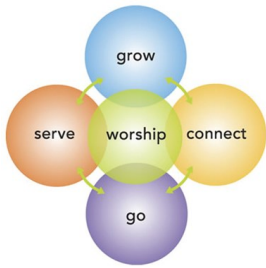


# The Parish of STONY STRATFORD with CALVERTON



## THE PARISH NEWSLETTER THE 9th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 29th 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)*

Problems caused by the antagonism so easily aroused towards those who belong to another religious tradition are not confined to our own age; they are a recurring theme of world's history. In the world of Luke's experience, the Jews hated the gentiles, and the gentiles despised the Jews. These antagonisms must have been painful realities for Luke, as he lived through two momentous conversions. Before finding faith in Christ, he would have belonged to the gentile fringe of synagogue attenders ('the God-fearing', cf. Acts 9:2). Later he would have known the antagonism directed towards the new Christian movement. Personal experience, therefore, would have given the story of the centurion (whose words have been immortalised in the Church's Eucharistic liturgy) a special interest for Luke. He would have reflected deeply upon the 'faith' praised by Jesus.

'Not even in Israel'. For many people 'having the faith' is solely a matter of ritual practice and orthodox creed. The people of Jesus' own hometown of Nazareth would have been shocked to be told - as they rejected the world's Saviour with such violence - that they were betraying the faith of Israel. The centurion, on the other hand, as Luke portrays him, shows a sensitive awareness of the ritual customs of orthodox Jewish practice. Because it was unlawful for Jews to have dealings with gentiles or visit their homes (Acts 10:28) he makes his appeal to Jesus on behalf of his slave through his Jewish friends; and, when the slave has died, he sends a humble message suggesting that Jesus not break the rules of ritual purity by coming into his house. But it is not this 'faith' that 'astonishes' Jesus - and which Luke is obviously holding up to us as an example.

As he worked miracles, Jesus often referred to the need for 'faith' in those seeking his help. This 'faith' is not only about orthodox belief and practice, but an openness to the fact that God's greatness and mercy are coming into their lives through what Jesus is about to do for them. 'This text is being fulfilled today', Jesus had told the people of Nazareth - after reminding them that his ministry showed forth the messianic signs foretold by the prophet. These people of the synagogue, however, did not find the 'faith' to welcome their messiah. The gentile centurion does find this 'faith'; and he is dramatically rewarded.

Associated with the antagonism that frequently arises between different religious traditions is a sectarian refusal to accept the fact that God's blessings might be given to those outside one's own tradition. The Scriptures make it clear that, as Israel learned the ways of God, a counter to this exclusivism found expression in a remarkable tradition of sensitivity to the stranger or 'foreigner' - the prophets even looked forward to crowds of pagans, including Israel's traditional enemies, journeying to Jerusalem to worship the true God. The first reading is moving expression of this tradition, portraying Solomon - as he dedicates the temple that was to become the proud symbol of Israel's faith - as praying for the foreigner who might come to the temple from a distant land. A reminder of the Law of Love that is relevant to our own day.



### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- TODAY:**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 3:00pm  
*Pray for:*
- Monday:**  
 12:00noon  
 8:00pm  
*Pray for:*
- Tuesday:**  
**10:30am**  
 2:00pm  
*Pray for:*
- Wednesday**  
 6:00pm  
 6:30pm  
 7:15pm  
**7:30pm**  
*Pray for:*
- Thursday:**  
**10:30am**  
 7:30pm  
*Pray for:*
- Friday:**  
**8:00am**  
 7:30pm  
*Pray for:*
- Saturday:**  
**8:00am**  
 10:00am  
 4:00pm  
 4:30pm  
 7:30pm  
*Pray for:*
- Next Sunday: 10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 1:00pm  
*Pray for:*
- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**  
 1st Reading: 1 Kings 17: 17-24  
 Psalm: 29 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Galatians 1: 11-19  
 Gospel: Luke 7: 11-17

**9th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Family Organ Recital at SMSG  
*Our Parish*

**Feria**  
 Marriage Rite at All Saints  
 Bell Ringing Practice  
*The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped*

**THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**  
 Marriage Rite at St Mary & St Giles  
*All Women with Child*

**St Justin Martyr**  
 Rector in the Parish Office  
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School  
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
*Those facing Martyrdom today*

**Ss Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs**  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Milton Keynes Deanery Synod  
*For the Spread of the Gospel*

**THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Parish Singers Rehearsal  
*Increased devotion to Christ*

**The Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall  
 Confessions in St Mary & St Giles  
 Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles  
 Violin & Cello Duo Concert in SMSG  
*Visitors to our Parish Churches*

**10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Holy Baptism at St Mary & St Giles  
*Our Parish*

*Sidesmen Team 5 Altar Servers Team 3*  
*Offertory Gerald & Heather Clough*  
*Cleaning Team - Gardening Team 4*

*Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 151*  
*Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 14th May): 39*

# 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

### Sunday 29th May

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

### Thursday 2nd June

7:30pm Milton Keynes Deanery Synod

### Saturday 4th June

10:00am Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall

*in aid of the Restoration Fund*

7:30pm Violin & Cello Concert in St Mary & St Giles

### Sunday, 5th June

2.30-4.30pm

Piano & Vocal Duets

Tea and cake served throughout

### 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 2:30pm 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

### Thursday 16th June

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert in St Mary & St Giles

### Saturday 2nd July

10:00am Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall

*in aid of the Restoration Fund*

7:30pm Milton Keynes Sinfonia Concert with the Pipe Organ in St Mary & St Giles

### Tues 5th/Weds 6th July

Ebbsfleet Council of Priests at Douai Abbey

### Wednesday 6th July

7:30pm Mass of Confirmation at Hanslope, St James the Great

**Altar Linen:** 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 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.*

**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.*

**Posters:** There are posters on the oak table at the rear of the Nave at St Mary & St Giles for the upcoming Flower Festival and some concerts. Please do take a copy and display prominently if you are able to. There are also flyers available with details of concerts for those who are interested in knowing more and to give to those you know who may be interested.

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

Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated towards the Festival in June and those who supported the Lunch last week. A significant amount has already been raised. Some Arrangements are being sponsored in memory of a loved one, if you would like to sponsor a specific display please see Sue or Lesley. Please place any donations in an envelope marked 'Flower Festival'. Many thanks.

### 'The Year of Mercy' - a Celebration in Oxford Cathedral:

As you will no doubt know, the wider church is celebrating a Year of Mercy. Bishop Jonathan has been talking with the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral and they have welcomed the possibility of a celebration to mark the Holy Year on Saturday 17 September. The basic idea will be an opportunity to celebrate the Mass at Christ Church at 11 am followed by a picnic lunch and an early afternoon session of teaching and fellowship.

The Bishop's Office will be sending out more formal announcements and publicity in due course, but hopes that this informal announcement will enable his parishes to make preparatory plans for joining the celebration at Christ Church Cathedral. This gathering would be a fortnight before the installation of the new Diocesan Bishop, and will give us an opportunity also to pray for him in the cathedral.

I would be most grateful if someone would volunteer to organise a coach for us to travel to Oxford and back. Please see me if you would be willing to take on the organisation of this trip. *Thank you. Fr Ross*

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



**'The Servant Queen and the King she serves':** all 200 of the copies of this marvellous booklet from our initial order have been taken. We can order more, if there is a need. Please let the Rector know if you would like to order more and how many you would like: either in writing, by phone or email. The aim will be to place a further order, if needed, at the end of May.

**Burial Fees:** Milton Keynes Council has increased the price of burials in its 8 cemeteries by 44% - from £1460 to £2100 - according to reports in the press.

Burial in All Saints Churchyard is less than 25% of the Council's former charge. OK, so the Council's charge presumably includes the cost of digging the grave - which, note, will be done mechanically.

Our gravedigger charges £450 and digs by hand. Add that to the standard burial fee of £286 and it will cost just over half the price of MKC's former charge, and just over one-third of the new charge. Perhaps it is for others to point out the obvious!

