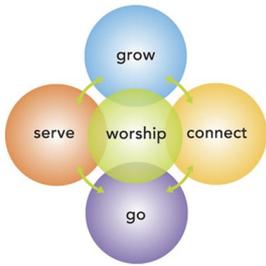


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 17th 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)

A Reflection on the Scriptures at Mass today:

The first reading is taken from the book of Genesis, 18:1-10a. For today's reading we join Abraham shortly after his name change. It was with Abram becoming Abraham, the father of all nations, at the making of the second covenant, that men and women began to rely upon God in faith and are changed by it. God promises Abraham that within the year his aged wife, Sarah, will have a son. Abraham's reaction is to laugh. Immediately following today's reading, Sarah laughs at the news (Gen 18:12). The child born was named Isaac, which means "laughter".

The second reading is from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, 1:24-28. Last week Paul used the occasion to answer the Judaizers and remind them of the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ. Today Paul tells us his role in proclaiming the gospel. "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church."

The Gospel is from St. Luke, 10:38-42 and recounts the familiar story of Martha and Mary. St Augustine comments on this scene as follows: "Martha, who was arranging and preparing the Lord's meal, was busy doing many things, whereas Mary preferred to find her meal in what the Lord was saying. In a way she deserted her sister, who was very busy, and sat herself down at Jesus' feet and just listened to his words. She was faithfully obeying what the Psalm said: 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Ps 46:10). Martha was getting annoyed, Mary was feasting; the former coping with many things, the latter concentrating on one. Both occupations were good" (Sermon 103).

Martha has come to be, as it were, the symbol of the active life, and Mary that of the contemplative life. However, for most Christians, called as they are to sanctify themselves in the middle of the world, action and contemplation cannot be regarded as two opposite ways of practicing the Christian faith: an active life forgetful of union with God is useless and barren; but an apparent life of prayer which shows no concern for apostolate and the sanctification of ordinary things also fails to please God. The key lies in being able to

combine these two lives, without either harming the other. Close union between action and contemplation can be achieved in very different ways, depending on the specific vocation each person is given by God.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY:
9:30am
11:00am
 12:30pm
 2:30pm
 Pray for:

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Holy Baptism at St Mary & St Giles
 Holy Baptism at All Saints
Our Parish

Monday:
 12:30pm
 8:00pm
 Pray for:

Feria
 School Merger Meeting
 Bell Ringing Practice
The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday:
10:30am
 12:30pm
 Pray for:

Feria
Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
 Stony Stratford Ministers' Fraternal
The Prime Minister
and all Ministers of The Crown

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

Feria
 The Fellowship Outing
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
The Safety of all who Travel

Thursday:
9:30am
 12:30pm
 7:30pm
 Pray for:

Feria
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Lunchtime Concert at SMSG
 Parochial Church Council at All Saints
Our Church School and its Leavers

Friday:
 No Mass today
 7:30pm
 Pray for:

St Mary Magdalene
 Parish Singers Rehearsal
The Lay Apostolate of Women

Saturday:
 4:00pm
 4:30pm
 Pray for:

St Bridget, Religious, Co-Patron of Europe
 Confessions at St Mary & St Giles
 Evening Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
Visitors to our Parish Churches,

Next Sunday: 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:30am
11:00am
 1:00pm
 Pray for:

PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Holy Baptism at St Mary & St Giles
Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:
 1st Reading: Genesis 18: 20-32
 Psalm: 138 (part)
 2nd Reading: Colossians 2: 12-14
 Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Sidesmen | Team 3 | Altar Servers | Team 2 |
| Offertory | Shirley Archer & Alan Butler | | |
| Cleaning | Team 3 | Gardening | Team 4 |

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 135
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 9th July): 31

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 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

Friday 22nd July

12:15pm Funeral of Steve
Gardner in the Oak Chapel
Crownhill Crematorium

Sunday 24th July

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

Monday 25th July

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

Please pray for
Timothy Joseph Sharp
from our Parish
who is to receive

the Sacrament of Confirmation

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**

Wednesday 17th August

The Fellowship meets at the
Rectory for Afternoon Tea

Thursday 18th August

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

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st Aug

Parish Pilgrimage to OLOW

Friday 26th August

7:30pm 'Vivant' Concert
in St Mary & St Giles Church

Monday 29th August

2:00pm Cream Teas for a
Bank Holiday afternoon at St
Mary & St Giles Church

Wednesday 31st August

9:30am Children's Activity
Morning at SMSG

Sick List: Unfortunately, there are still 16 names on the Sick List that I have not had an update on despite asking now for the last four weeks. Unless I hear to the contrary by 12:00noon on Tuesday those names will be removed from the list.

