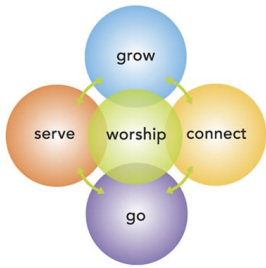


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 26th June 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)*

Among the various incidents gathered together by Luke in these verses of his gospel we hear today, perhaps the lesson that should strike all of us most is his insistence on total dedication on the part of his true followers to his service. We cannot be for Christ and against him at the same time. "He who gathers not with me, scatters," he himself said. We are followers of Christ since our baptism. In theory this is the fact, but in practice how real is this fact for many of us? Are we really following Christ? Are our eyes always fixed on him? Are we prepared to plough a straight furrow? Yes or no?

We have, of course, explanations ready at hand for our forgetfulness, our laxity, our earthly entanglements. We are tied down by family and a hundred other earthly cares. Our days, our weeks, our year are so fully occupied that we find it hard to spare even a short hour on Sundays to give to God. This answer shows a misunderstanding of what Christ demands of us. He knows his followers must live for a few years in this world and must, for the most part, struggle to earn a living for themselves during that period. But it is by living this earthly life properly, by being loyal to spouse and family, by earning one's living honestly, by living not only peacefully but helpfully with one's neighbours, that we are living our Christian life.

Those who keep within the limits that Christian law lays down for them, while working their way through this life, are true followers of Christ and are on the road to heaven, ploughing a straight furrow. They may not have much time for prayer, and each morning they may rush off to work. But God understands half-sentences and even single words. At night they need recreation and relaxation, and God does not expect long prayers from them - if they have worked honestly and have given the example of true Christianity to those they work with, have honoured God all day, then they have prayed well. A few words of thanks to God, a request for pardon for all the mistakes made since morning, before lying down to sleep at night, will give such people nothing to fear should God call them to judgement during the night hours.

If we only realized how reasonable God's demands are, and how every demand he makes on us is for our own benefit and not his, we would be a little more generous in our response to his calls. He does not need us - we need him. Is worshipping him each Sunday a lot to ask? We



could slip in a few more short prayers during the day: we could find more time to take a true interest in the eternal and less in the temporal. We could manage to give a helping hand and a word of encouragement to a needy neighbour. Yes, all of us could do a lot more to show to Christ and to the world that we are following him gladly and honestly.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

- TODAY:** **13th 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:** *St Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Doctor*  
**8:00pm** Bell Ringing Practice  
 Pray for: *The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped & for the Coptic Church in Egypt*
- Tuesday:** *St Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr*  
**10:30am** Mass at *All Saints* + 'Eleveses' the Church in France  
 Pray for:
- Wednesday:** *Ss PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES*  
**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** Mass for Healing at *St Mary & St Giles* followed by Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament  
 Pray for: *The Apostolic See of Rome*
- Thursday:** *First Martyrs of the Church in Rome*  
**10:30am** Mass at *St Mary & St Giles*  
 Pray for: *For relations between the Church and National Governments*
- Friday:** *Feria*  
**8:00am** Mass at *St Mary & St Giles School*  
**7:30pm** Parish Singers Rehearsal  
 Pray for: *all working in commerce and trade*
- Saturday:** *Feria*  
**7:30pm** MK Sinfonia Concert at SMSG  
 Pray for: *Visitors to our Parish Churches*
- Next Sunday:** **14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9:30am** PARISH MASS at *St Mary & St Giles*  
**11:00am** FAMILY MASS at *All Saints*  
**2:30pm** Holy Baptism at *St Mary & St Giles*  
 Pray for: *Our Parish*

- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**  
 1st Reading: Isaiah 66: 10-14c  
 Psalm: 66 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Galatians 6: 14-18  
 Gospel: Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

- |           |                    |               |        |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Sidesmen  | Team 4             | Altar Servers | Team 3 |
| Offertory | David & Fiona King |               |        |
| Cleaning  | Team 4             | Gardening     | Team 1 |
- Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?  
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 18th June): ?

# 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 Sides men 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.



**Reception of Holy Communion:** All Baptised and Confirmed Christians are encouraged to receive Holy Communion. If you are unwell or uncertain about receiving the Precious Blood please do still receive the Host. Our Chalice Assistants are not authorised to permit the intincting (dipping) of the Host.



