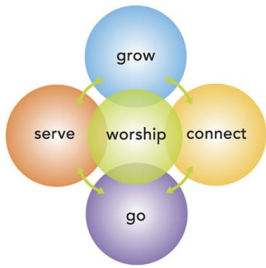


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 17th January AD 2016



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

This morning's Gospel is from John 2:1-12. There are many lessons we can learn from this incident in Christ's life: for example, Christ's approval of marriage—there were some heretical sects later who said marriage was sinful, unfit for a Christian. Or we could see in it the intercessory power of our blessed Mother. Christ anticipated his "hour" for working miracles in order to grant her request. We can also see the goodness and kindness of God in today's gospel story.

Christ worked his first miracle and saved the newly-married groom from embarrassment. It had the other effects of convincing his very recent disciples of their belief that he was the expected Messiah, and also it convinces all Christians of the efficacy of our Lady's intercession for us.

By this kind act he has shown us that he is interested in our earthly affairs also. He became man in order that we could become sons of God, he came on earth so that we could go to heaven, but this miracle at Cana shows that Jesus has a deep interest in our many and varied activities during the course of our journey to heaven.



"Wedding Feast of Cana" by William Nathans

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: **2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am. Family Mass at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: Feria
(Octave of Prayer for the Unity of the Church begins)
9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray for: The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: St Wulstan, Bishop
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
 Pray for: For Bishop Jonathan

Wednesday: St Sebastian, Martyr
10:30am Calverton Apprenticing Charity
6:00pm Parish Office Open to arrange:
 Banns, Marriages & Baptisms
6:15pm Handbell Ringing Practice at MSG School
7:30pm The Band - Practice at MSG School

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: For those facing martyrdom today

Thursday: St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
2:00pm Whitnells, Collins & Parratt Charity
4:00pm Governor Training at MSG School
7:30pm Parochial Church Council meets in the Parish Hall
 Pray for: For the Deacons of the Church

Friday: Feria
8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: For the Unity of the Church.

Saturday: Feria
4:00pm Confessions in St Mary & St Giles
4:30pm Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: All Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am. Family Mass at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish (Education Sunday)

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

3rd Sunday in Ordinary time
 1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
 Psalm: 29 (part)
 2nd Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38
 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Sidesmen Team 2
 Altar Servers Team 1
 Offertory Ladies Group
 Cleaning Team 2
 Gardening Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 151

INFORMATION



The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA Large Print Orders of Service are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman or Sideswoman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. **At All Saints** it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen or women who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for each £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.



Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door shortly after the end of Mass should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

Thursday 21st January

4:00pm Governor Training at SMSG School
7:30pm Parochial Church Council in Parish Hall

Wednesday 27th January
Almshouses Charity Meeting

Monday 1st February
Rector at 'Shared Conversations'

Tuesday 2nd February
CANDLEMASS
10:30am Mass & 'Elevenes' at All Saints
7:30pm Parish Mass at SMSG

Tuesday 9th February
Shrove Tuesday
5:30pm Confessions

Wednesday 10th February
ASH WEDNESDAY
7:30pm Parish Mass with Imposition of Ashes

Saturday 13th February
10:00am 'Musical Bite' Coffee Morning at SMSG

Wednesday 17th February
7:00pm the 1st of this Lent's weekly celebrations of the

Stations of the Cross at SMSG
7:30pm Mass at SMSG
8:00pm the start of the Course 'A Faith for Skeptics' in the Parish Hall

Sunday 5th March
The Rector, at the Invitation of the Bishop of Dorchester, will be participating in the Diocesan 'Shared Conversations' on Human Sexuality
Fr Joseph will celebrate both Masses today.

Saturday 12th March
10:00am 'Musical Bite' Coffee Morning at SMSG

Tuesday 15th March
7:30pm Parochial Church Council in Parish Hall

Thursday 17th March
Diocesan 'Shared Conversations' on Human Sexuality

Sunday 20th March
Passion (Palm) Sunday
9:30am Joint Parish Mass
6:00pm Evensong & Benediction at All Saints

What is happening in the churchyard at St Mary & St Giles? You may recall that the PCC applied for, and obtained, planning consent; and that it subsequently, as required, applied for a faculty to replace the existing dilapidated shed, to introduce an additional shed, and to make repairs to the pathway and verges from the Market Square entrance. We obtained planning consent some while back, but there was a considerable delay in obtaining the faculty as the Chancellor advised us that the repealing of the 'Disused Burials Act 1884' would need to have completed its course through Parliament before he could allow us to have a shed installed - in effect this means that the existing shed ought not to have been erected as that Act of Parliament prevented the erection of any building (including sheds) in disused burial grounds! This Act had been forgotten about and sheds were being erected in disused churchyards up and down the land - that is, until someone living next to a disused burial ground took exception to a shed being erected adjacent to his property's boundary and his very keen lawyer discovered that the 1884 Act was still in force. Happily for us, the Act has now been repealed and the Faculty has been granted. The groundworks should be completed this week and the new sheds will arrive in due course. As part of the ground works a conduit has been laid for future electrical cable, in order that the sheds can have lighting inside them.