Two Confirmation Masses: Bishop Jonathan will be in North Bucks on two occasions over the next fifteen days. This Friday he will be at St Martin's in Fenny Stratford to Confirm, and then he will be with us once more at St James the Great, Hanslope on Monday 25th July. At Hanslope he will Confirm Tim Sharp. Both Masses are at 7:30pm and we are very much welcome on both occasions. Please pray for all those about to be Confirmed and especially for Tim as he takes this huge step in his pilgrimage with Christ.

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

Proposed School Merger: As you are already aware, there is a proposal from Milton Keynes Council that St. Mary & St. Giles Junior School and Queen Eleanor Primary School should merge and become one school from 1st January 2017. This proposal has the support of both Governing Bodies, so the Council conducted an informal consultation with key stakeholders. That consultation resulted in the majority of respondents agreeing with the proposal which was then put as a formal recommendation to the Lead Member for schools, Councillor Zoe Nolan. (The papers for that meeting are available on the Council Website).

On Tuesday 28th June Councillor Nolan received that recommendation from the council officers and accepted it. Her decision means that the Council will now go to formal consultation in September for a four-week period - leading towards a final delegated decision by the lead member in November. During the formal consultation views and opinions will be sought from the public at large and we would welcome your contribution to that consideration.

It is our hope that the formal consultation will result in positive feedback from the public and a delegated decision to approve the merger so that our schools can merge on 1st January 2017. Signed,

Paul Critchley - Chairman of Governors, Queen Eleanor Primary School; Liz Lockhart - Headteacher of Queen Eleanor Primary School; Fr Ross Northing - Chairman of Governors, St. Mary and St. Giles Junior School; Kieran Salter - Headteacher of St. Mary & St. Giles Junior School



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

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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.

Milton Keynes Food Bank: is looking to recruit a Partnerships Manager, to start in September 2016. The salary is £22,000 per annum for full time hours.

It is an opportunity for someone to take on an established role which is primarily focussed on bringing financial and 'in-kind' resources to the food bank.

The key task is managing our relationships with charitable and statutory funders, local companies, schools, faith groups, churches and other organisations and individuals involved in supporting our work. As well as nurturing existing relationships, the role is about developing opportunities for promoting and establishing new relationships and resource opportunities from across the Milton Keynes area. *If you would like further details - please email Fr Ross and he will forward them to you.*

Phoenix Art Project: In an attempt to try to help the situation in the High Street following the fire in May, Kate Davies and her brother have come up with a design to go onto the 16metres of boards surrounding the damaged area in the hopes to bring the town together to have a chance to contribute to making it more attractive to visitors and residents over the next few years whilst work is done.

We have planned illustrated processions over the ages along the High Street (Watling Street). How the town changes with time and fires, how it goes forth with the creativity of residents. The project can be helped in two ways: a) come and join in painting or, b) make donations to the project.

It is planned to take place during the summer holidays so that it is a constructive and fun project for all. There will be a series of workshops in August at York House Centre to paint the boards, which will be erected on site in the High Street on completion with, it is hoped, a celebration. They will be put up as a series of panels which will be available for schools and shops to display when they are no longer needed. If you can help please email Kate on: kate@kdgd.co.uk

"Thursday evening's tragedy in Nice" has brought the usual wave of condemnations by world leaders — and the usual wave of those wanting to talk about violence in Kashmir or Palestine or wherever the writer feels the lack of the world's attention, as though grieving for one made it impossible to grieve for the other. The truth is, every violent death is a tragedy; and we grieve all men, women and children murdered by human malice wherever they may be. But France is close, and many of us have walked along the Promenade des Anglais or taken part in 14 July celebrations. It is therefore easier for us to identify with what happens there than it is with countries we may not have

visited or lived in. However, if our identification goes no deeper than mere sentiment, I think we are missing the point.

