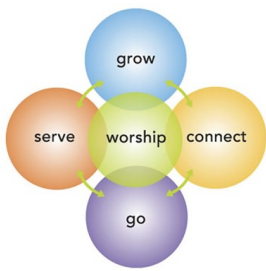


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**  
**SUNDAY 15th 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)*

Today at Mass, particularly during holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

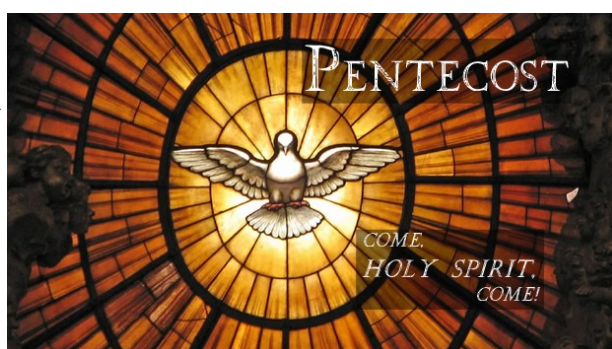
After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colourful crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?

But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvellous at all! Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober. What the multitude saw was, in fact, the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy: In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy. . . . Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first Pentecostal sermon "were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

Yet, even though some may have the gift of speaking in tongues, each of us we as individuals have a gift of tongues which all can understand: it is the gift of love infused into us by the Holy Spirit. Love unites, love is a common language, by means of love we can speak to all nations.



**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**TODAY:**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 1:30pm  
 Pray for:  
**Monday:**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**  
**PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Marriage Rite at St Mary & St Giles  
 Our Parish

**Monday: Feria**  
**Ordinary Time Resumes**  
 9:30am  
 8:00pm  
 Pray for:

**Feria**  
**Ordinary Time Resumes**  
 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall  
 Bell Ringing Practice  
 The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

**Tuesday: Feria**  
**10:30am**  
 2:15pm  
 Pray for:

**Feria**  
**Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**  
 Bible Study on John 19 in the Parish Hall  
 The Emergency Services

**Wednesday Feria**  
 2:00pm  
 6:00pm  
 6:30pm  
 7:15pm  
**7:30pm**  
 Pray for:

**Feria**  
 The Fellowship meet in the Parish Hall  
 Rector in the Parish Office  
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School  
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Those whose work places their lives at risk

**Thursday: St Dunstan Bishop**  
**10:30am**  
 12:30pm  
 7:30pm  
 Pray for:

**St Dunstan Bishop**  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Lunchtime Concert at SMSG  
 Parochial Church Council at All Saints  
 For vocations to the Religious Life

**Friday: Feria**  
**8:00am**  
 7:30pm  
 Pray for:

**Feria**  
**Mass at St Mary & St Giles School**  
 Parish Singers Rehearsal  
 All Local Schools

**Saturday: Feria**  
 4:00pm  
 4:30pm  
 7:30pm  
 Pray for:

**Feria**  
 Confessions in St Mary & St Giles  
 Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles  
 Polymnia Concert at SMSG  
 Visitors to our Parish Churches

**Next Sunday: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**  
**9:30am**  
**11:00am**  
 Pray for:

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**  
**PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
 Our Parish

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY - Trinity Sunday**

1st Reading: Proverbs 8: 22-31  
 Psalm: 8 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1-5  
 Gospel: John 16: 12-15

Sidesmen Team 3 Altar Servers Team 4  
 Offertory Anna & Rosie Page  
 Cleaning Team 3 Gardening Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 135  
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 7th May): 72

# 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

### 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

### Thursday 16th June

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

### Saturday 2nd July

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

**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 Sagggers, 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 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—IS THIS WEEK - 15th to 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 rebuild housing on earth plinths above flood level and replace lost animals and seed. Thanks Richard Hearne richardhearne@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01908 560895

**This Wednesday - The Fellowship:** meets in the Parish Hall for an afternoon Quiz at 2:00pm. New members are always welcome.

**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.*

**Audrey Lambert R.I.P.** Audrey's funeral rite will be held in St Mary & St Giles Church on Friday 27th May at 1:00pm. Please pray for the repose of her soul. *Jesu, mercy, Mary, pray.*

**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

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

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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 your 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

## **'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*

**'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.

**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).

## **Explanation of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:**

*(In preparation for our observance of Corpus Christi on the 26th May we begin a two part article concluding next week)*

*The Rev'd Professor John MacQuarrie, was one of the best known and most influential theologians of his time; he began life as a Scottish Presbyterian and taught for some years at Glasgow University, but during his time as Professor of Systematic Theology at the Union Theology Seminary in New York he became an Anglican and was for 16 years Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Oxford. He described his first ever encounter of the Service of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:*

"I was serving in the British army and had received notice of posting overseas. On the Sunday evening before we sailed, I was wandering through the streets of a sprawling suburban area near to where we were stationed. I came to an Anglican Church. The bell was summoning the people, and I went in. The first part of the service was familiar to me, for it was Evensong. But then followed something new to me:- the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This new service meant a great deal to me. I did not know what lay ahead of me or when I might come back to these shores again, but I had been assured of our Lord's presence and had received his sacramental blessing. I was reminded of Jacob, when he was far from home at Bethel and he heard the divine voice, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."

