, a witness to God’s love. Discerning the signs of the times in which a spiritual drought has fallen upon Israel, he reminds Ahab that as king he should also be a servant of the one God of Israel. Instead he has given in to his pagan wife and has not shepherded his people but rather is leading them astray. As a man of prayer Elijah is likewise a man of action. The word he speaks is effective and he informs the king of the impending drought which will last until, through God’s power, Elijah will withdraw it. From his mouth comes the “fiery” word which will burn the earth and plunge it into a 3 1/2 -year period of no rain. The spiritual drought which has seared the souls of God’s chosen people will now likewise scorch the earth.

As God’s servants we are also sent to do His Will – to discern prayerfully the signs of the times, to become responsible Christians of action – to be courageous in a world that often challenges our

moral convictions; to be faithful to our word even when it is unpopular.

Prayerful Solitude

As suddenly as Elijah appeared God ordered him to hide. “Depart from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, that is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there” (1Kings 17:3-4). As a servant Elijah was ready to embrace the next mission entrusted to him. He was also a man of compassion. He knew his gifts and strengths and put them at God’s disposal, but in his humanness, he also knew his weaknesses which we will consider later. In the ancient world the most vulnerable and often neglected persons were children and widows. God sends Elijah into a place of remoteness and solitude, a place of prayer and growth in charity, a place of dependence upon the poor provisions of a widow and her son, but also for this man of action a place of opportunity for compassion as protector of the poor and suffering. It is here that the exchange of receiving and giving will open the heart of the widow to faith and the heart of Elijah to his future missions (1Kings 17:8-24).

God sent Elijah into a place of solitude, where removed from the turmoil swirling about him, he would be prepared through prayer for the next intense phase of his mission. God used the circumstances of the unfortunate to teach Elijah not to be so self-reliant. As he would give so must he be willing to receive. Elijah helps us to be conscious of the circumstances of others and to realize that others, even those less fortunate than ourselves, have something to offer us.

Faithfulness

In the third year of the drought Elijah received a new command from God: “Go, show yourself to Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth” (1Kings 18:1). Sound simple enough? Not if you read Chapter 18 of 1Kings! During Elijah’s absence Queen Jezebel had the prophets of the Lord killed; not a pleasant woman to do business with. In trying to set up a meeting with King Ahab, Elijah was putting his life on the line. Time

was running out and the king could no longer straddle the fence between the God of Israel and his wife’s idols. Elijah, the fiery prophet, challenged Ahab – he, the Lord’s Prophet against the 450 prophets of Baal. Both sides would offer sacrifice but not set fire to them. Whose prayer would be answered and whose sacrifice would be consumed by fire sent down from heaven (1Kings 18:20-40)? On that day the people of Israel fell on their faces in worship to the God of Israel who had shown through Elijah that the Lord is God. And the prophets of Baal were put to death!



The rains fell and the drought came to an end (1 Kings 18:41-46).

Elijah, faithful preserver of the covenant, is called forth from his time of intimacy with the Lord to stand strong and alone against the prophets of Baal to rekindle the faith of God’s people.

Most of us will not be called to put our life on the line, but we may be called to put our reputation on the line, to experience misunderstanding, hostility, or rejection.

Fullness of Charity

The tension of such a dramatic event and the subsequent threat from Jezebel to take the life of Elijah sent him fleeing into the wilderness. Totally spent and utterly exhausted he lay down under a broom tree asking to die. For him the journey was over; he could not rise. Here was Elijah, the man of strength, now in the doldrums

of weakness and despair. He had just experienced rejection, fear, and total discouragement. He had entered into the depths of darkness. How much could one person endure? He had forgotten that he was called to be a witness to the living God, not to be successful in every venture. Even a prophet cannot necessarily see the outcome of his endeavors. God sent an angel to interrupt his darkness and to sustain him with food for the next leg of the journey. Have you ever felt that you could not take even one more step? Unknown to Elijah just yet, he still has a 40-day journey to make to Mount Horeb (1Kings 19:1-8).

Elijah was now experiencing in his human weakness a deep purification, a realization that God’s will was not going to be accomplished by self-reliance. To experience God’s Presence is pure gift; God’s will is the fullness of charity within our heart, given over through sacrifice and total self-surrender. Elijah reminds us that God’s grace works through our human nature.



Zeal

At the end of his 40-day journey Elijah entered a cave on Mount Horeb. Within the darkness and seclusion of this dwelling the Lord questioned him as to his purpose there. Elijah responded with his timeless answer, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts...” (1Kings 19:10). Thus he summed up, not only his purpose in coming to Mount Horeb, but the

purpose of his very life. Painfully he still felt the sting of human defeat and complained to God. Taking him where he was God came to his assistance by sending him to the mouth of the cave. There in God’s majestic creation Elijah listened to the mighty wind, the powerful earthquake and the roaring fire expecting to hear God’s voice. Creation was shouting out but God was silent. God turned Elijah’s expectations around full circle and brought him back to his wilderness experience where he must wait on the Lord. The Lord, rather than shatter the silence, entered into it as a small whispering voice and again questioned Elijah as to his purpose there. He then sent him back into the wilderness with directives, one of which was to anoint Elisha as his successor (1Kings 19:9-16).

Elijah’s zeal was enkindled by his strong awareness of God’s Presence. He teaches us to be still, to listen and to sift out all the many voices calling out to us in order to recognize God’s still small voice among the others. Where in your own circumstance can you find the “dwelling” that will enable you to be still, to hear God’s voice and to be aware of His Presence?

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Holy Angels Torquay
This Week:

Monday: No Mass or Adoration

Tuesday: No Mass or Adoration

Wednesday: Mass at 10am

Thursday: No Mass or Adoration

Friday: Mass at 10am

Saturday: No Mass or Adoration

Sunday: Normal Schedule

The Sisters of Lanherne are grateful to the Providence of God who supplies their needs through the generous support of the faithful.

Lanherne Nuns

Sort code: 30-98-76

Account: 45742568

Holy Angels

Collection: £127

Bank Transfers: £45

Torquay

Account Name: ICKSP

Account Details: 40-03-33

Account Number: 12333902

Date	At Lanherne	Canon Tanner
	Mass Offered For:	
17	Fr. Roland Colhouns Benefactors	Fr. Jerome Steepa
18	Lucy Ford	Jacqueline Meenagh
19	Jemima Talbot	Joanna Croskey
20	Reverend Mother	John Buscombe
21	Novena for Reverend Mother Private Intention	Michelle Buscombe
22	Novena for Reverend Mother	Anna Buscombe
23	Novena for Reverend Mother	Brian Capstick

Rev. Canon Scott Smith
Chaplain of Lanherne Convent
St Mawgan TR8 4ER
Chaplain's House: 01637 861752
mobile : 07366 321039
lanherne@icksp.org.uk

Rev. Canon Scott Tanner, Prior
House of Saint-Richard-Reynolds
Holy Angels Church, Queensway,
Torquay TQ2 6BP
mobile : 07763 277697
torquay@icksp.org.uk

At Lanherne Convent

Sundays:

8.30am Low Mass

10am Sung Mass

Monday through Saturday:

8am Mass

Thursdays:

8am and 6.15pm Mass

Confession: Saturdays at 3pm

At Holy Angels

Sundays:

9.45 -10.15am Confessions

10.30am Mass

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays:

5pm Adoration (with Confession available)

6pm Mass

Tuesdays & Saturdays:

8.30am Mass

Plymouth: Sundays at 3pm