One of the sheds will be for gardening purposes only and the other larger shed will be for Parish Hall tables and chairs along with the Outdoor Crib and other occasionally used items in church. By reducing the number of chairs stored in the parish hall we will increase the space available for its users, and yet still be able to bring in more seating if the function requires it.

VERY IMPORTANT - Sound System: It is really important that the sound system at St Mary & St Giles is operated each week, but for this to happen we need volunteers to be trained in its use. Please have a word with the Rector or Churchwardens if you would be willing to be part of a rota of volunteers who manage this during the Parish Mass on Sundays and Feast Days. Thank you.

Scripture Readers at Mass and the Offertory bearers: as a parish family we are hugely grateful to all those who take part each week in various ways in the Liturgy. With the need for the Rector to spend some time at the back of church after Mass before needing to leave for the 11:00am Mass at All Saints it would be really helpful if we could ensure that the Mass runs more to time. If Scripture readers could be at the Lectern at the start of the preceding item of the reading they have been asked to read that would be really helpful - so the First Reader should be at the Lectern as the Collect commences and the Second Reader should be at the Lectern as the Psalm commences

In order that the altar can be prepared at the Offertory without undue delay could those responsible for bringing up the Gifts of Bread and Wine each week please ensure that this is done during the first verse of the Offertory hymn. The alms may be brought up towards the end of the hymn as they take time to collect. Thank you.

Thursday, 21st January TT@TT: SMSG Band will be giving a lunchtime Concert at 12.30pm. 45 minutes of fun music, with hot drinks on tap - you bring you sandwiches - we

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



provide the rest! A warm welcome awaits to this free concert. Why not bring a friend or work colleague along?

Thursday 28th January - Parish Diary Planning Meeting: Would all those who need to book dates in the Parish Diary for the remainder of the year (and make advance bookings for 2017), please come to the Rectory at 7:30pm in order that we can ensure that everything is planned as much as possible. Thank you.

Urgent Request: Do you know of any organists or pianists who would be willing to play at the 11:00am Family Mass at All Saints to cover two Sunday's per month. Please let Fr Ross know if you do, or indeed if you are hiding your light under a bushel and might be willing to have a go.

Readers at All Saints: If any one would like to be added to the list of Scripture readers at the Family Mass would they please have a word with Jane Hardy. Thank you.

Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2016

"What already?"

Yes. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 8th February and Easter is very early this year on March 27th.

In the light of this Fr Ross would appreciate it if Parish Groups and all those wishing to organise events for the next three months would liaise with him over the course of the next two weeks in order that he has everything in the Parish Diary. Once that exercise is complete he will finalise the Lent, Holy Week and Easter Programme of worship and events.

What can I do?

Begin to prepare to keep a good and Holy Lent. Think about what spiritual discipline you are going to take on rather than simply giving up vegetable (in reality that is what much Milk Chocolate is as the cocoa solids are so often substituted with vegetable fats).

There is nothing wrong with making sacrifices...indeed it is commendableproviding one doesn't binge once Easter Day arrives!

However, the taking up either the:

Corporal Works of Mercy

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To harbour the harbourless;
- To visit the sick;
- To ransom the captive;
- To bury the dead.

or, the Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- To instruct the ignorant;
- To counsel the doubtful;
- To admonish sinners;
- To bear wrongs patiently;
- To forgive offences willingly;
- To comfort the afflicted;
- To pray for the living and the dead.

are an ancient and proven Lenten discipline to aid progress in the spiritual life and draw us closer to Christ.

In the meantime, there are just over four weeks left to return your Palm Crosses from last Palm Sunday in order

that they can be burnt to make ashes for use on Ash Wednesday.

If you wish some guidance in preparing for Lent, please ask Fr Ross to arrange to see you.

The Communique of the Anglican Primates following their meeting in Canterbury last week:

Prior to last week the media were in a frenzy about the possible break up of the Anglican Communion. In reality they failed to recognise that it has been more akin to a federation of independent Provinces than a 'Communion' for some while now, due to disagreements over a number of important Doctrinal matters of Faith and Morals. The meeting was ostensibly to discuss how the Provinces could remain united in the face of individual Provinces changing the Moral Teaching of Scripture and the Tradition of the Church without consultation with other Provinces. Thursday's communique of the Primates took the media and indeed much of the Church of England by surprise. It is reproduced here in full:

"1. We gathered as Anglican Primates to pray and consider how we may preserve our unity in Christ given the ongoing deep differences that exist among us concerning our understanding of marriage.

