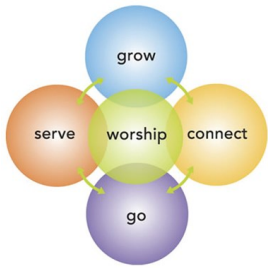


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**SUNDAY 8th May AD 2016**



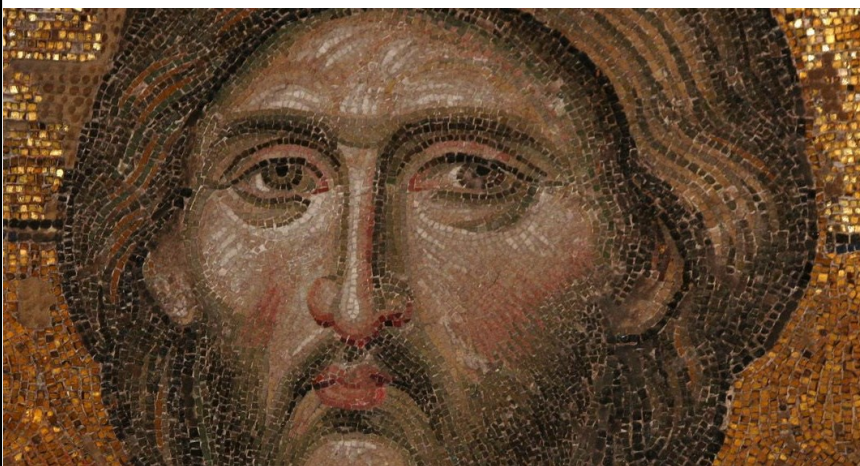
Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

**Jesus' High-Priestly Prayer:**

On the seventh Sunday of Easter, we always read from the 17th chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter of John's Gospel comes at the conclusion of Jesus' Farewell Discourse delivered to the disciples at the Last Supper. The whole of this chapter is a prayer of Jesus, commending himself to the Father and expressing his care and concern for his disciples. At the end of this prayer, Jesus and his disciples depart for the garden, and Jesus is arrested.

Several important themes appear in this prayer of Jesus. First, Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the one who pre-existed with the Father and as the one sent by the Father to do his work on earth. In today's reading, we hear Jesus ask that the unity he experiences with the Father be extended to all who believe in him. He prays that we be one with each other, with him, and with the Father. We are reminded that Christ is the source of Christian unity. Through Christ, we are united with one another and with God our Father.

Belief is a major theme in the Gospel of John. It begins in the prologue and continues in the response to Jesus' signs. Belief is the reason Jesus performs signs (2:11, 4:53, 6:69, 9:38) and the reason signs have been recorded in the Gospel (20:30-31). Here Jesus prays not only for those who believe in him but for all who will come to believe in him. And he prays that the love of the Father in him may also be in all who believe so that Jesus might be in them as well....and that includes us as well.



**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- TODAY:**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 Pray for: **THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Our Parish
- Monday:**  
**Feria**  
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall  
 7:30pm Archdeacon's Visitation - Bletchley  
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice  
 Pray for: *The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped*  
*The Channel Islands - Liberation Day*
- Tuesday:**  
**Feria**  
**10:30am**  
 Pray for: **Mass at All Saints** + 'Elevenses'  
*Those affected by the recent fire in the High Street*
- Wednesday** **Feria**  
 11:30am Funeral Rite: Joyce Samuel R.I.P.  
 6:00pm Rector in the Parish Office  
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School  
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School  
**7:30pm**  
 Pray for: **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
*For the Faithful Departed*
- Thursday:**  
**St Pancras, Martyr**  
**10:30am**  
 Pray for: **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
*For Christians facing persecution*
- Friday:**  
**Our Lady of Fatima**  
**8:00am**  
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal  
 Pray for: **Mass at St Mary & St Giles School**  
*Pilgrims to Fatima*
- Saturday:**  
**St Matthias, Apostle**  
 12:00noon Lunch in Aid of Flower Festival in Parish Hall  
 4:00pm Confessions in St Mary & St Giles  
 4:30pm Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles  
 Pray for: **St Matthias, Apostle**  
*For Visitors to our Parish Churches*
- Next Sunday: THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 Pray for: **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Our Parish
- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY Pentecost**  
 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7  
 Psalm: 22 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11  
 Gospel: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

