

GAS Letter for July 2022 Intercession Paper

Dear Fellow Members of the Guild:

At the moment, it appears that great strides are being made with containing and living with the continuing epidemic of COVID-19. It will therefore, we think, be quite possible to have the Annual Requiem Mass with a reception following at the Church of the Resurrection, East 74th Street and Park Avenue, the Guild's National Shrine, on Saturday, 12 November 2022, at 11.00 a.m. The Resurrection's choir will be offering a Requiem Mass setting to be determined. We are all used to having to make last minute accommodations in the last two years, and nothing is certain, but this seems to be a very likely outcome.

What is certain is that our dead are prayed for here every day, by name, and the entire Necrology back to 1873, not just the more recent names that you receive in this Intercession Paper. If any of you would wish to undertake praying for the entire list, do please let me know and we shall let you know how to obtain a copy of the Chantry Book, which, combined with the current Intercession Paper, contains all the names. You may also request at any time prayers for the sick or dead to be offered here at the Guild's National Shrine, and the prayers will be said and a candle lighted for your intention. Many do this, don't hesitate if the need arises either with illness for yourself or sickness or death to one known to you.

The terms of Canon Peter Pham, Fathers Richard Lutz & Allan Warren, and your humble servant, expire this year, and we shall deal with those, as well as those of the Officers which are yearly, not tri-annually as the general terms of Council are. The Council also receives traditionally the greetings of the English Guild, and will deal with any other matters that must come before it.

Just out of general interest to those who find these things absorbing, we are enclosing a Council list from 1977, as I just came across it. All those on the list are dead now, of course, and it will therefore also be an opportunity to pray for them. As that was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and it is now the year of the Platinum Jubilee, it was forty-five years ago. The issues of the day were, of course, the recent passage of the ordination of women and the preliminary approval of the new Prayer Book.

Once upon a time, the work of the Guild was centred in its branches which were in all the "likely suspects" churches throughout the country, but mostly in the Northeast and Middle West (the former "Biretta Belt"). Members tended to experience the life of the Guild through their branches, their superiors and secretaries. For a variety of reasons, most members nowadays are members "at large", which means that they joined on their own, and do not necessarily even have a branch of the Guild in their churches. This is not necessarily a bad development, just something that has changed. But it does mean that the Guild as an entity must make special efforts to engage with its members directly. Fortunately, in our day, this is easier than ever. The Guild has a Facebook page, managed by our Secretary-General, Mr Barner, which often has interesting posts on it, we have the Intercession Paper twice a year with its accompanying letter and often, as this time, articles or sermons. Finally, and this has been the case the last two years, and will be so again this year, you are able to participate through video, either live or at a later time, in the Guild's Requiem through the Mass broadcasts of the Church

of the Resurrection on its Facebook, Vimeo and YouTube broadcast networks. I urge you to do so as this is one of those few silver linings of the dark clouds of the last two years, and it means that in a given year (because the Requiems are not time sensitive as feasts are), many more members see them than would ever have been able to fit in a particular church at a particular time even were they to present themselves. I hope that either on the day itself at the same time we are here, or subsequently, you will take the time to pray for our dead of this past year and thereby join in worship with the whole Guild.

We are also happy to include a very fine sermon by Father James Hill, SSC, Vicar of St Benet Fink Church, Tottenham, in London, who is also the head of the Society of King Charles the Martyr in the United Kingdom. It is re-printed with his gracious permission.

I do want to record our gratitude, too, to The Rt Rev'd The Lord Bishop of Richborough, Dr Norman Banks, the President of the English Guild, for his support, prayers and friendship to me personally and to the Guild in this country. It is a model of how relationships between English and American branches of the same organisation can profitably and happily remain linked.

Yours in the Holy Souls,

The Reverend Canon Barry E. B. Swain, SSC
Superior-General

**ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS OF THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS
SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 11.00 A.M.**

**THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION,
119 EAST 74TH STREET, JUST EAST OF PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

SERMON: To be announced

MUSIC FROM RESURRECTION'S PROFESSIONAL CHOIR

The Mass will be broadcast on our three channels: Vimeo, YouTube and Facebook, and will be available subsequently in the archives there. Since there is no time value (as there would be in a feast day), members may watch it and take part in it any time, or even from time to time.

THE GUILD OF ALL SOULS COUNCIL 1977

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