

# *The Saint Raphael Link*

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

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## *Dear Members*

We all learn by example and this is the way children easily pick up the habits of adults.

A young couple returning home from work one afternoon opened their front door only to hear their nine-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter yelling at each other. Alarmed they rushed in to find out what was going on. "What on earth is going on here?" they asked. Their son looked at them for a moment, smiled and replied "Oh, there is nothing wrong. We were just playing father and mother."

As Christians, we need to play a very important role in society these days, when social structures are collapsing, family life breaking up and everyone appears to be only concerned about pleasing themselves.

But there are still those people who look to Christians to provide the answers, and we can only help society find the right solutions, when we set a good example ourselves.

So, as followers of Christ, our lives should be an example of true Christian teaching. Any conduct falling short of this will only invite criticism and

will inevitably further restrict the growth of the Church.

The example of Christ should be central to our life and faith so that our minds are characterised by the self-giving attitude of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

In Biblical times the Shepherd cared for his sheep, called them by name, led them to pasture and water, found shelter for them during inclement weather, defended them against bandits and wolves, and willingly laid down his life for them.

Unfortunately, this image of the Good Shepherd does not move us as it did the people of Israel, and the early Christians. But if we really want to understand the Scriptures and to know our true relationship with God, we must understand the image of the Shepherd and his sheep.

Shepherds and sheep are not very common or relevant in today's high tech, computerized world. And we do not like to think of ourselves as dumb, submissive animals. We are sophisticated human beings, or so we think! We have an intellect and a free will, to go where we please and do what we want. And we don't like sheep dogs yapping and snapping at our feet.

But perhaps we are more like sheep than we really care to admit: Because, like sheep we seem to be oblivious of everything except the plot of grass that surrounds us here and now. We spend all of our time feathering our little nest here, as if it will go on forever.

Just like sheep, we are not conscious of the ravenous wolves that surround us in the counter-culture in which we live – though we really should be. To say nothing of the wolves that come to us in sheep's clothing. And just like sheep, we always think that the grass is greener on the other side, so we stray from the flock.

Now, whether we appreciate it or not, the image of the Good Shepherd and his sheep is enshrined forever in the Bible and in Christianity. In very truth it fits every generation, even our own.

So, what a great blessing it is for us Christians, to follow Jesus and his Apostles with great joy and confidence, wherever they may lead us. Amen.

+*Geoffrey* – GRAND PRIOR



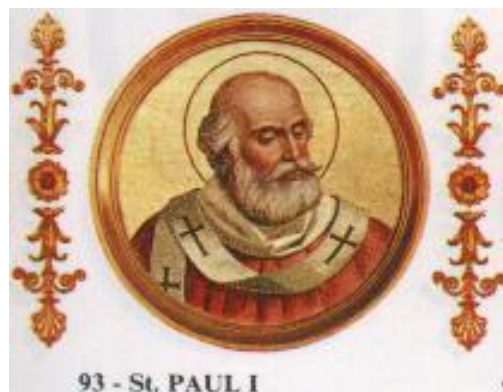
**SICK:** Beryl Anderton / Paul Shaw / Sheila Hogarth / Ruth Barr / Kathleen Roberts / Lesley Fudge / Thelma Thompson / Marlene Addy / Ray Connell / Tania Walker / Lidia Flemming / Paul Sheridan / David Kiteley / Roy Howard / Albert Jones / (Baby) Charlotte Park / Nicole Vendettuoli / Ivor MacFarlane / Shaun Humphries / Lucy Riding / Veronica Hawcroft / Amelia Radomski / Mary Flannigan / John & Mary Howard / Ida Simpson / Una & Karen Kirby / Clarice Shaw / Julie Stelling / Diane Beresford / Doreen Devitt / Tony Kirby / Delia Serman / Angela Billerness / Sally Hayes / Nick Brooks / Bishop Gerard and Pam Crane / Ruth Moody & family / Brian and Brigitte Duffett / Norman Dutton, archbishop / Keith & Joan Warren / Jean & Alan Rothwell / Maureen Bohanna / Eileen Duffy / Elaine Coope / Daniel Alban Ford / Mark (Cancer) / Amanda Bannister / Anne-Marie Solley / Marjorie Hooley.

### Recently Departed

Judy Sykes 12<sup>th</sup> June / Arthur Michelson 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

**May they Rest in Peace**

## Calendar of Saints



### SAINT PAUL I, Pope

**Pope from 757-767. The brother of Pope Stephen 11 and a Roman, he was educated in the Lateran Palace, became a deacon under Pope Zachary, and wielded considerable influence in his brother's administration. Elected to succeed Stephen, he took as his primary concern the threat posed to Rome and the Papal States by the Lombards. Paul secured an alliance with the Frankish king Pepin the Short, thereby cementing the relationship between the Holy See and the Frankish Empire which culminated with the historically significant alliance between Pope Leo III and Charlemagne. Paul also opposed the Iconoclast policies of the Byzantine emperor Constantine V, thereby exacerbating further the deteriorating relationship between the papacy and the Byzantine Empire. He died on June 28 at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, in Rome.**

*Guess the Locations:*

1. Isle of Wight / 2. Isle of Dogs

### Cook's Corner:



### INGREDIENTS

: 1/2 cup sour cream

½cup mayonnaise  
 ¼cup chopped fresh cilantro  
 1package taco seasoning mix, divided  
 1lb cod or 1 lb white fish fillet, cut into 1  
 inch pieces (about 4)  
 2tablespoons vegetable oil  
 2tablespoons lemon juice  
 1(12 count) package taco shells,  
 warmed or 1 (12 count) package flour  
 tortillas

### TOPPINGS

shredded cabbage  
 chopped tomato  
 lime juice  
 taco sauce

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine sour cream, mayonnaise, cilantro and 2 tablespoons seasoning mix in small bowl.
2. Combine fish, vegetable oil, lemon juice and remaining seasoning mix in medium bowl; pour into large skillet.
3. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-high heat for 4 to 5 minutes or until cod flakes easily when tested with a fork.
4. Fill taco shells with fish mixture.
5. Top with toppings.

### GUESS THE LOCATIONS:



1.



2.



A young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said, "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish." The man was filled with relief and said, "Thank you, Lord," and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in." When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you ever imagined.



The Healing Teaching  
 & Chivalric Order of  
 St Raphael

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