2. Recent developments in The Episcopal Church with respect to a change in their Canon on marriage represent a fundamental departure from the faith and teaching held by the majority of our Provinces on the doctrine of marriage. Possible developments in other Provinces could further exacerbate this situation.

3. All of us acknowledge that these developments have caused further deep pain throughout our Communion.

4. The traditional doctrine of the church in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds marriage as between a man and a woman in faithful, lifelong union. The majority of those gathered reaffirm this teaching.

5. In keeping with the consistent position of previous Primates' meetings such unilateral actions on a matter of doctrine without Catholic unity is considered by many of us as a departure from the mutual accountability and interdependence implied through being in relationship with each other in the Anglican Communion.

6. Such actions further impair our communion and create a deeper mistrust between us. This results in significant distance between us and places huge strains on the functioning of the Instruments of Communion and the ways in which we express our historic and ongoing relationships.

7. It is our unanimous desire to walk together. However given the seriousness of these matters we formally acknowledge this distance by requiring that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and inter-faith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity.

8. We have asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint a Task Group to maintain conversation among ourselves with the intention of restoration of relationship, the rebuilding of mutual trust, healing the legacy of hurt, recognising the extent of our commonality and exploring our deep differences, ensuring they are held between us in the love and grace of Christ."

N.B. 'The Episcopal Church' (TEC) is the Anglican Church in the USA

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

~ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection before Mass:

To express the faithful love for his chosen people Scripture uses the image of God as the bridegroom of Israel. Despite her infidelity he remains faithful and restores her when she has fallen. In New Testament terms Jesus is the bridegroom of the Church. The unity and exclusiveness demanded in Christian marriage is a sign of the unity and exclusiveness of the relationship between Christ and the Church. We see, then, how scandalous a Church that is unfaithful to the Gospel is, just as a divided Church is scandalous too. Full participation in the Eucharist is the supreme expression of unity and agreement in the truth of the Faith, for unity and truth are inseparable. Let us offer Mass with this in mind.

The Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5
MSG Reader: Margery Shaw Old Testament Page 628
All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 96)

R/. Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. ®

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. ®

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name. ®

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'

He will judge the peoples in fairness. ®

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Reader: Lydia Jones New Testament Page 145

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us through the Gospel,
to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

John 2:1-12
New Testament Page 79

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: John Hickman)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, God our Father wants all

mankind to be saved and calls us to the knowledge of the truth. Let us pray to him with all our hearts.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the holy Church of God:..... that the Lord would guide and protect it.

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for all the peoples of the world:.....

That the Lord would unite them in peace and harmony.

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters in need... Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Richard Coley, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Paul, Margaret Hooton, Rebecca, Magnus John, Isaac Lyon, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Capt John Richards CA, Shirley Scrutton, Jenny Smallbones, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, June Wilde, Janis Williams, Jeff Wright, Marian Wright...*for all those in hospital; those awaiting the results of medical tests; the housebound, those convalescent at home or in residential care; and all those in need...*that the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died... Caroline Adebiji, Lyn Butterworth, Gloria Dixey, Martha John, Iris McLennan, Susan de Mont, Joan Orchard, Mick Phillips, Jack Smith... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time...**17th** Andrew Hailstone, Harold Weygood; **19th** Claude Bailey, Lynette Muckley, James Plummer; **21st** Alfred Blundell, Elsie Martin, Clara Read, Charles Edwards, Barbara Fountaine, Peter Hooper, Lottie Taylor, Molly Fossey; **22nd** Edith Foddy, Margaret Yates, Frederick Brown, Caroline Marsh, John Taylor, Brian Denton; **23rd** Bert Holland, Ethel Meakins, Thomas Downing...that they may dwell for ever "in the shelter of the Most High".

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Let us pray for ourselves and our community:..... that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

In silence we pray for our needs and concerns

Priest: God of love our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Lord Jesus, in your love for me, you have come to me sacramentally to purify me and heal me of my sinfulness, to nourish the life that you have already given me and to fill me with your love. I thank you for your great mercy and for allowing me to take part in this Sacrifice which is so pleasing to God our Father. Here at your altar we come together to show our unity and fellowship. By your grace may we banish from our hearts all bitterness and resentment and work wholeheartedly for that unity which you will in your Church and among mankind; for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: info@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

Honorary Assistant Priests:
Fr Joseph Loveday SSC - Tel: 01327 351511

Assistant Curate: Fr Benjamin Drury Tel: 01908 569724
Email: benjamin.drury@gmail.com - Mobile: 07719 202333

Church Army Officer: Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com