

The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 10th April AD 2016

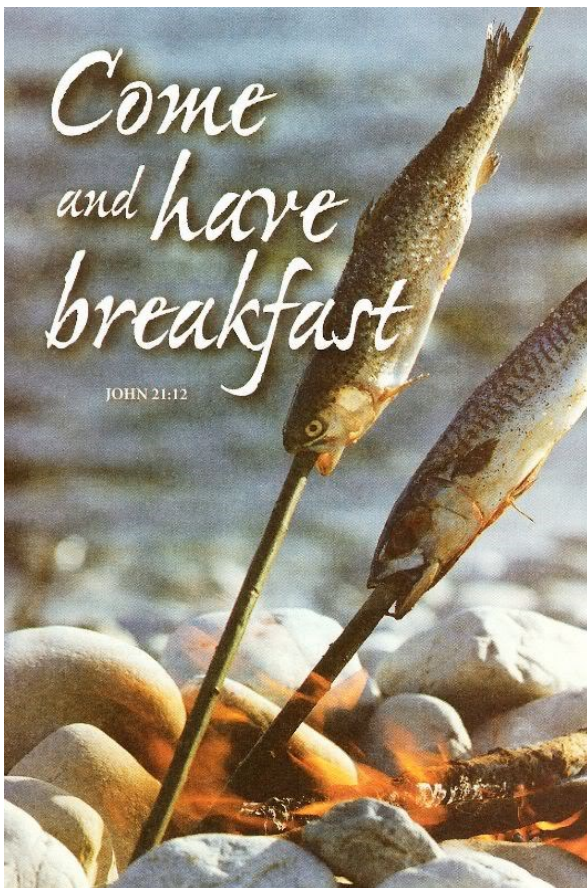
The Gospel reading today is from St. John 21:1-19. The primary purpose in recounting this appearance of the Risen Christ to his Apostles, was to stress the actual conferring of the Primacy on Peter. From this very first meeting with Christ at the Jordan (Jn. 1:42) the Saviour had told him that his name Simon bar-Jonah would be changed to Cephas, which means Rock. Some year or so later, at Caesarea Philippi, this change took place when Christ said to Simon, "You are (Peter) Rock. and upon this Rock I will build my Church . . . and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:18-19).

This promise, that Simon would be the foundation, the source of strength and unity, in the new Christian community, was made factual on the occasion described here by John. Christ uses a new metaphor - Simon (Peter) is to be the new shepherd - he would take the place of Christ, as head and director of the Christian flock. He would provide protection and pasturage for Christ's sheep and lambs. He would, in other words, be the keeper and head of Christ's Church.

That this position of authority was recognised by his fellow Apostles and by the first Christians, is evident in almost every page of the Acts—the book which describes the infant Church. It was Peter who presided at the election of Matthias, who succeeded Judas in the apostolic college (Acts 1:15-26); he gave the first Christian sermon after the descent of the Holy Spirit (2: 14-40); he worked the first recorded miracle wrought by any Apostle (3:1-11); he pronounced sentence on Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11); it was he who received the first Gentile convert into the Church (11:1-18) and it was he who defended Paul's action at the Council of Jerusalem (15:6-11).

In face of such evidence no serious historian can doubt but that the other Apostles and the first Christians saw in Peter the living head of the Church, the representative of Christ. The Church in the succeeding generations and centuries saw the successor of Peter, and the living representative of Christ in the occupant of the See of Rome, the bishopric held by Peter, when he was martyred for the faith. History is witness to this. It is incumbent on us all to pray for an end to the sad divisions of the Tudor period and for the reunion of all Christians, east and west, as surely our Lord desires: "Ut unum sint" (that they may be one) John 17:21.

