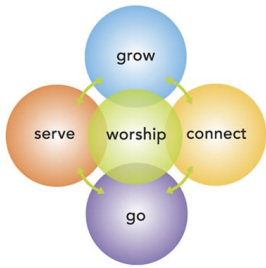


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 7th August 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 teaching of our Lord in this morning's Gospel should make us all sit up and take serious notice. He has taken us into his household. He has made us his "little flock." We are invited guests in his home, his Church, rather than mere servants. He warns us today that we must always be busy about our vocation, about the reason why he invited us into his home. If we grasped clearly what that call of Christ means, what our Christian vocation is, we would hardly need today's warning. We are Christians, we are members of his Church, for our own eternal good. God, through Christ's Incarnation, has put us on the road to heaven. He is ever helping us on the way. Could we be so blind to our own welfare that we would risk losing the eternal life that God has in store for us, and for which He went to the extreme lengths of love? In our saner moments we would give an emphatic no to this question. Yet, we must look the real facts of life in the face. There are many Christians who are destined for heaven but who, in their folly, have left the only road which leads there, and are now traveling in the opposite direction.

How many may be among these foolish ones? How many have let this world get such a grip on them that we have no time or thought for the world that is to come. Today's warning is that our call to judgment will come on each one of us like a thief in the night, at a moment when we least expect it.

However, death need not worry the ordinary good Christian. It is the unprepared for, the un-provided for, death which must cause us anxiety. It need not, if, when it comes, it finds us living in God's grace, living the ordinary Christian life, doing our daily tasks but doing them as part of our duty to God. Of course, we take an interest in the affairs of this world, but the interest must never exclude our eternal interest. Instead it can and must help us toward the one real interest we have in this life, that is, to prepare us for eternal life.

Take a serious look at your way of living today. Is your behaviour in the home, in your place of work, in your recreation, in your relations with God - amongst which is our commitment to weekly worship and the life of prayer - and with your neighbour; such that God would really approve? If it is, thank God for it and keep on going; you are on the right road. If it is not, then God is surely challenging you to put things right today, and then you need not worry when your call to judgment comes. Death will be graduation day for the good Christian - not examination day.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

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

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles
Our Parish

Monday:
9:30am
 4:45pm
 8:00pm
 Pray for:

St Dominic, Priest
 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 Visiting Bellringers at SMSG
 Bell Ringing Practice
the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday:
10:30am
 6:30pm
 7:00pm
 Pray for:

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Virgin, Martyr
Mass at All Saints + 'Eleveneses'
 All Saints Fete Planning Meeting
 Parochial Church Council at All Saints
Church Musicians

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

St Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr
 Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 Meeting with Community Action MK
 GAP Project Meeting
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
those Ordained Deacon this year

Thursday:
10:30am
 Pray for:

St Clare, Virgin
Mass at St Mary & St Giles
all Religious Women

Friday:
 12:00noon
12:15pm
 Pray for:

Feria
 Angelus & Litany of the Sacred Heart
Mass at St Mary & St Giles Church
the Victims of Terrorism and Warfare

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

Ss Pontian & Hippolytus, Martyrs
 Confessions at St Mary & St Giles
 Evening Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
Visitors to our Parish Churches,

Next Sunday: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
9:30am
11:00am
 Pray for:

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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:
 1st Reading: Revelation 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab
 Psalm: 45 (part)
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27
 Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56

Sidesmen Team 1 Altar Servers Team 1
 Offertory Ladies Group
 Cleaning Team 1 Gardening Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 141
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 30th July): 102

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

Sunday 14th August
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday 17th August
The Fellowship meets in the PARISH HALL 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

Saturday 3rd September
10:00am Coffee Morning at St Mary & St Giles Church

Sunday 4th September
2:00pm All Saints Fete & Open Day

Please see Jane Hardy, Diane and Eric West if you can help in any way.

9th - 11th September
Organ Festival Weekend at St Mary & St Giles Church Please see the leaflets in each church for full details of a very good series of recitals and activities.

