

# **SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS**

**March, April, May 2024**



The Order of the Cross

## ORDER OF THE CROSS PUBLICATIONS

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## Thoughts to Inspire

### SPRING



“Life is a mighty Gift. It is the Gift from GOD to you. As you share its Mystery of Life in the Universe, from flower to star, so you may learn much from Nature and the Seasons. You may learn that there are in every Soul, in every age of its growth, in every cycle of its processional, the four Seasons; nay, in every life there are the four Seasons--the Winter, the Spring, the Summer, and the Autumn. Life as a Gift is

hidden. No man in analysing a human life can get at the Secret even of the outer life, much less of that Eternal Life, that astounding Principle that passes through great Ages.”

*The Order of the Cross, John Todd Ferrier, Herald 10, p71*



“The Winter is over and gone away, and the voice of Spring is heard in the land. The singing of birds has come, the flowers of the field bloom, the trees are re-mantling. The Earth seems to live again after months of silence and apparent inactivity; for The Breath of the ETERNAL has

passed through all its Planes and Kingdoms in the processional through the Solar Equinoctial Stream. The Earth’s energies have been renewed. ... Spring with its wealth of bloom and spirit of hope is reminiscent of Life’s real Resurrection.”

*The Order of the Cross, John Todd Ferrier, Herald 9, p35*

*From the Teachings***The Church of Christ**

**W**HAT IS THE NATURE of the real Church of Christ? It is the Spiritual superstructure of your Being. It is GOD in you. For GOD is in you through HIS Christ. Christ is in you through your inheritance of Divinity. You are ever a Son of GOD. The Christ in you is the glorious Hope of high attainment. He brings to you a deeper realization of your own Godhead, wherein you realise your likeness to THE FATHER-MOTHER and become again in Life and Service one who is revealing HIS Fashion. The constitution of the Church of Christ is non-ecclesiastic in the world sense. It does not build up great outward systems. *It is a Life, the realised Life of GOD. It is the Spiritual Celestial fabric within you.* Communally, it will be expressed through the Attributes of the individual members of the community; nationally, through every citizen of the nation; racially, through every Child of the FATHER-MOTHER. Any institution that has to be called into existence for service, will be only a temporary venue for the purpose of ministry in order to enable those who have realised the Church of Christ within them to express it in their manifestation and interpretation to mankind. In the true Church of Christ there will be no shibboleths. There will be no mere traditions to magnify and lean on for authority. There will be no ecclesiastical bondage. There will be no false claims to priestly power. As every Soul is gifted with the power of mediation, so every one will become a Priest or Priestess for the FATHER-MOTHER.

*Herald XIII, pages 61-62*

## Reflections upon The Church of Christ

**John Pignéguy**

**C**HURCH' will probably have been a part of the lives of most of us, whether just as an idea, a building, or maybe a more definite activity, particularly in our young days. The outer part of 'Church' is what tends to draw our immediate attention, and the many wonderful cathedrals and churches that are to be seen far-and-wide may sometimes, by the power of their presence, divert our thoughts from what these structures should actually be representing. They are not an end in themselves, but they may well be seen as such, this process being aided by impressive architecture, fine carvings and stained glass. The inner meanings hidden behind such outer phenomena may thus be harder to get at, if they are even thought of at all. It is possible to lose one's spiritual focus if outer aspects are allowed to dominate. Rather, these great man-made structures should be seen as representing the true nature of the inner 'Soul-state,' a metaphor for the gloriously constructed life of the Soul itself, with all its transcendent possibilities.

As our Founder says, great systems and buildings are inconsistent with the true nature of the Church of Christ: "It is a Life, the realized Life of GOD. It is the Spiritual Celestial fabric within you." Thus, each one of us must find our own way, for no person or institution can tell anyone else what to believe. We will always realise that our way is not necessarily someone else's way, and always respect the fact that other people's spiritual or religious feelings, ideas or aspirations may well find their expression in avenues that may seem strange to us.

Thomas Paine famously said "My own mind is my own church," and it is this individuality that is so vital – we make our own decisions based on our own inclinations, and this gives us complete spiritual freedom to follow our own radiant inner light, to 'live' that light in all we do, with the resultant possibility being that "every Soul ... will become a Priest or Priestess for the FATHER-MOTHER."

## A Prayer



Dear FATHER-MOTHER

**W**E ADDRESS YOU as FATHER-MOTHER because like a good Father and Mother here on Earth you outpour your Love and Blessing unto us at all times and give us nurture.

You are all Love and we your children would respond to you by opening our hearts and minds and making our lives a means of sending out your Love to others whom we meet on our way through life; however awkward or unpleasant they may seem to us. We would remember that they too are your children.

Help us to be truly channels of your Love as the sending out of Love by us ensures that your Love Stream flows freely through us and that we do not attempt to hoard it and allow it to become stagnant within us.

You do not chide us or blame us for our shortcomings and if we are ever tempted to blame others or use harsh words help us to forgive, as you forgive us, and find kind words instead.

Amen.

*A prayer used in a Service at the Ammerdown Centre Family Gathering 2023*

## THE PATH

Here we learn Love's ways to tread:

Self-deny; by truth be led

In harmony of Praise.

Ever may the Praise we sing

Rise from life's endeavouring –

Praise to THEE, and Thanksgiving,

FATHER-MOTHER, THY Name we bless.

