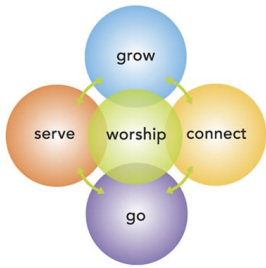


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 3rd July 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)

This morning's Gospel reading tells of Christ conferring His mission on the seventy-two disciples. Christ wants to instil apostolic daring into his disciples; this is why he says, "I send you out", which leads St John Chrysostom to comment: "This suffices to give us encouragement, to give us confidence and to ensure that we are not afraid of our assailants" (Homily on St Matthew, 33). The Apostles' and disciples' boldness stemmed from their firm conviction that they were on a God-given mission: they acted, as Peter the Apostle confidently explained to the Sanhedrin, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, "for there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"And the Lord goes on", St Gregory the Great adds, "Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road.' Such should be the confidence the preacher places in God that even if he is not provided with the necessities of life, he is convinced that they will come his way, to ensure that worry about providing temporal things for himself does not distract him from providing others with eternal things" (In Evangelia homiliae, 17). Apostolate calls for generous self-surrender which leads to detachment: therefore, Peter, following our Lord's commandment, when the beggar at the Beautiful Gate asked him for alms (Acts 3:2-3), said, "I have no silver or gold" (ibid. 3:6), "not so as to glory in his poverty", St Ambrose points out, "but to obey the Lord's command: it is as if he were saying, 'You see in me a disciple of Christ, and you ask me for gold? He gave us something much more valuable than gold, the power to act in his name. I do not have what Christ did not give me, but I do have what he did give me: In the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk' (cf. Acts 3:6)." (Expositio Evangelii sec. Lucam, in loc.). Apostolate, therefore, demands detachment from material things and it also requires us to be always available, for there is an urgency about apostolic work.

"And salute no one on the road": "How can it be", St Ambrose asks himself, "that the Lord wishes to get rid of a custom so full of kindness? Notice, however, that he does not just say, 'Do not salute anyone', but adds, 'on the road.' And there is a reason for this.

"He also commanded Elisha not to salute anyone he met, when he sent him to lay his staff on the body of the dead child (2 Kings 4:29): he gave him this order in order to get him to do this task without delay and effect the raising of the child, and not waste time by stopping to talk to any passer-by he met. Therefore, there is no question of omitting to have the good manners to greet others; it is a matter of removing a possible obstacle in the way of service; when God commands, human considerations should be set aside, at least for the time being. To greet a person is a good thing, but it is better to carry out a divine instruction which could easily be frustrated by a delay."



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- TODAY:**
9:30am
11:00am
 2:30pm
 Pray for:
- 14th 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
- Monday:**
 8:00pm
 Pray for:
- St Elizabeth of Portugal**
 Bell Ringing Practice
The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped & for the Church in Portugal
- Tuesday:**
10:30am
 Pray for:
- Feria**
Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
the Church in France
- Wednesday: St Maria Goretti,**
 6:00pm
 6:30pm
 7:15pm
7:30pm
 Pray for:
- Rector in the Parish Office
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Thursday:**
10:30am
 7:00pm
 Pray for:
- Feria**
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Meeting with Sidesmen & Women
For HM The Queen and the High Court of Parliament
- Friday:**
8:00am
 7:30pm
 Pray for:
- Feria**
Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
 Parish Singers Rehearsal
all working in commerce and trade
- Saturday:**
 10:00am
 7:30pm
 Pray for:
- St Augustine Zhao Rong & 119 Companions, Martyrs**
 Coffee Morning at SMSG
 MK Sinfonia Concert at SMSG
Visitors to our Parish Churches, and for the Church in China
- Next Sunday: 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:30am
11:00am
 12:30pm
 4:30pm
 Pray for:
- 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Holy Baptism at All Saints
 Concert at St Mary & St Giles with Cream Teas served in the interval
Our Parish
- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**
 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 10-14
 Psalm: 69 (part)
 2nd Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20
 Gospel: Luke 10: 25-37

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Sidesmen | Team 4 | Altar Servers | Team 1 |
| Offertory | Gardening Teams | | |
| Cleaning | Team 1 | Gardening | Team 2 |
- Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 114
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 25th June): 99