*In a pamphlet on Benediction, Fr Macquarrie writes:*

Benediction is a beautiful word. It means a blessing, a greeting, an expression of kindness and love. Benediction is also a beautiful service of the Church. It is a service that makes real to us in an impressive way the fact that God is always reaching out to us, to bless, to strengthen, to assure us of his loving kindness toward us.

The greatest blessing that God could ever bestow upon mankind was the sending of his Son. That was like the beginning of a new day for the human race, like a new sunrise bringing light and hope. And it is a day that will never end, a sun that will never set, for the Eternal Son has promised to be with us until the end of the world.

He is no longer with us in the physical body that was his in Palestine many centuries ago, but we believe that he is really present among us in the Sacrament which he appointed. 'This is my Body', he said over the bread at the Last Supper with his disciples. The same words are said over the bread at every Eucharist that it may be to us the Body of the Lord, so that he may come again among us today as he came at his first appearing in Palestine. And just as that first appearing was like the rising of the sun over a darkened world, so today when the Host is lifted up either in the Mass itself or in Benediction, it is like the rising of the sun upon us and we receive the radiance and warmth of God's blessing through him whom he has sent.

Many people have the idea that Benediction has become out of date in the course of the liturgical renewal of the past few years. It is true that Benediction has now less prominence than it once had in Catholic worship, but it would be sad indeed if this service were to be undervalued for it is a very helpful item in our spiritual heritage and it has special contributions to make toward building up the life of prayer and devotion in these busy noisy times in which we live.

*Next week: Fr MacQuarrie explains the meaning of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.*

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*This is one of the few occasions in the year where the feast gives the theme to the readings rather than vice versa. It is a feast of the Church of the Holy Spirit. In a sense we celebrate the activity of the Spirit in our midst as the People of God. The Spirit brings courage and reassurance and joy to those who are weak especially through the Sacraments. He unites the community in love and truth and forgiveness. And he arouses in our hearts an ever deeper love for Jesus our Lord, provided that we try to be open to his promptings.*

## The Collect

O God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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 2:1-11  
SMSG Reader: Isa Thomas New Testament Page 100  
All Saints Reader: Diane West

**The Responsorial Psalm** (from Psalm 104)

**R/. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are!  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches. ®

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. ®

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord. ®

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 12:3-7  
Reader: Sister Janet New Testament Page 145

**Gospel Acclamation** (STAND)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful;  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Alleluia!**

**The Gospel** John 20:19-23  
New Testament Pages 98

**The Prayer of the Faithful** (Biddings: John Hickman)

*Priest:* My brothers and sisters, let us pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

*Intercessor:* Generous God, we thank you for the power of

your Holy Spirit..... We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

*V/.* Lord, come to bless us:

**R/. and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit..... We ask you to help us understand better your will for us.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit..... We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit...*we pray especially for...*Pete, Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Wally Atkins, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, 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, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright..... We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit..... We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit..... We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit given by the risen Lord..... We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, especially...Pauline Cowley, Audrey Lambert, Joyce Samuel.....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**15<sup>th</sup>** Brian Williams, John Spencer; **16<sup>th</sup>** Patricia Bonham; **17<sup>th</sup>** Lawrence Clarkson; **18<sup>th</sup>** Gladys Goodger; **19<sup>th</sup>** Sarah Bennett; **21<sup>st</sup>** Janet Padwicke...in the joy of eternal life.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

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

*Priest:* Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the River Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room. In your mercy fill us with your Spirit:

**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

## **Communion Reflection:**

*To walk in the Spirit is to walk in the light, and since the light is the light of God we can see however dimly, however vaguely - as God sees. We can see beyond the wall of our own fears and prejudices to the needs and deprivations of those who are outcasts, those who are thrown on the scrap-heap of life. We can see beyond the fragmented living of our cities and industrial wastelands to the secret desires of so many hearts for love, support and fellowship. To walk in the Spirit is to see beyond, to see the truth. And the truth will set us free.*

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Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com

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

**Associate Minister:** Fr Tunji Adebisi  
Tel: 01525 790954

**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Loveday SSC  
Tel: 01327 351511

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