As we climb the upward way

We would serve Thee day by day,

And worship THEE alone.

Ever may our worship be

Faithful service unto THEE,

Consecrating joyfully

Gifts, for service, all THINE own.

FATHER-MOTHER, blest are we!

May our adoration be

Embodiment of THEE.

May we in humility

Worship THEE adoringly,

Praising ever joyously

In most blessed unity.

**Elizabeth Reid**





## **JUNE 2024**

1-2      *The Eternal Mystery* (DR1, pp77-89) – Richard Palmer

8-9      *The Divine Inheritance Within Us* (H.34, pp31-41)

– Elsie Danielsson

15-16      See Spiritual Linking

22-23      *The Planes of Heaven Pt.2* (H.12, pp3-18)

– Lindajeane Stewart

MEETING TIMES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING CHANGED. They are planned to be California time (PST/PDT), 4pm Saturday evening and 9am Sunday morning, all year round regardless of standard or daylight time. (see Time Conversion Chart below).

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, contact one of the Communal Sharing Coordinators:

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New Zealand	(0) 9 925 0481
Sweden	(0) 853 527 817
United Kingdom	(0) 330 221 0099
United States	(1) 646-749-3117
<b>ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # (same for all areas)</b>	

Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone with the following link:

<https://meet.goto.com/506112581>

### TIME CONVERSION CHART

<b>A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere</b>	<b>B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere</b>
<b>IA: 00:00 UTC (= GMT)</b> 5 pm PDT (Previous eve.) 8 pm EDT (Previous eve.) 8 am AWST 10 am AEST 12 pm NZST	<b>IB: 00:00 UTC (= GMT)</b> 4 pm PST (Previous eve.) 7 pm EST (Previous eve.) 8 am AWST 11 am AEDT 1 pm NZDT
<b>IIA: 16:00 UTC</b> 9 am PDT 12 pm EDT 5 pm BST (UK) (12 am next day AWST) (4 am next day NZST)	<b>II B: 16:00 UTC</b> 8 am PST 11 am EST 4 pm GMT (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)

## **Spiritual Linking**

### **Christopher Nye**

**T**HE READING FOR MARCH IS

“The Crescent, the Star and the Cross”

*Herald 27 Part 2 pages 77-82*

It will take place on Saturday 16  
& Sunday 17

“So the three symbols, or emblems,  
are of Divine origin ...”

There will be two readings. **00h00 UTC (=GMT)** Saturday in North America, Sunday in Australia and New Zealand. 4pm PST, 5pm MST, 6pm CST, 7pm EST; 8am AWST, 10.30am ACDT, 11am AEDT; 1pm NZDT. **16h00 UTC =(GMT)** linking North America with the UK, Europe, 8am PST, 9am MST, 10am CST, 11am EST; 4pm GMT in the UK

**T**HE STUDY FOR APRIL IS

### *EASTER*

*Life's Mysteries Unveiled* pages 268-271 then 359-365

It will take place on Saturday 20 & Sunday 21

“Now wipe away all tears”.

**T**HE STUDY FOR MAY IS

“Before the Throne of GOD”

*Herald 15 Part 1 pages 3-10*

It will take place on Saturday 18 & Sunday 19

“And whithersoever the Lamb goeth, they follow;”

There will be two readings. **00h00 UTC (=GMT)** Saturday in North America, Sunday in Australia and New Zealand. 5pm PDT, 7pm CDT, 8pm EDT; 8am AWST, 10.30am ACST, 11am AEST; 1pm NZDT. **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 10am MDT, 11am CDT, 12 noon EDT in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing pages.*

“The Star is the emblem of high illumination ...”

There will be two readings. **00h00 UTC (=GMT)** Saturday in North America, Sunday in Australia and New Zealand. 4pm PST, 5pm MST, 6pm CST, 7pm EST, 8am AWST, 10.30am ACDT, 11am AEDT and 1pm NZDT. The second links Members in North America with those in the UK and Europe. **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** 4pm GMT in the UK, 8am PST, 9am MST, 10am CST and 11am EST in North America. *For phone-in numbers see Communal Sharing pages.*



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2024

### **Easter Gathering at Sarum College**

Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> March – Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> April

### **Creative Gathering at ‘Seashells’, Swanage**

Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> – Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> April

### **Glenthorne Spring Gathering**

Tues. 14<sup>th</sup> – Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### **Ammerdown Summer Gathering**

Thurs. 25<sup>th</sup> July – Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> August

### **North America Gathering**

#### **Ojai Retreat**

Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> – Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> September

### **Western Area Gathering, Sheldon Retreat Centre, Devon**

Thurs. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> October

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2025

### **2025**

### **Southern Summer Gathering**

#### **Aotearoa, New Zealand**

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> January

### **Spring Gathering at Sarum College**

Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> – Mon. 14<sup>th</sup> April

### **Glenthorne Spring Gathering**

Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> – Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### **Ammerdown Summer Gathering**

Thurs. 24<sup>th</sup> July – Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> August

### **North America International Gathering**

September – Los Angeles Area

## **Publication dates for Spiritual Reflections**

<b>Issues will be published in the first week of:</b>	<b>Date contributions are to be received by</b>	<b>The three-month period the issue will cover</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>May 7th</b>	<b>June July August</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September October November</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December January 2025 February 2025</b>

**The next issue of the Spiritual Reflections will be published at the beginning of June 2024.**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAILS**

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