The Sheep and the Lambs of the twentieth and even thirtieth centuries and beyond will have as much need of pasturage and protection as, if not more than, those of the first century. Christ, our Saviour and our Good Shepherd, provided for all time.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: **3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER**
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**
 Pray for: *Our Parish*

Monday: **Feria**
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray that: *The Sick, Housebound and handicapped*

Tuesday: **Feria**
10:30am **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**
 Pray for: *The High Court of Parliament*

Wednesday **Feria**
 6:00pm Rector available in Parish Office
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: *For Local Charities*

Thursday **Feria**
10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: *The Sick*

Friday: **Feria**
8:00am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles School**
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray that: *The Faithful Departed*

Next Sunday: 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**
 Pray for: *Our Parish & its Churchwardens*

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 4th Sunday of Easter
 1st Reading: Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41
 Psalm: 30 (part)
 2nd Reading: Revelation 5:11-14
 Gospel: John 20:1-19

PARISH NOTICES

Organ News: we are celebrating the restoration of the Willis pipe organ with its re-dedication on 1 May at the 9:30 am Parish Mass by the Bishop.

Inaugural concerts: The Open University choir will sing with the Willis organ on 23rd April. Jonathan Kingston on 30th April will give the first organ recital concert and MK Sinfonia on 2nd July for the first ever orchestral performance with the organ. Posters and flyers are available to take and display. Please see Anna Page for tickets & further developments.

Very advanced notice! 60 seats for the pantomime Dick Whittington have been booked at Milton Keynes Theatre for Tuesday, 3rd January 2017 at 6pm. The tickets are still £18 (and free to accompanied children who are part of our congregations). Reservations can be made anytime - see Lesley Salter.

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

The liturgy today continues to remind us of the joy and dynamism that is our heritage as Christians through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like the early Christians, we are called to be witnesses of this new way of life to the world, in our fearless fidelity to the values of the Gospel, in our compassion and mutual reconciliation, in our care for each other.

The Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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 Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32,40-41
MSG Reader: Mary Saggars New Testament Page 104
All Saints Reader: Diane West

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 30)

**R/. I will praise you, Lord,
you have rescued me.**

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. ®

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. ®

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing.
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. ®

Second Reading Revelation 5:11-14
Reader: Pat Eales New Testament Page 210

Gospel Acclamation (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen, who created all things
and has mercy on the human race.

Alleluia!

The Gospel John 21:1-19
New Testament Pages 99

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: Fr Ross)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, conscious of our communion with all God's faithful people who have gone before us to be admitted into his presence, let us place our hopes and aspirations before him through Christ, the 'first-fruits' of those to rise from the dead.

Intercessor:

We pray for the pilgrim Church on earth....., for the Church suffering in Purgatory, that we may all be united one day with the Church triumphant in heaven.

V/. Lord, in your mercy

R/. hear our prayer.

We pray that the hope of heaven will encourage and support us through life's trials and temptations.

We pray for the modern world that has no hope of life after death....., that many may find the way out of emptiness and despair through faith in the risen Christ.

We thank you for the gift of the Spirit, which is our guarantee of eternal life. May the Spirit strengthen and sustain all those in need....; and all those who are sick...Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Peter Brazell, Richard Coley, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Eileen Haseldine, Russell Herbert, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Ray Lewis, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Joyce Samuels, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, June Wilde, Janis Williams, Marian Wright... May the Spirit keep us firmly in the virtues which are of eternal importance, love and understanding of others, and compassion for the needy.

We pray for our relatives and friends who have gone before us to meet God...Mick Lang, Capt John Richards CA, Norman Stokes, Sylvia Storer, Glyn Wyatt...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**10th** James Hickman, Edna Rose, Richard Bailey; **11th** Jean Mitchell; **12th** Ron Jennison (priest), Fredrick Luck, Robert Read; **13th** John Eglesfield; **15th** Charlotte Wright, Irene Hind, Doreen Taylor; **16th** William Eales, Jessie Shelley, Joan Maycock... and for all involved in disasters and accidents, for the victims of violence in our own country. May they enjoy the reward of eternal life.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest:

Lord God, you have prepared for those who love you what no eye has seen, no ear has heard. Fill our hearts with your love, so that loving you above all and in all, we may attain your promises, which the heart of man has not conceived, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Peter's shattered discipleship was restored by Jesus' initiative. In spite of failure, Peter loved Jesus and that trust enabled him to take up his mission as a follower of his Risen Master, even if it would lead to martyrdom. Let us ask the Risen Christ, present with us now in this Eucharist, to renew our love and our commitment as Christians.

As from next Sunday the A3 edition of the Newsletter will resume. Copy for inclusion to the Rector by Tuesday lunchtime please. Thank you.

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