Thursday 15th September
12:30pm Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 17th September
Year of Mercy Celebration at Oxford Cathedral.
Please book your place on the coach

Tuesday 20th September
7:30pm Join Governing Body at SMSG School

Friday 23rd September
9:30am School Harvest Thanksgiving Mass in St Mary & St Giles Church

Sunday 25th September
Harvest Thanksgiving



'The Year of Mercy' - a Celebration in Oxford Cathedral: 17th September. The price will be £10 per head for the coach, on the basis we 50 people are prepared to sign up. However, we have to confirm to the coach company tomorrow 8th August whether we have sufficient support. If you would like to go by coach, please can you sign up today - lists are at the back of the Church at SMSG and on the Blue Notice Board at All Saints

Calverton Fete: There will be a brief Fete Planning Meeting at All Saints this Tuesday evening at 7pm - with thanks to the Band for offering to play. If anyone else can help please do come to the meeting. Many thanks.

Retirement: after considerable prayer and thought our Organist, John Neal, has decided that it is time for him to retire. John has kindly given the Rector an assurance that he will serve three months notice and so his final Sunday will be on the 30th October which gives us some time to see if we can appoint a new organist and/or choirmaster. Obviously, we will want to mark John's retirement nearer the time.

Please pray for the Parochial Church Council as it meets on Tuesday of next week to discuss plans to advertise for a successor to John, and for the Rector as he sees potential candidates with representatives of the PCC.

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

Looking ahead to the autumn: Confirmation Preparation: the Rector is planning to commence Confirmation Preparation sessions in late September for adults and children. The sessions for those aged 18 and above will be held on Wednesday's in the Parish Hall adjoining St Mary & St Giles following the evening Mass. Please see Fr Ross about these sessions.

With regard to the preparation of young people aged between 10 and 17 the date and time of the sessions will be agreed with a meeting of the parents of all young people. These sessions will be held at the Rectory and parents are asked to liaise with Sister Janet.



The Annual Buckinghamshire Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday 10th September this year. With the weather warming up

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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.

Children's Activity Morning at St Mary & St Giles: All children are most welcome to join us at 9.30am on Wednesday, 31st August for a morning of fun activities, using The Lord's Prayer as our theme. Activities will include bread making, painting, music and lunch! Please let Lesley Salter, Jenny Rowson, Ray Rowson, Andrea Hearne or Richard Hearne know if you would like to come. There is no charge and all food and drinks will be provided - old clothes should be worn!

Sidesmen: The Churchwardens ask that all sidesmen check the rota on the notice board at the back of church to see when they are on duty.

Reflection on the Lord's Prayer as recorded in St Matthew's Gospel (6: 9-13)

3rd phrase: "Thy Kingdom come"

These words establish an order of priorities for human action, for how we approach everyday life. With this petition we acknowledge the primacy of God. Where God is absent, nothing can be good. Where God is not seen, humanity and the world fall to ruin.

The coming of God's kingdom is not meant to bring us a utopian situation where we will share a Land of Plenty, provided we are devout or are somehow attracted to the Kingdom of God. What Jesus does is establish an absolutely decisive priority. To pray for the coming of the kingdom means that we pray that his will is accepted as the criterion for all our actions. God's will establishes justice, and part of justice is that we give God his due homage and reverence. When God offered Solomon the privilege of making a request that God would grant. Solomon did not seek wealth, fortune, honour, the death of his enemies, or even long life. Instead Solomon asks for a "listening heart", the ability to discern between good and evil. The petition "Thy Kingdom come" is asking that we may order our actions in a just way, with a listening heart.

Finally, the Kingdom is Jesus Christ in person. The Kingdom is present wherever he is present, and the request for a

listening heart becomes a request for communion with Jesus. What is requested in this petition is the true following of Christ which is communion with him and makes us one body with him.

4th phrase: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

Two valuable reflections come to us in reflecting on this petition of the Our Father. The first is that where God's will is done is heaven. The essence of heaven is oneness with God's will. Earth becomes "heaven" when and insofar as God's will is done. Hence we pray that his will may be done "on earth" as in heaven.

The second reflection is how can we know God's will. God's will can easily be obscured, or hidden under the ashes of all the prejudices that have piled up within us. In spite of all the obstacles the will of God is written in our hearts, and needs to be clarified for us through our reading of the Scriptures and reflecting on them. The Law of Moses (summed up in the Ten Commandments) have been enhanced and enriched by the teaching of Jesus, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus himself is the one who perfectly fulfils the will of God. When the disciples once remind him that he needs to eat he answers: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me" The perfect carrying out of the Father's will is Jesus' giving of himself on Calvary for our sake. In this sense we can think of Jesus as heaven in the deepest and truest sense of the word, because in him and through him God's will is wholly done.