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

Tues 5th/Weds 6th July

Ebbsfleet Council of Priests
at Douai Abbey

Thursday 7th July

7:00pm The Rector & Churchwardens meet with Sidesmen and Women in the Parish Hall

Saturday 9th July

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

Sunday 10th July

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

will be served in the Interval

Tuesday 12th July

MK Deanery Clergy Chapter

Friday 15th July

7:30pm Mass of Confirmation at Fenny Stratford, St Martin

Sunday 17th July

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

Tuesday 19th July

12:30pm Stony Stratford Clergy & Ministers Fraternal

Wednesday 20th July

2:00pm Fellowship Outing

Thursday 21st July

9:30am School Leavers Mass in SMSG Church
All welcome

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

Monday 25th July

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

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 received up to date information on three people 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. Having announced a week's extra time for updates last week, I ask that an update be given by Tuesday lunchtime at the latest. Many thanks, Fr Ross

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, and will give us an opportunity also to pray for him in the cathedral.

Jane Hardy has kindly volunteered to organise a coach. Lists are available in each church for us to sign up to book a seat.



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

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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.

The Priority of Mass: Last week we considered the practice of Sacramental Confession in the Church of England and I printed the first Exhortation from the Lord's Supper in the Book of Common Prayer. In that article I said that we would consider the other two exhortations over this and next week.

The second Exhortation, which is intended for times when people are negligent in their attendance at Mass, is as follows:

DEARLY beloved brethren, on - I intend, by God's grace, to celebrate the Lord's Supper: unto which, in God's behalf, I bid you all that are here present; and beseech you, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, that ye will not refuse to come thereto, being so lovingly called and bidden by God himself. Ye know how grievous and unkind a thing it is, when a man hath prepared a rich feast, decked his table with all kind of provision, so that there lacketh nothing but the guests to sit down; and yet they who are called (without any cause) most unthankfully refuse to come. Which of you in such a case would not be moved? Who would not think a great injury and wrong done unto him? Wherefore, most dearly beloved in Christ, take ye good heed, lest ye, withdrawing yourselves from this holy Supper, provoke God's indignation against you. It is an easy matter for a man to say, I will not communicate, because I am otherwise hindered with worldly business. But such excuses are not so easily accepted and allowed before God. If any man say, I am a grievous sinner, and therefore am afraid to come: wherefore then do ye not repent and amend? When God calleth you, are ye not ashamed to say ye will not come? When ye should return to God, will ye excuse yourselves, and say ye are not ready? Consider earnestly with yourselves how little such feigned excuses will avail before God. They that refused the feast in the Gospel, because they had bought a farm, or would try their yokes of oxen, or because they were married, were not so excused, but counted unworthy of the heavenly feast. I, for my part, shall be ready; and, according to mine Office, I bid you in the Name of God, I call you in Christ's behalf, I exhort you, as ye love your own salvation, that ye will be partakers of this holy Communion. And as the Son of God did vouchsafe to yield up his soul by death upon the Cross for your salvation; so it is your duty to receive the Communion, in remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, as he himself hath commanded: which if ye shall neglect to do, consider with yourselves how great injury ye do unto God, and how sore punishment hangeth over your heads for the same; when ye wilfully abstain from the Lord's Table, and separate from your brethren, who come to feed on the banquet of that most heavenly food. These things if ye earnestly consider, ye will by God's grace return to a better mind: for the obtaining whereof we shall not cease to make our humble petitions unto Almighty God our heavenly Father.

Inhabitual worship is a national problem at this time. But because it is widespread does not excuse us from being at the altar for the Celebration of Mass. Once we start down the paths of making excuses not to be at Mass, we find ourselves making even more and more. This leads to our drifting away from God

and the source of grace. Once we start down this path it has consequences for our souls.

God has prepared a feast for us, in which we are fed by Christ himself, who gave his life for us that we might have eternal life. Do we want eternal life? Or do we think that we have some sort of entitlement to it. We seem to live, as some commentators have pointed out 'in an age of entitlement' where people think that they are "owed" or have a "right to" what they want at the time and place they demand.