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

### Tuesday 28th June

Joint Governing Body Meeting  
of SMSG & Queen Eleanor  
Schools

### 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 Fenny Stratford, St Martin

### Saturday 9th July

10:00am Coffee Morning in the  
Parish Hall for the Restoration  
Fund

### Sunday 10th July

2:00pm Cream Teas at St Mary  
& St Giles in aid of the Organ  
Fund

4:30pm Concert by  
Eleanor Hart & Company  
in St Mary & St Giles

### Tuesday 12th July

MK Deanery Clergy Chapter

### Sunday 17th July

12:30pm Holy Baptism  
at St Mary & St Giles  
2:30pm Holy Baptism  
at All Saints

### Wednesday 20th July

2:00pm Fellowship Outing

### Thursday 21st July

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert  
at St Mary & St Giles  
7:30pm Parochial Church  
Council at All Saints

### Sunday 24th July

1:00pm Holy Baptism  
at St Mary & St Giles

### Saturday 6th August

**The Transfiguration of the Lord**  
8:00am Mass  
at St Mary & St Giles

### Sunday 7th August

2:00pm Organ Recital  
at St Mary & St Giles

### Sunday 14th August

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Sick List:** So far I have not received any up to date information regarding anyone on our Sick List - which leaves me wondering whether those on the list from other parishes have recovered or died. I would be very grateful if I could have an update on the condition of those on the list so that we can maintain it's accuracy. I hesitate to remove names, but it may be necessary to do so if I hear nothing before next Sunday. Many thanks, Fr Ross

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

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated towards the Festival and to all those who prepared for this major event with their floral arranging skills. Thank you also to those helped steward and serve refreshments at the Flower Festival and all those who provided refreshments. Thank you also to the Band for the very appropriate music, and all those who served Cream Teas on the Sunday afternoon.

While the aim was to simply celebrate HM The Queen's 90th Birthday we also benefited financially. The Flower Fund at St Mary & St Giles benefitted solely from donations and the news is that the total in donations was: £1149.63

The Restoration Fund at St Mary & St Giles benefitted from the monies from Refreshments and Cream Teas which raised £671.70 and £300.62 respectively making a total of £972.32, other donations have brought that total up to £1066.00

Marvellous results all round and we are still receiving expressions of gratitude for the Flower Festival

**'The Servant Queen and the King she serves':** There are still plenty of copies of this superb booklet available in both our Parish Churches. The postage charged this time resulted in the actual cost per copy being £1.25, which is still very good value. They make excellent presents and there is no restriction on the amount of copies that can be requested.

**Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage 2016:** This is an invitation for any young people (year 6 and above) to join us on a very special week away. For several years young people from this parish have gone to Walsingham in Norfolk for a youth pilgrimage, together with Fr. Gary and his youngsters from the parishes of Castlethorpe and Hanslope. It's an amazing opportunity to find out more about our faith in God, make new friends and have a huge amount of fun. To find out more talk to Fr. Ross, Ray Rowilson, Deb Kidd or May Jacques.

### '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,



# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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 Annual Buckinghamshire Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday 10th September this year. With the weather warming up and the sun finally making an appearance, it isn't so hard to believe that a walk or cycle in the Buckinghamshire countryside in September might be a pleasant experience. We are looking forward to this year's event and already have plans in the pipeline to make 2016 a special year. Last year the sun shone and walkers and cyclists raised over £30,000 which will be used to help maintain the fabric of Buckinghamshire's historic churches. This year there are lots of different ways of taking part in the event, which has been running (or walking or riding) since its birth in Suffolk in 1982. We are hoping record numbers of people across Buckinghamshire will take part to make 2016 our most successful year ever.

Preparations for Ride & Stride 2016 are well under way. Since its inception it has been, and still remains, the principal fundraiser for the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. Over recent years there has been a gradual decline in participation and in funds raised. Although the sums are still impressive, we hope that in coming years we will be able to improve upon them. The number of churches in Buckinghamshire is truly awe inspiring, as are some of the efforts that have been made over the years to raise funds. We want to build on those successes, so this year – as well as continuing with the tried and tested formula – we will be testing a number of different ideas, and we are already working towards some more radical ideas in time for the 2017 event.

We are aware that other churches across Buckinghamshire take part in the Heritage Open Days scheme. HOD even has an icon in its literature to show that participating churches are also supporting Ride & Stride. So with a little planning it is very possible for both events to run happily alongside one another.

Mavis Wright has very kindly agreed to be our Parish Organiser this year. If you are willing to participate as a walker or cyclist please do have a word with her. Further details will be posted as they become available.

**Opening our grief:** this is a wonderful description of Sacramental Confession. *Isn't that a Roman Catholic practice, something we don't do in the Church of England?* The short answer is: No. The fact is that it is a practice of the Church East and West and has been from earliest times. It comes by Christ's own authority delivered to his Apostles: *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained"* (John 20: 20-23).

The fact is that Christians, like all men and women, occasionally, and sometimes habitually, fall from grace and commit sins. When this happens it harms our relationship with Christ and his Church, but our Lord did not want to leave us without hope and therefore left this Sacrament to our comfort that we might *open our grief* and receive absolution and spiritual counsel, thereby setting us once more on the path of righteousness.