**Christian Aid Week 2016:** Thanks to all the people who took part in Christian Aid Week this year. The total raised so far is £482.90p. Of this, £372.90 was from the door to door collection and £110 from a "Big Brekkie" event in Claremont Avenue. A Bangladeshi smallholder said "*What I received from Christian Aid has changed my life. I never dreamed of it. I think it is a blessing.*" Richard Hearne.

**Volunteering with Barnardo's:** Barnardo's are looking for new volunteers in MK. There is further information on the free-standing Notice-boards in both our Parish Churches and some leaflets on the tables.

## **The Matter of 'Intinction'**

History has a habit of repeating itself. In 2009, a swine flu epidemic swept Great Britain, just as once upon a time the plague used to sweep the country on a fairly regular basis, and in 1918 a deadly influenza swept the world. The cost to human life of swine flu was not comparable with the plague or the 1918 pandemic, but this was nonetheless a reminder to a modern country that the forces of nature remain distinctly unmodern and (at times) well able to disrupt the sophisticated shields which we 21st century humans like to think we have constructed for ourselves against the more elemental powers of the created order.

Among the relatively minor consequences of the swine flu epidemic - but of major concern within the churches - was a fear of infection being passed through the chalice at the reception of Holy Communion (again, not a new concern; again history repeats itself). In response the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued guidance about received Holy Communion. (1) The advice was to suspend the sharing of the common chalice at Communion - in other words, to restrict the Chalice to the Celebrant alone, and for everybody else to receive in one kind only. For those who wanted to maintain Communion in both kinds, the practice of "personal intinction by the presiding minister" was suggested - i.e. the priest carefully dipping the consecrated wafer into the consecrated wine before handing it to the Communicant. What was not suggested, despite its stubborn popularity in some places, was the practice of each communicant unceremoniously dunking his own wafer into the chalice.

Swine flu is now but a distant memory, but the practice of intinction continues to be common, other than in places where the parish priest has forbidden it. The intention behind it may be worthy, but it should be discouraged. Let me attempt to explain why.

The starting point has to be our Eucharistic Theology. Since the Second Vatican Council, Roman Catholics have recovered the practice - always present in the Church of England - of receiving Holy Communion in both kinds at every Mass. This is desirable because in doing so we are seen to participate fully in

the action of Christ at the Last Supper. But although to receive in one kind only is symbolically incomplete, it does not limit our reception of the Real Presence of Christ in the sacrament. Both the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England have always taught that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - and that our Communion is complete by receiving either species singly. In the Church of England, this was made clear by the Sacrament Act 1547, which made clear that while receiving in both kinds is the norm, 'necessity' might dictate otherwise.

The technical name for this doctrine is **concomitance**, and it lay behind the Archbishops' advice during the flu epidemic. The practical implication for today is that **if for any reason you do not wish to drink from the common chalice, the most logical and acceptable response is to receive in one kind only** - i.e. by receiving the consecrated Host alone.

The Archbishops also suggested intinction by the celebrant. This is the only manner in which intinction is allowed in the Roman Catholic Church. (2) It is uncommon, perhaps because it is time consuming and (for the theological reasons already outlined) unnecessary.

It does at least have the advantage of being safe, which is more than can be said for the practice of individuals intincting their own Host. There is plentiful evidence that hands are at least as likely to be a source of infection as lips - and frequently more so. (3) Furthermore, while the practice of wiping the chalice with the purificator eradicates most bacteria - 90% according to one study (4) - no such method of cleansing can take place when dirty hands are dipped into the chalice. Also, if you intinct from a chalice from which others have drunk, then you will still pick up any germs that do remain - whilst also adding your own to the collection!

The other danger with personal intinction - frequently witnessed by those who administer the Chalice - is the spilling of the Precious Blood as the 'dunked' Host makes its way from the Chalice to the communicant's mouth. Such a cavalier attitude to the Blessed Sacrament should be reason in itself for discouraging the practice of intinction.