Sidesmen Team 2 Altar Servers Team 3  
 Offertory Handbell Ringers  
 Cleaning Team 2 Gardening Team 2  
 Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 140  
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 30 Apr): 33

# 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

00noon Lunch to raise funds for the Flower Festival in the Parish Hall

### Sunday 15th May THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

9:30am Parish Mass at SMSG  
11:00am Family Mass at All Saints

### Wednesday 18th May

2:00pm The Fellowship Quiz Afternoon in the Parish Hall

### Thursday 19th May

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG  
7:30pm Parochial Church Council at All Saints

### Saturday 21st May

7:30pm 'Polymnia' Concert at SMSG

### Thursday 26th May CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI

7:30pm Parish Mass at SMSG  
Celebrant: Fr Victor Bullock SSC  
Homilist: The Rector

### Sunday 29th May

3:00pm Family Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles

### Thursday 2nd June

7:30pm Milton Keynes Deanery Synod

### Saturday 5th June

5:00pm Violin & Cello Concert in St Mary & St Giles

### Wednesday 8th June

4:00pm Handbells & Band Concert in SMSG Church

### Friday 10th - Sunday 11th June National Celebrations for HM The Queen's 90th Birthday

Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles with Refreshments  
+ Cream Teas and The Band in Concert from 2:00pm on the Sunday afternoon

### Tuesday 15th June

The Rector & Sister Janet have been invited to attend Evensong at Westminster Abbey to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

### Wednesday 15th June

9:30am Mass followed by The Fellowship Breakfast

**Please pray:** for all those materially and emotionally affected by the tragic fire in the High Street last Sunday afternoon. Our prayers should include all those who have memories of having lived or worked in these properties and who face the difficulty of no longer seeing former homes and places of employment.

During the week I have been able to spend time with some of those affected. As the week progressed it became apparent that a number of businesses and some residents will have to relocate for varying degrees of time.

Appeals have been launched to try and help local businesses find temporary accommodation in the town, and naturally we pray that this appeal is successful.

The last week have been very stressful for all involved and made all the more difficult by the news that further premises have had to be condemned due to stress from the collapse of the High Street buildings.

At the same time as praying for all affected we should also give thanks that no one was injured or killed, and for the response and great diligence shown by our brave emergency services.

**Thank you:** Fr Tunji, Funke and the children wish to express their appreciation to the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Family for the welcome at his Licencing as Associate Minister in our Parish last Sunday.

**Our Church School - News:** The Local Authority has asked our school if we are prepared to merge with Queen Eleanor primary School and run St. Mary & St. Giles School on both sites. This is potentially the biggest change in our school for many years and the Governing Body has agreed for this to go forward for consultation.

The consultation started on Monday and lasts for 6 weeks. MK Council is keen to hear from anyone who would like to read the consultation and complete the feedback form available at:

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/370>  
Why is the Authority proposing this change? Queen Eleanor Primary School is currently an improving school and St. Mary & St. Giles is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. There is much to be proud of in both these schools and the Authority believes that it would strengthen local provision if they were brought under one leadership and management.

Kieran has stated that he is very excited by this proposal as he believes it to be in the best long-term interests of pupils and staff. SMSG will continue to work in partnership with Russell Street School. He would encourage every member of the parish to read the consultation document and respond to Milton Keynes Council. If you have any questions please talk to Fr. Ross, Kieran or any of the Governors.

**Altar Linen:** Our Sacristan at St Mary & St Giles, John, asks if there are any among us who would be willing to join the monthly rota for washing and ironing the small altar linen. It isn't a particularly onerous task and our former Sacristan, Mary Saggars, kindly wrote some notes to help those who join the rota to understand the care that needs taking when rinsing the linen before washing, and some tips for ironing linen. Please see John if you wish to know more.

