

## Christ Church Freemantle Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday of Lent

Reading through a magazine this week I discovered that Sunday 28th is Floral Design Day, celebrated in America and apparently beginning to be celebrated here. What is floral design? It doesn't necessarily refer to gardening or flower arranging, though these are encompassed in the idea, but more widely to the use of flowers in art and design: the way flowers have been part of our culture over the millennia. I've never considered the issue before, but having read the article am now thinking why are floral designs so ubiquitous? Though we have curtains in the house with a design based on trees and a tablecloth covered with hens, we do have more objects decorated with flowers than any other single pattern.



The more I think about it the more alternatives come to mind that could replace the use of flowers in design. Why not fruit or vegetables? They are a central part of human existence providing our food. Or why not animals? Some of the earliest prehistoric art depicts animals: bison, horses, aurochs and deer. There are prehistoric paintings of the artist's hands sprayed around with pigment – why haven't hands remained a common theme? Perhaps flowers are easier to draw than some of those other things or more easily incorporated into symbols.



One thing that comes to mind is that floral design perhaps reflects human control of nature, rather than nature red in tooth and claw. Whatever the reason flowers seem here to stay on clothes, in modern homes, public buildings, everywhere in fact.



Just checked other celebratory possibilities for February 28th from a website of American Holidays and Observances – some really are quite bizarre:

*Car Keys and Small Change Day; Global Scouse Day; International Repetitive Strain Injury Awareness Day; Golden Globe Awards (Beverly Hills) - February 28, 2021; National Public Sleeping Day; National Chocolate Soufflé Day; Linus Pauling Day - (Local Observance in Oregon); National Science Day; National Tooth Fairy Day; Rare Disease Day.*

Though I don't regret thinking about floral design for a few days in preparation for this thought for the week, I think the rest of the family will appreciate observance of National Chocolate Soufflé Day!

Finishing with the Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association Prayer

*O Lord the creator of all things of beauty,  
grant to those who serve you with their gifts of floral art,  
a sense of your majesty and a desire to heighten  
the worship of the Holy Church by the dedicated use of their gifts.*

*This we ask in the name of Him  
who with the Father is the Creator and Sustainer  
of all good things Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Ruth Pickering*