

ALL SAINTS NORTH STREET—YORK'S
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN OLD LITURGY

Medieval Mass of Our Lady (York Use)

The Feast of Our Lady of North Street, 17 July

This year's Medieval Mass lived up to the promise of the previous years'. A full church experienced the first Pontifical High Mass of the York Use for some 500 years, with Bishop Martin Warner as the Celebrant.

A late medieval curiosity of the rite is that when the bishop is the celebrant, he gives a solemn blessing *before* the Agnus Dei and administration of Holy Communion. Moreover to do this he leans his forearms on the shoulders of two deacons who bow on each side of him. Why does the rubric say he does this? It's probably impossible to say at this distance in time, but it may well have been because one particular medieval archbishop of York was a bit tottery on his pins and needed support when he was facing the people and didn't have the altar to lean on. And everybody got so used to doing this for him that they went on doing it for his successors too and it got written into the rubrics of the York Missal.

The service was recorded on DVD and we hope to have these on sale soon. We had hoped to have last year's medieval mass available on DVD too, but there were certain technical problems with that recording which prevented it. The best we could do was to put the sound track on to a CD, and this is now for sale—see the website www.allsaints-northstreet.org.uk.

The DVD of this year's medieval Pontifical High Mass will include as computer files the mass booklet containing all texts and translations.

The Clerkes of All Saints

The period covered by the diary, overleaf, includes the great Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, 15 August, which this year falls on a Sunday. The Clerkes of All Saints make a welcome return, to sing the Mass *Ave maris stella* (Hail, star of the sea—a punning title of Our Lady) by the early renaissance Franco-Flemish composer Josquin des Prez.

The Clerkes will also sing on All Souls Day, Tuesday 2 November, the six-part polyphonic requiem *Missa pro defunctis* by the Portuguese composer Duarte Lobo.

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The Shrine of Our Lady at All Saints

At the time of writing we are still awaiting final faculty approval for the Shrine. It shouldn't be long now—though we won't be sure until it actually arrives.

It is hoped that at Candlemas 2011, 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2 February, we shall be able to have a grand ceremony of bringing the new statue of Our Lady into her Shrine.



A unobtrusive war memorial

This beautiful woodcarving is part of the screen on the south side of the chancel. The carved lettering just visible at the bottom of the photograph, in the ogee arch, reads 'Orate fratres pro militum animabus': Pray brethren for the souls of soldiers.

The screens were installed in All Saints in 1926, when the appalling slaughter of the trenches in the first World War was still in everybody's minds. How good that this is remembered without any glorifying of war and with such clear reference to the sacrifice of the Mass—echoing the liturgical 'Orate fratres', 'Pray brethren that this our sacrifice may be acceptable unto God the Father almighty'.

As Fr. Simon Bloxam-Rose continues his army-chaplain tour of duty in deeply-troubled and highly-dangerous Afghanistan (we hope to see him home again in the autumn), we pray for him and for the soldiers to whom he ministers.

The Parish and Shrine Church
of All Saints North Street, York

www.allsaints-northstreet.org.uk

Quarterly
NEWSLETTER
August—October 2010

York's gem -
Beautiful church
Beautiful stained
glass
Beautiful liturgy



Parish Priest



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S. Christopher crosses the river with the Christ child on his shoulders—from the right-hand panel of the East Window (c. 1420). The saint's staff has, as the legend says, borne flowers, leaves and dates like a palm.

Fish play around his feet:



Interior looking east