



When James was replaced by the Protestant William of Orange and forced to flee to France, the Stricklands followed – England had become too dangerous for them to remain. They returned at the end of the seventeenth century, though they continued to support the Stuarts. And when the final Stuart or Jacobite rebellion took place in 1745, with Bonnie Prince Charlie's invasion of England, Francis Strickland was one of the prince's closest companions, sailing with him to France earlier in the year to raise money for the campaign. Even after the Jacobites were defeated at the Battle of Culloden, the Stricklands continued to support their cause.

ART AND GARDENS

Given all this, it's not surprising that Sizergh's magnificent art collection includes many portraits of leading Stuarts and reflects their links to the exiled Jacobite court in France, including porcelain, glass and sculpture. Outside, the gardens and grounds are particularly beautiful – as well as a lake and a kitchen garden there's a rock garden, constructed in the 1920s. The fern collection is one of the best in the country.

Now in the care of the National Trust, Sizergh is probably best enjoyed during spring and early summer when the woodland walks are spectacular, with views to Morecambe Bay and the mountains of the Lake District, which even around Easter are often still dusted with snow.

For more information or to plan a visit, see www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/place/sizergh-castle

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

PSALM Psalm 117

RESPONSE Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Or **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- Let the sons of Israel say:
"His love has no end."
Let the sons of Aaron say:
"His love has no end."
Let those who fear the Lord say:
"His love has no end." **R.**
- The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die. **R.**

- The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48



@redemptorist

www.rpbooks.co.uk rp@rpbooks.co.uk

SUNDAY BULLETIN

A ROYAL DAY OUT

Four miles to the south of Kendal, Sizergh Castle is not in fact a castle at all – though it's certainly an impressive house, and it does boast some battlements. Set in flowing, landscaped gardens, its design was based on a fourteenth-century tower that was redeveloped during the sixteenth century to create a handsome residence.

The house is particularly renowned for its elaborate Elizabethan oak panelling. One room, the inlaid chamber, is possibly the finest example of a panelled room in Britain. It was sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum in the 1890s and displayed there for many years – but in 1999 it was returned, and can now be viewed in the location for which it was designed. The chamber was created between 1573 and 1582 and is a jewel of Elizabethan workmanship, remarkable in its survival.

Like all the best grand houses that are open to visitors, Sizergh is spiced with the stories of the family that has been connected with it, in this case for more than eight hundred years – the Stricklands. They were Catholics, and their story is tied up with the story of the Catholic faith in England through the turbulent centuries after the foundation of the Anglican Church.

A century after Henry VIII had decided to break the ties with Rome, the fallout had lost little of its impact and was still being played out in English political, social and economic life. In the 1640s, during the English Civil War, the Stricklands backed the Stuart monarchy – King Charles I was a high church Anglican married to a Catholic, whom many Protestants regarded with extreme suspicion. Thomas Strickland fought against the Parliamentarians in the Battle of Edgehill in 1642 and was captured and imprisoned two years later. Five years after that came the crushing end: Charles I was found guilty of high treason and executed.

The Stricklands held on to Sizergh, but were pulled further into the conflict a few decades later when James II inherited the throne from Charles II. James was suspected of being a secret Catholic and was often at odds with Parliament; he attempted to create religious freedoms for Catholics, and the Stricklands were among his closest allies.

Catholic heritage in Britain



Joanna Moorhead visits Sizergh Castle in Cumbria.



11 APRIL 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II