When we pray this petition of the Our Father we pray that we may come closer and closer to Jesus, so that God's will can conquer the downward pull of our selfishness and make us capable of the lofty height to which we are called.

5th phrase: "Give us this day our daily bread"

Even though the Lord asked us to focus on "the one thing necessary" (seeking the Kingdom of God), he also acknowledges our earthly needs. While he says: "Do not be anxious about your lives, what you shall eat", he nevertheless invites us to turn our care to God. Bread is the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, but the earth bears no fruit unless it receives sunlight and rain from above. This recognition of God's goodness is the perfect foil to the pride which allows us to think that we achieve great things through our own efforts. It is only when we acknowledge that we rely on the goodness of God for everything that we can become great and free and truly ourselves. God will not refuse us the good things that he alone can give.

St. Cyprian in his reflections on this petition, says that we pray for our bread. We pray in the communion of the disciples, in the communion of the children of God, and for this reason no one may think only of himself, for in praying for our bread we pray also for bread for others. St. John Chrysostom emphasises that "every bite of bread in one way or another is a bite of the bread that belongs to everybody, of the bread of the world." Cyprian also remarks that anyone who asks for bread is poor. So our prayer presupposes that we have left behind the riches of the world for the sake of faith, and no longer ask for anything beyond what we need to live.

The last point we must note is the word 'daily.' This word really does refer to the supernatural Bread of the Eucharist, as promised in the miracle of the loaves and the fishes. Also, when the Jews gathered the manna in the desert, they collected only enough for the day. So our daily bread is the supernatural Bread of Life which we receive in Holy Communion as often as we come to Mass. In our receiving the Body of Christ we ourselves become the Body of Christ

We turn to St. Cyprian once more who says that the Eucharist is in a special sense "our" bread, the bread of Jesus' disciples. We pray according to Cyprian that our bread, Christ, be given to us every day so that we who remain and live in Christ may not depart from his healing power and from his body.

To be continued next week...

STOP PRESS: NEW CHURCH DIARIES NOW AVAILABLE

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

The themes of expectancy, readiness and journeying in today's liturgy point to the radical nature of faith's demands. We are asked to be on the alert in order to recognize the call of the Lord when it comes to us, and to be ready to answer the Lord without hesitation, no matter when the call comes into our life and no matter where it may lead us.

The Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

SMSG Reader: Tony Oakley

All Saints Reader: Sister Janet

Wisdom 18:6-9

Old Testament Page 535

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 33)

**R/. Happy are the people
the Lord has chosen as his own.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. ®

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. ®

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading

Reader: Isa Thomas

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

New Testament Page 190

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Watch therefore, and be ready;
the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 12:32-48

New Testament Pages 64



The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Fr Tunji)

Priest:

My brothers and sisters, we are gathered to celebrate the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us ask God the Father to open for all the world this fountain of life and blessing.

Intercessor:

For all who have dedicated themselves to God..... that he will help them to be faithful to their promise, let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

For peace among nations..... that God may rid the world of violence, and let us serve him in freedom, let us pray to the Lord:

For our parish and our common life..... that we may hearken to the voice of the Lord and obey his commands, let us pray to the Lord:

For the sick and infirm...Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Jill Barby, Henry Blake, Eileen Cox, Margaret Hooton, Terry Mason, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Marian Wright... and for the aged who suffer from loneliness and infirmity, that we will help sustain them by our love, let us pray to the Lord:

For the faithful departed...Ian Brooks (*priest*), Jacques Hamel (*priest*), Rebecca Flatley, Steve Gardner, Paul Hudson, Anita Stallard...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**7th** Arthur Webb; **8th** Irene Beardmore, Michael Booden; **9th** Mary Downing; **10th** Anne Clarke; **11th** Walter Rofe; **12th** William Read, Ray Jordan, Francis Halliwell, Shaun Dytham... that they may be granted the fullness of life and peace, 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 here.... that God will teach us to use wisely the good things he has given us, that we may be drawn closer to him, and to the eternal blessings he promises, let us pray to the Lord

Priest:

Father,

hear the prayers of your people

and grant us what you have inspired us to ask of you in faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Stay with me, Lord Jesus. Stay with all of us as we go our pilgrim way through life. Stay with us in our joys, stay with us in our sorrows. Stay with us in our moments of happiness, stay with us in our moments of brokenness. Stay with us, Lord, in life, stay with us in death so that when you come again to take us home, you will find us in your faith, in your peace, in your service and in your love. Amen.

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