Entitlement creates an inward, self-focused, self-centred person. The sheer nature of the message is the importance, rights and benefits I deserve. I become the focus and the means to the end. God is reduced to someone who helps me get what I believe I am entitled to. This is an alarming reality. This sense of "spiritual" entitlement leads us to believe God owes us something, that He is in some way entitled to give us what we want. We have a right to material abundance, comfort, zero-problems, the nice house and all the other things our entitlement culture tells us we deserve.

Within the church culture, entitlement can be expressed with these sayings, "I deserve to be a part of this ministry", "I have a right to this platform", "I am entitled to this position". In reality, living the Christian life with feelings of what is owed to us, what we deserve and what we have a right to puts us in harm's way.

Many people leave the faith because "God didn't work". For many, the reason God didn't work is because God was never made Lord of their lives. He was a means to get what they feel they were entitled to. When this didn't happen it was a simple decision to move on to the next thing.

Though I believe God gives us gifts and wants to meet our needs, the heart of the salvation message is the fact that we stand guilty before a holy God. Our sin has separated us from our heavenly Father. Provision has been made on the cross by Jesus to save us from our sin and remove our guilt. He will rescue us, redeem us and save us if we simply invite Him to be Lord of our lives. We deserve to be eternally separated from God but now we enjoy knowing God our Creator, Father and friend based on the finished work of Jesus. There is much to be grateful for.

So with regard to God and entitlement, there is a need for frankness. God owes us nothing. God is not entitled, obligated or in any way required to give us anything. He is God. He gives because He wants to not because He has to. He is the centre of all things and we are not. All things exist for His good pleasure.

The Good News is that even though God owes us nothing, out of His great love He give us what we need and sometimes even things we desire. Yet He is never required to give us a thing. It's from unconditional love by grace that He gives.

The problem with entitlement is that it creates an attitude that puts a selfish demand on God's generosity and creates conditions in the relationship that are unhealthy and perhaps, deadly.

If we believe that God owes us something then the measure of our thankfulness is based on God's performance and the entitlements we expect from Him. When we sense we have a right to something we distance ourselves from grace and ultimately God. To the extent that we fall into an entitlement trap we become more deserving in our own eyes and God's grace gets less and less amazing in our estimation. Before we know it, gratitude and thanksgiving are slowly replaced with bitterness, pride and envy.

Romans 1:21 "for although they knew God they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened." The verse above should get our attention. When we become ungrateful and cease to give honour to the Lord our thinking becomes futile and are hearts grow dark. Of course the opposite is also true. The more we honour and give thanks to God the mind becomes fruitful and our hearts become filled with light.

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

A key theme of today's Gospel and last Sunday's Gospel is discipleship - its challenges, its difficulties, and its rewards. Sharing in the mission of Jesus is difficult, but everyone is called to do it, not just some professionals trained for ministry. Even for us today, the harvest is plentiful. We should pray to the master of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.

The Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Isaiah 66: 10-14C
SMSG Reader: Matthew Lucas Old Testament Page 632
All Saints Reader: Diane West

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 66)

R/. Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!' ®

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. ®

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. ®

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. ®

Second Reading

Galatians 6: 14-18
Reader: Lydia Jones New Testament Page 160

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20
New Testament Pages 60

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: John Hickman)

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, Isaac Lyon, Terry Mason, 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...Ian Brooks (*priest*), Steve Gardner, Donald McDonald....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...3rd Florence Varney; 4th David Thorn, Margaret Missenden; 5th George Lovell, Edith Goodridge; 6th Patricia Doolan, Billy Pickering; 7th Robert Vincent, Alice Read; 9th Trevor Brown, Violet Hanrahan... 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:

O Lord Jesus, I have received Thee within myself, and from within the sanctuary of my heart into which Thou hast deigned to descend, do Thou give to almighty God, in my name, all the glory that is His due. I unite myself to Thee, O sacred humanity, Who in Heaven and in the Holy Eucharist, dost never cease offering to the most Holy Trinity an infinite worship, that which alone is truly worthy of the three Divine Persons. Through Thee, O Divine Priest, I wish to render glory to the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, even in proportion to the immensity of their Divine Majesty, because I know that by Thee, with Thee and in Thee all honour and glory are given to them. In union, therefore with Thee, I prostrate myself in adoration before God, acknowledging His sovereign dominion over me and over all creatures. Amen.

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