Also: the purificators do not seem to last as long as they once did. A supplier of good quality Irish Linen has been found as we shall need to purchase more purificators very

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



soon - due to the high number of those we have had to discard due to the deterioration of much of our last supply. The cost per purificator is £14 and we use at least 6 per week - and, of course we need far more than that as the used ones are with the volunteers who wash and iron them, and if this is done fortnightly - as it sometimes is due to holidays and other commitments - then we can easily run short of them. If anyone wishes to donate monies towards this please place your donations in an envelope marked "Small Altar Linen" and place in the collection baskets. Don't forget that, if you are a tax payer, you can increase the value of your gift by using a Gift Aid Envelope and completing the details. *Thank you.*

**Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2016:** Please sign up for the door to door collection for Christian Aid 2016. This year's donations will help the poorest communities and flood victims in Bangladesh re-build housing on earth plinths above flood level and replace lost animals and seed. Thanks Richard Hearne  
richardhearne@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01908 560895

**Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers:** If you shop regularly at Sainsbury's then please do collect the 'Active Kids' vouchers and hand them to Kieran or Lesley Salter as they will help our Church School obtain sports equipment. If the person in front of you in the queue declines them...please don't be shy in speaking up and saying that you know of a school that would appreciate them and asking if they mind letting you have them. *Thank you.*

## **Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles to celebrate the HM Queen's 90th Birthday**

As part of the whole country's celebration for HM Queen's 90th birthday we are planning to hold a Flower Festival on Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June 2016. To enable this exciting event to take place we are requesting your help to act as Stewards throughout the weekend, to serve and make refreshments and donate funds!!! We are estimating this could cost as much as £1,200.00. This could be either by donations, sponsorship of an arrangement and/or attending a fund raising lunch on Saturday 14th May. If you would like to make a donation please address the envelope 'Flower Festival'.

Please put these important dates in you diary and see Sue Starr or Lesley Corcoran if you are able to help with this event in anyway. Many thanks in anticipation.

STOP PRESS: Tickets for the fund raising lunch for the Flower Festival on Saturday 14th May will be £6. Tickets are available from Jill Eales

**Memorial Registers:** The Rector will be updating the registers in both our Parish Churches by the end of this week. If you wish names of deceased loved ones to be added to those already included please fill in one of the forms available in both churches and then pass to the Rector by the Thursday lunchtime. Donations in lieu of entries will be added to the Restoration Fund of the church to which Register entry pertains.

**Weekly Envelope Boxes and Gift Aid:** The new envelope boxes are now available for you to take home. If you no longer require a box, or want a box then get in touch with Clive please.

If you are a taxpayer, SMSG can claim on your behalf, and at no additional cost to you, gift aid tax - which adds an extra 25p to our funds for every pound you donate. Last year SMSG was able to claim over £11,000 Gift Aid Tax.

For SMSG to claim tax on your behalf you have to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. All contributions are highly confidential and treated as such. Please get in touch with Clive for more information on 07713 164110 or emailing [clive.williams@rectanglered.com](mailto:clive.williams@rectanglered.com).

**Appeal from Community Action MK:** We are urgently seeking Volunteer drivers in your area. Volunteer Drivers Wanted. Do you have some free time? Are you a car owner and like driving? Would you like to help people in your local area by becoming a volunteer car driver?

We are looking for people willing to give their time to transport the elderly and disabled to a range of medical appointments and social care activities. These are generally in Milton Keynes and local area, but can occasionally be to Bedford, Northampton, Aylesbury, and Oxford.

You do not have to travel to areas you are not familiar with and we only ask you to volunteer as and when you are available and willing; this can be anything from a few hours a week to all week depending on your preferences and availability. You will need your own car, however, all mileage costs are reimbursed at the current HMRC rate.

You will need to inform your insurance company that you are volunteering and insurance companies do not impose a financial penalty for this.

For more information please don't hesitate to get in touch with either Tracy Whitmore or Laura Jeffery on 01908 670309 or email [ccsmk@communityactionmk.org](mailto:ccsmk@communityactionmk.org).