So for reasons both theological and practical, intinction is not a good idea. But if all this sounds a little dry and technical, then let me finish on a more positive note: when we come forward to receive Holy Communion, the last thing we want to be thinking about is swine flu, or indeed the Sacrament Act of 1547! If we are busy considering the risk of infection, then our hearts and minds will be distracted from the transformative encounter with the Lord that Holy Communion should be. How much more wonderful to receive, humbly and unconditionally, the great gift of love which the Lord so generously provides, with heart and mind free from any distraction. If, therefore, you are worried about giving or receiving infection through the chalice, **then come forward joyfully and faithfully and receive the fullness of the Lord in the Host alone.**

Fr Ian McCormack SSC

1. <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2009/07/swineflu230709.aspx>
2. [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20040423\\_redemptionis-sacramentum\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20040423_redemptionis-sacramentum_en.html), (104); GIRM 285(b) and 287
3. <http://www.anglican.ca/faith/ministry/euc-practice-infection/>
4. *ibid*

*From the Rector:*

*Fr McCormack has done the Church a great service in writing this article. What I had not been alert to was the fact that, where intinction is permitted, it is only permitted to be done by the 'presiding minister' - in other words the priest who is the principal celebrant. Therefore it is quite clear that any Chalice Assistants, be they Lay or Ordained, are not authorised to administer by intinction.*

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*Let not the partaking of Your Body, O Lord Jesus Christ, which I, though unworthy, presume to receive, turn to my judgment and condemnation; but through Your goodness, may it become a safeguard and an effective remedy, both of soul and body. Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.*

## The Collect

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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

SMSG Reader: Pat Eales

All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

1 Kings 8:41-43

New Testament Page 257

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 117)

**R/. Go out to the whole world  
and proclaim the Good News.**

O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples. ®

Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever. ®

### Second Reading

Reader: Anna Page

Galatians 1:1-2, 6-10

New Testament Page 157

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son;  
that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.

**Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Luke 7:1-10

New Testament Pages 56

### The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: Jenny Rowlson)

*Priest:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

*Intercessor:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen *N* our bishop and all your Church in the service of Christ; .....that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*V/. Lord, hear us.*

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

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; .....that all may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours; .....that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit...

Pete, Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Henry Blake, Peter Brazell, Richard Coley, Ross Dilnot, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Margaret Hooton, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Bill Lees, Ray Lewis, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Monica, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright... give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ...Wally Atkins, Mary Barry, Pauline Cowley, Audrey Lambert, Kay Lucas, Joyce Samuel...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**29<sup>th</sup>** Henry Hale, Thomas Haseldine, Henry Taylor; **30<sup>th</sup>** Thekla Russell, Eva Smith; **31<sup>st</sup>** Marjory Zani, Angel Power, Edith Tompkins; **1<sup>st</sup> June** May Coats, Thomas Grimsley; **2<sup>nd</sup>** Herbert Lunn, Lilian Emms; **3<sup>rd</sup>** Emeric Ware, James Barry; **4<sup>th</sup>** Herbert Cook, Elsie Newton, Joan Jordan, Linda Stephenson...according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord

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

*In silence we pray for our needs and concerns*

*Priest:* Rejoicing in the fellowship of (*N* and of) all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole of creation to your unfailing love. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Offertory Hymn

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

*Refrain:*

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**

**Longing for hope, many despair.**

**Your word alone has pow'r to save us.**

**Make us your living voice.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.**

**Longing for water, many still thirst.**

**Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold.**

**Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.**

**Many the gifts, many the people,**

**many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

### Communion Reflection:

*Lord our God, in this great sacrament, we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, your Son, born of the Virgin Mary and crucified for our salvation. May we, who declare our faith in this fountain of love and mercy, drink from it the water of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

**Rector:** Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148

Email: rector@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

**Church Army Officer:** Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148

Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com

**Parish Website:** <http://parishstonystratfordcalverton.com>

**Associate Minister:** Fr Tunji Adebiyi

Tel: 01525 790954

**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Loveday SSC

Tel: 01327 351511

**Parish Hall Booking Secretary:** Nicola Crompton 07979 653515