

Parish Messenger

RINGWOOD PAROCHIAL DISTRICT.

VICAR: REV. C. J. T. MARTIN,

The Vicarage, Ringwood Street, Ringwood. Phone: Ringwood 74.

EASTER, 1927.

S. PAUL'S, RINGWOOD.

Sunday Services:: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday School every Sunday, 3 p.m. Holy Communion: First and Third Sundays, 11 a.m.; Second and Fourth Sundays, 8 a.m.; Fifth Sunday, 7 p.m. Holy Baptism, by arrangement.

RINGWOOD NORTH—Fortnightly—Sunday, 4 p.m.

EASTER.

Christians and Jews alike hold festival at this period of the year. Since the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans the Jews have made the Passover to be a domestic festival, having no longer a city or a temple as a centre of worship. In every Jewish home, during the feast, the door is opened to admit the prophet Elijah, for whom a spare cup of wine is always set, as the forerunner of the Messiah. Thus they still wait for the coming of both prophet and Saviour, for the Jew has failed to see in Jesus the Christ. How pathetic is their prayer at the close of their feast:: "O Mighty God, rebuild Thy House speedily, speedily even in our days, rebuild it. O God, rebuild Thy Temple speedily." Before partaking of the fourth cup of wine, their cry is, "Next year in Jerusalem!" They no longer sacrifice a lamb, but roast a shank bone only. Paul the Apostle calls upon the Christian Church to honour the Lord at this season. He uses the Jewish Passover as an allegory to some extent. "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Thus at Easter we commemorate the sacrifice and triumph of the Lamb of God, and from our hearts remove all "leaven" or sinful thoughts and feelings, and with a pure heart nourished by sincerity and truth we rejoice with God our Saviour. Our Holy Communion at Easter should have a fuller meaning to us when we remember that the Jews throughout the world are sending up a vain cry for Elijah and Messiah, along with our joyful thanksgiving for that coming long ago as Son of Mary, yet Son of God. Let not our joy mock the sad wail of Israel, but pray that our joy may be theirs too, and Jesus be their King and Saviour. Let us make this Easter a season of prayerful hope that our Lord will win Israel back to the fold of Light and Love.

EASTER 1927

REV C. J. T. MARTIN

PARISH MESSENGER.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PARISH MESSENGER.

On February 28th we held our Annual Meeting, and after the regular business, the desirability of the continuance or otherwise of the "Parish Messenger" was fully discussed. The Vicar was persuaded that but few read the paper, as he had from enquiry discovered such to be fact. He showed the difficulty of making it a medium of "Church News," as local news in Church matters was practically "nil," therefore he had to make the paper mostly a religious tract, which, to say the least, is a form of literature not particularly popular. Some were in favour of discontinuance, feeling that the cost was not justified, but ultimately it was agreed to "try again." The matter of distribution was also discussed, and a number of ladies volunteered to attend to this. The cost has been £2 per issue, and as this involves the Church in heavy expenditure it is highly desirable that the "Messenger" should not only reach every churchman, but should also be read, otherwise it is but waste of money and energy to produce it. The very purpose of the paper is in some measure to supplement the Church's Sunday services, by bringing into the homes some spiritual influences to aid all in life's journey. Such, at all events, is the aim of your pastor in writing up the "Messenger," and if such is not welcome, then let it be known and spare your church unnecessary expense.

SUBSCRIBERS TO CHURCH DEBT THROUGH VICAR'S APPEAL.

Last year the Vicar made a personal appeal, and collected in cash and promises £149. At the request of the Vestry and others, the names only are here given in the order as received:—Mr. Wilsmore, M. A. T. Miles, Mr. Whiteway, Mr. Kenworthy, Mr. Ostrom, Mr. Harnwell, Mrs. C. Sanders, Mr. J. Roberts, Mr. Austin, Mr. W. Blood, Mr. Reed, Mr. R. J. Wilkins, Mrs. Tuthill, Mr. Webber, Miss Springett, Dr. Langley, Misses Herring, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Hodgetts, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. S. Blood, Miss Bradley, Mrs. Thake, Mr. A. Blood, Mr. Northrope, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Astle, Mr. C. Paterson, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Harding, Mrs. Bissett, Mr. M. J. Dickson, Mrs. and Miss Pollard, Mr. Guest, Mr. T. M. Dwight, Miss Ware, Mrs. Blood, senr., Mr. E. T. Roberts, Miss Shanks, Miss Hnn, Miss Davis, Anon. To all of whom we render hearty thanks. This was a gift of love to God, that His work may be established in our Parish.

NEW COMERS TO OUR DISTRICT.