Following the Henrician Schism in the 16th century the Church of England did not abandon the Sacrament of Confession, but included it in the Visitation of the Sick in the Book of Common Prayer and in the Rite for the 'Lord's Supper' taught

the reasons for its necessity in three Exhortations, one of which was to be read after the Homily at each celebration. The following is the first one (over the next two weeks we shall consider the other two):

*DEARLY beloved, on - day next I purpose, through God's assistance, to administer to all such as shall be religiously and devoutly disposed the most comfortable Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ; to be by them received in remembrance of his meritorious Cross and Passion, whereby alone we obtain remission of our sins, and are made partakers of the kingdom of heaven. Wherefore it is our duty to render most humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God our heavenly Father, for that he hath given his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, not only to die for us, but also to be our spiritual food and sustenance in that holy Sacrament. Which being so divine and comfortable a thing to them who receive it worthily, and so dangerous to them that will presume to receive it unworthily; my duty is to exhort you in the mean season to consider the dignity of that holy mystery, and the great peril of the unworthy receiving thereof; and so to search and examine your own consciences, and that not lightly, and after the manner of dissemblers with God: but so that ye may come holy and clean to such a heavenly Feast, in the marriage-garment required by God in holy Scripture, and be received as worthy partakers of that holy Table.*

*The way and means thereto is; First, to examine your lives and conversations by the rule of God's commandments; and whereinsoever ye shall perceive yourselves to have offended, either by will, word, or deed, there to bewail your own sinfulness, and to confess yourselves to Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life. And if ye shall perceive your offences to be such as are not only against God, but also against your neighbours; then ye shall reconcile yourselves unto them; being ready to make restitution and satisfaction, according to the uttermost of your powers, for all injuries and wrongs done by you to any other; and being likewise ready to forgive others that have offended you, as you would have forgiveness of your offences at God's hand; for otherwise the receiving of the holy Communion doth nothing else but increase your damnation. Therefore if any of you be a blasphemer of God, an hinderer or slanderer of his Word, an adulterer, or be in malice, or envy, or in any other grievous crime, repent you of your sins, or else come not to that holy Table; lest, after the taking of that holy Sacrament, the devil enter into you, as he entered into Judas, and fill you full of all iniquities, and bring you to destruction both of body and soul.*

*And because it is requisite, that no man should come to the holy Communion, but with a full trust in God's mercy, and with a quiet conscience; therefore if there be any of you, who by this means cannot quiet his own conscience herein, but requireth further comfort or counsel, let him come to me, or to some other discreet and learned Minister of God's Word, and open his grief; that by the ministry of God's holy Word he may receive the benefit of absolution, together with ghostly counsel and advice, to the quieting of his conscience, and avoiding of all scruple and doubtfulness.*

The Church of England, therefore, takes the problem of sin seriously and provides it's remedy along with the rest of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. In the Ordering of Priests in the Book of Common Prayer those to be ordained priest, at the moment of Ordination have these words prayed over them by the Bishop: *"RECEIVE the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."*

Perhaps it is not fashionable to talk about sin today - indeed I know of one Assistant Curate who was told by his incumbent that he was not to mention sin and forgiveness, nor to talk about the Ten Commandments and the need for righteousness as people might be upset by it. The problem with this approach is that it leaves people ignorant of sin and their need of Christ's forgiveness.

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*It matters little whether we are held back from following Jesus by a strong chain or by a golden thread. The attachment can be anything from a plough, to a parent, to a corpse. Today, Jesus challenges us to re-examine what it is that may be holding us back from a liberated and joyful following of him.*

## The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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

1 Kings 19:16,9-21  
MSG Reader: Shirley Scrutton      Old Testament Page 268  
All Saints Reader: Eilish Friedman

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 16)

**R/. O Lord, it is you who are my portion.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I says to the Lord: 'You are my God.'  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize. ®

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. ®

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. ®

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. ®

### Second Reading

Galatians 5:1,13-18

Reader: David Scrutton

New Testament Page 160

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.

**Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

New Testament Pages 60

### The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Fr Ross)

*Priest:*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

*Intercessor:*

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for people in every kind of need; make your ways known on earth, your saving health among all nations.

*V/. Lord, in your mercy*

**R/. Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the good estate of the catholic Church.....; guide and govern us by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

We commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or estate...Pete, Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Jill Barby, Henry Blake, Ross Dilnot, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Margaret Hooton, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Bill Leese, Ray Lewis, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright... comfort and relieve them in their need, give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out of all their afflictions.

We remember those who have gone before us in the peace of Christ...Monica Hurst, Kay Lucas, Dorothy Pulling, Marjory Tyrrell...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**26<sup>th</sup>** Marjorie Wilde; **27<sup>th</sup>** Eva Griffith, Winifred Lunn; **28<sup>th</sup>** Ella West, Margaret Sharp; **29<sup>th</sup>** Frederick Butler, Joan Whetstone; **30<sup>th</sup>** Tony Holman; **1<sup>st</sup>** Lily Pell, Roy Newton; **2<sup>nd</sup>** Olive Weir... and we give you praise for all your faithful ones, with whom we rejoice in the communion of saints.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

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

*Priest:*

God our Father, these are the prayers of your children who are beloved to you in your Son. We present them to you in full joy and confidence through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Communion Reflection:

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

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

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

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