Almost anything can be used to kill — in this case, a truck or lorry — but it requires the intervention of human thought and intention to turn that vehicle into an instrument of destruction. If, as is currently being suggested, the perpetrator of the Nice attack was some sort of Islamist terrorist, we are again confronted with our failure to combat Jihadist ideology with any powerful ideology of our own. There are times when it seems we would rather be quiescent than confront such a perversion of human values. I say human advisedly, because I think one of our biggest mistakes is to take Islamist propaganda at face value. It is not zeal for God that motivates such murderers but lust for destruction, to which religion gives a superficially acceptable cover. Wringing our hands and talking limply about Islam being a religion of peace will achieve nothing because it does not touch the root of the problem. The root of the problem is human anger, human grievance, the human desire to be something in a world where, by and large, one is perceived as nothing. This morning, as we pray for those killed or injured in Nice, perhaps we could also spend some time reflecting on the origins of violence, in ourselves as well as others. What makes us angry? What do we use to justify our anger? How does our religious belief (if we have any) bolster or undermine our justification of our own conduct? The brutality of IS shows what happens when all restraints are shrugged off in the illusory pursuit of a religious 'purity' that cannot be. Are we consumed with a similar zeal? It may not be religious purity we are after, but is there something else that drives us and maybe threatens to wreck other people's lives as well as our own?"

Benedictine Nuns of Howton Grove Priory

In the midst of trauma and grief it is easy to lose the words to pray. As we continue to pray for Nice, Syria, Iraq, and Zimbabwe at this time, let us not become lost in our despair for humanity but ever in hope - however remote the wickedness of man might make it seem - for the abundant light that is dawning upon the earth. Lord, have mercy upon us.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for Nice

God of hope,
we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart.
Help us to find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us out of our darkness into the assurance of your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Like Martha in today's Gospel story we fret and worry about the many things that occupy us each day. But like Mary in the same story we realise the importance of coming into the presence of the Lord and of listening to his word. Let us pray that, having abided with Christ, we may go forth bearing Christ's good news with new peace of mind and with new courage.

The Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; 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

SMSG Reader: Rita Oakley

All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

Genesis 18:1-10a

Old Testament Page 11

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 69)

R/. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue. ®

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. ®

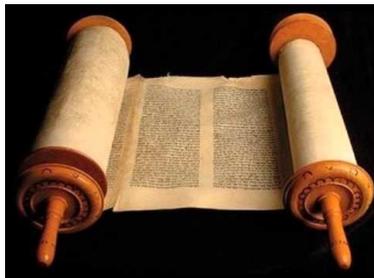
He who keeps his pledge, come what may,
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm
for ever. ®

Second Reading

Colossians 1:24-28

Reader: Sharon Sherwood

New Testament Page 168



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are those who, hearing the word,
hold it fast in an honest and good heart,
and bring forth fruit with patience.

Alleluia!

(STAND)

The Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

New Testament Pages 61

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Sister Janet)

Priest: Gathered together in Christ as brothers and sisters, let us call to mind God's many blessings and ask him to hear the prayers which he himself inspires us to ask.

Intercessor: For our Bishop N, all the Church's ministers and the people they have been called to lead and serve..... Let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who serve us in public office and for all those entrusted with the common good..... Let us pray to the Lord:

For all travellers, by land, air, or sea; for prisoners; and for those unjustly deprived of freedom..... Let us pray to the Lord:

For all sick and suffering people, both those in hospital and those ill at home, and for those who care for them... Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Jill Barby, Margaret Hooton, Rebecca, Terry Mason, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Marian Wright... Let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have died, those who have shared with us in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known to God alone... Ian Brooks (*priest*), Steve Gardner, Donald McDonald... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week... **17th** Ann Bull, Harriet Bates, Edith Taylor, Douglas Baker; **18th** Alice Read, Mary Church; **19th** Romeo Zani; **20th** John Herbert, Michael Pittam, Lilian Poynter, Cynthia Baker, Percy Saunders; **21st** Martin Vincent, Nellie Tovey; **22nd** Eric Todd; **23rd** Mollie Coombs... Let us pray to the Lord:

✕ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

For all of us gathered in this holy place in faith, reverence, and love of God..... Let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: Father, hear the prayers of your Church and, in your love, make up for what is lacking in our faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

I saw a stranger yesterday,
I gave him food to eat,
I offered him a drink,
And I provided music for him.
And in the name of the Blessed Trinity
He blessed me and my house,
My possessions and my person.
And as the lark sang it seemed to say,
'It is often, often, often,
That Christ comes in the form of a stranger.
It is often, often, often,
That Christ comes in the form of a stranger.'

From Scottish Gaelic

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