It is the plain duty of all citizens to welcome the new comer, and more so is it a churchman's duty. See to it that the new neighbour receives neighbourliness, especially in Church matters. Tell the minister of their arrival, invite them to Church, make them known to their fellow-churchmen. It is rather too frequently heard from strangers who have been here for months, "I know no one in Ringwood"—"No one has called on me." Sometimes the fault is largely their own, but be it so—our work is to help folk in spite of their faults. Let us all try to give a little warmth to our Church in its welcome to the new comer.

S. PAUL'S, RINGWOOD.

DIFFICULTIES IN SUNDRY PLACES.

Please tell us is it wrong to get married in Lent?

I have often been asked this question. The obvious reply is that, as marriage is honourable, being instituted by God, there is no time or season wherein it is wrong to get married. No man has any right to make times and seasons for the observance of marriage, and it is entirely within the rights of the parties interested to say when and where their union in holy wedlock shall be effected. In medieval days the Church tried to regulate seasons for wedlock, but such seems to suggest that marriage is in some way sinful, whereas it is one of the first institutions given to man by and with the blessing of God.

When should I take the Holy Communion?

At any time convenient, as the opportunity offers.

Should I fast before partaking?

If you wish to do so, but for what reason? Fasting Communion is by many pastors suggested to their people. If it is for self-discipline, then by all means fast, but do not forget that Jesus instituted the Holy Communion after Supper, and the disciples thus had their first "bread and wine" from the hands of Jesus Himself immediately after a feast. Man-made regulations may thus be left to your own private judgment.

How should I observe fasting during Lent?

Mere abstinence from food, if the motive be the control of the body, is a very healthy practice in itself. Our Lord's advice is the best to follow—let your fast be between yourself and God, that is, as He teaches, "Do not appear unto men to fast." Set periods for such have an artificial ring about them if we are not careful; but read Isaiah 58, and there God gives the perfect rules of fasting. You will there find that in self-sacrificing deeds of love the true fast is observed.

THE DUPLEX ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

This system of Church finance has been well established in England as the most perfect yet discovered. It is soundly Scriptural, for it provides for "the laying by on the Lord's Day" our weekly offering to God. It is called "Duplex" because it provides for the maintenance of God's work both at home and abroad. The envelopes supplied are double, giving us the opportunity of supporting any Mission we please, as well as the local needs of our parish Church. A budget will be submitted to you, fully showing the home needs for the ensuing year, and you are asked to consider what you can give weekly to meet the expenditure. A private entry will be made of your number, 52 envelopes for the year in a neat container will be given you, and you then will place your gift each Sunday in an envelope and bring it to church. If you miss attend-

PARISH MESSENGER.

ance for one or several Sundays, you go on "laying by" your Sunday gift and bring or send all at first opportunity.

The idea is—consider what your present position permits you to give to God per year for the work of the Church at home and abroad. Your contributions years ago was—— Your income to-day! how does it compare with then? Have you adjusted your gifts to God accordingly? Here is your opportunity. We wish to make not only this matter a success, but our Church a success. What you are interested in you will work for, pray for, pay for. Your Church needs YOUR interest, so join in this system of finance which we are assured is in accordance with the will of God.

BUDGET.

Stipend, £300; Diocesan quota, £20; cleaning, rates, upkeep of building, etc., £75; interest on debt, £255.

EASTER OFFERING.

As a considerable sum is needed early in the year, the Vestry ask for a special gift at Easter. Please do your best then, and make your offering a heartfelt gift to God. Also offer your prayers that God will put it into the hearts of His people to accept the privilege of assisting in His work.

LETTER FROM MR. THOMPSON, OF WANIGELA, PAPUA.

My Dear Mr. Martin,—

Will you please accept for yourself and convey to all your people who contributed to our Christmas cases our warmest thanks for all their remembrance and goodwill. We are very grateful for everything and the choice of gifts was in every case a wise one. A number of men combined in a generous gift of tobacco for myself. For obvious reasons it is not possible for me to write to each one. May I ask you to give this particular mention in thanking the folk for us. If we are able to be relieved when our furlough falls due we hope to see you during the course of the year. There is some doubt because our Bishop is having a difficult task in filling vacancies caused by the retirement of workers without the additional one of arranging for furloughs. Our united best wishes.

EASTER SERVICES.

Brief devotional services on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 8 o'clock, in Holy Week. Morning Prayer, Good Friday, 11 o'clock. Holy Communion, Easter Day, at 8 and 11 a.m. and at 7 p.m.

Your friend and pastor,

C. J. T. MARTIN.