

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 39
September 25, 2022

I wonder how many of you, like me, are basking in the afterglow of a very full church last Sunday? Would that we could gather such a crowd every month! At least it gives us something to aim for.

I must confess that I am quite impressed by us! We managed, on very short notice, to prepare and celebrate a solemn and dignified requiem for the Queen. It shows us what we can do if we put our minds and shoulders to it.

There are so many who contributed to making this possible that I don't know where to begin with the thanks. I shall start though with our Bishop emeritus, Bishop Dixie, who agreed to step in in place of Bishop Rex and the Prime Bishop who had previous engagements. It was wonderful to see him again.

Certainly our choir and music ministers came through: they had no time to get together to prepare during the week and came through with flying colors – so thank you Domino and Ferdinand and choir! Special thanks, to Perpy Heath and the British School choir for their lovely anthem, and the choir from our French congregation who added so much to the service.

Of course, many thanks to our tech team performed flawlessly as usual – thank you Erwin and Carl and others who worked on that. Thanks to Agosto and our acolytes, who were working hard before and after the service to set things up then take things done!

A very special thanks to Fr. Jonathan Britt for his excellent sermon – so many had great things to say about that after the service! I am very glad that our congregation got to know him at last.

Thanks to those who got the word out – to the British Embassy, Brent School, the British School, and many other groups throughout the country.

And finally, none of this would have come together without our Senior Warden, who basically brought all these different elements together. Thank you, Simon.

As for myself, I can only say that it was a profound honor for me, as an American, to preside at the Requiem of the Queen, something for which I will always be thankful.

On another note, I will be taking off tomorrow evening for Falmouth on Cape Cod to spend a month doing pretty much nothing special with the family – something I'm really looking forward to. Father Bert will take over services in my absence, and I'll see you round All Saints Day.

SAINTS:

Michael & All Angels, 29 September. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael, which means 'who is like God?', is described as protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God and is perhaps best known as the slayer of the dragon in the Revelation to John. He is thus regarded as the protector of Christians from the devil, particularly those at the hour of death. A basilica near Rome was dedicated in the fifth century in honour of Michael on 30 September, beginning with celebrations on the eve of that day, and 29 September is now kept in honour of Michael and all Angels throughout the western Church.

Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 1 October. Born in about the year 438, the son of the Count of Laon, Remigius studied at Rheims and was elected bishop and metropolitan of the city when he was only twenty-two years old. In the year 496, he baptised Clovis I, King of the Franks, and about three thousand of his subjects. Under the king's protection, Remigius preached the gospel, created dioceses, built churches and baptised many more Christians. His name is linked to the ampulla of chrism oil used at the coronation of French monarchs, together with the gift of healing. He died on 13 January in the year 533 and his mortal remains were translated to the abbey of St Remi on this day in the year 1049.