## **Something to ponder:**

*"How long will it take for our people to understand that when humanist sentiments replace moral absolutes, it is not long before very idealistic people begin to invade human families in the name of the family, and destroy human lives in the name of humanity? This is the idealist's greatest temptation, the temptation by which nations and cultures so often fall. The wielder of power is deluded into thinking he can remould reality into a less unkind condition. If he succeeds in convincing his people of the delusion and posits for them an enemy of the collective good, then unspeakable evils can be released in society. Those who share a mass-delusion rarely recognize it as such, and can pursue the most heinous acts in a spirit of self-righteousness.*

*Previous to this he describes the unreal situation in which we now live, where there are no outward signs of jack-booting totalitarianism, but only something we breath in through the atmosphere. The enemy has taken control of our most inner beings. This is far more terrifying than having to fight a clear flesh and blood enemy because we have no control over it.*

*Somewhere..... there is a decisive transfer of power and responsibility. When this happens on a massive scale something is seriously amiss. There may not be brown-shirts and jackboots marching in the streets. No public book-burnings. No grotesque executions. In some cases there may even be no visible dictator, only a system or a social philosophy which permeates and controls everything. Indeed, the world may appear to be perfectly normal..."*

Michael O'Brien

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*Today's Celebration places great emphasis on the gift of Christian unity. As we reflect on the readings, we should also be mindful that our very presence at Eucharist as a community should encourage us to foster that sense of unity.*

## The Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 7:55-60

*SMSG Reader: Sharon Sherwood New Testament Page 106*

*All Saints Reader: Rita Oakley*

### The Responsorial Psalm

*(from Psalm 97)*

#### **R/. The Lord is king, most high above all the earth.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
the many coastlands be glad.  
His throne is justice and right. ®

The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory.  
All you spirits, worship him. ®

For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth  
exalted far above all spirits. ®

### Second Reading

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20

*Reader: Matthew Lucas*

*New Testament Page 220*

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

#### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;  
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

#### **Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

John 17:20-26

*New Testament Pages 95*

### The Prayer of the Faithful

*(Biddings: Matthew Lucas)*

*Priest:* Ascended into glory, Christ has become our advocate before the throne of grace. May the promised Spirit of Christ sustain us in peace until the Morning Star rises on the last day.

*Intercessor:* For the church that longs for your return, we pray:

V/. Lord, hear us.

#### **R/. Lord, send us your Spirit.**

For all who work to restore unity to the churches, we pray:

For Christians who thirst for your life and have accepted baptism, we pray:

For all who proclaim your death and resurrection at the Eucharist, we pray:

For religious whom you have called to a life of contemplative prayer, we pray:

For non-Christians who are open to hearing the church's proclamation, we pray:

For all who share your martyrdom in body, mind, and spirit...Pete, Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Wally Atkins, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Peter Brazzell, Richard Coley, Ross Dilnot, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Margaret Hooton, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Bill Lees, Ray Lewis, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright..., we pray:

For those who are persecuted for calling the world to justice in your name, we pray:

For the faithful who have longed to be in your company and have now died...Pauline Cowley, Audrey Lambert, Joyce Samuel....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**8<sup>th</sup>** Maud Tapp, Emily Powell; **9<sup>th</sup>** Jane West, Charles Saggars, Eric Steer (priest); **10<sup>th</sup>** Ann Smith, Rosa Clarke, Harriet Roberts, Mary West, Charles Norgate, Mark Kirk; **11<sup>th</sup>** Ruby Foskett; **12<sup>th</sup>** Robert Webb, Evelyn Rayner; **13<sup>th</sup>** Mollie Jones, Sylvia Lovesey; ..., we pray:

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

#### **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Priest:* Loving God, Christ has revealed the limitlessness of your love for us. Through the promised Spirit and persevering prayer draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Reflection:**

Lord, gather us together with all our brothers and sisters who share our Faith in Jesus, your Son. Keep us together in your one true Church, seeking the truth together with sincerity and love. We are all consecrated to you and joined to one another by our common Baptism. Keep us together and make us one in the fullness of the Faith we share. Even when we differ in our thinking and acting, keep us all one in your fellowship of love. Grant this through Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, our only Beginning and one last End. Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer for Christian Unity on Good Friday*

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