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AKASHA'S BREATH OF FRESH AIR - FEBRUARY 2010

HAPPY IMBOLC!



Hi John,

Well here we are at the 2nd February already – and a very special day it is too as I have come to learn!

Firstly, here in the UK I have been enjoying the longer evening light and waking up just that bit earlier in the morning, which for me has always meant that we are on the way to Spring with its surge of powerful energy and birth. Then when a colleague heard that my [book](#) should be in the warehouse this week, she told me that this was very auspicious as it is the celebration of Imbolc. Now despite having written a multi-faith book, I actually had no idea what Imbolc was so she explained that the 2nd February is the Celtic celebration of the mid-way point between Winter and Spring.

Suddenly the 2nd February rang a bell and when I looked in my book I found that in the Christian tradition it is Candlemas, the day that ends Epiphany and a time when all Church candles to be used throughout the year will be blessed. It is also the day when Mary presented Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem as required by Jewish law of the day. Always keen to learn more, the internet told me that

the Romans celebrated it as Lupercalia, and in Celtic Britain, the goddess Brigid was honoured. Today in Ireland St. Brigid's day is celebrated (1st Feb) and in the US, Groundhog Day. So why am I telling you all this? Well hopefully you will be interested - but also because a) it shows just how many traditions flow together and b) if you've been feeling that much more upbeat, awake and forward looking, this could be why. Have a wonderful month.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE.....Vatican Humour

After getting all of Pope Benedict's luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb.

'Excuse me, Your Holiness,' says the driver, 'Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

'Well, to tell you the truth,' says the Pope, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican when I was a cardinal, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' says the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision when, after exiting the airport, the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 205 kms.

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

'Oh, dear God, I'm going to lose my license -- and my job!' moans the driver.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his

motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 155 kph.

'So bust him,' says the Chief...

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed, "All the more reason!"

'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'A senator?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

Chief: 'The Prime Minister?'

Cop: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?'

Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'

BECAUSE WE LIKE THEM.....

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So until next time, John and I wish you health, wealth and happiness.

Akasha

ps.....apologies if this doesn't look quite right in some way on your screens - technology doing funny things today (or is it me!)

Rev. Akasha Lonsdale, Interfaith Minister, Psychotherapist, Speaker and Author

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