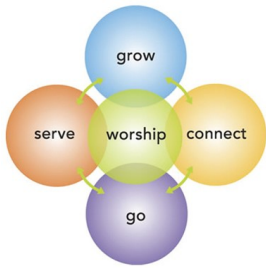


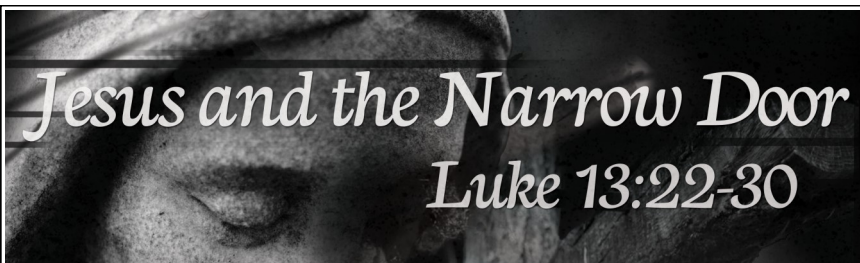
The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 21st 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)



The Gospel Reading this morning concerns those who hear Christ's message but refuse to follow it. While the questioner who asked how many would be saved did not get a direct answer from Christ, nevertheless it was made very clear to him, and is made clear to all of us, that each one's salvation is in his own hands. All those who accept Christ, his teaching and the helps he has made available to them, will enter the kingdom of God. On the other hand, those who are excluded from that eternal kingdom will have only themselves to blame. God invites everyone to heaven. He gives all the help necessary to everyone, but, because we have a free will which God will not force, some will abuse that freedom and choose wrongly.

Christ mentions the narrow door through which we must enter into God's kingdom. This means that we must exercise self-restraint and mortification and this we do when we respect and keep his commandments. When we are called to judgement it will be too late to shout "Sir, open for us." We should have sought his mercy and his forgiveness during our earthly life, and he would have granted it.

Neither will it avail us to say that we knew him in life. Acquaintance with Christ is not enough. We should have loved him and become his real friends, which we could only do by being loyal followers of his. "He taught in our streets" will only prove our guilt. We could have learned his doctrine; we could have become his disciples, but we would not. The pagan who never heard of Christ will not be condemned for not following his teaching, but the Christian who did hear his doctrine and refused to carry it out, risks condemnation.

As descent from Abraham was not a claim for special consideration on the part of the Jews, neither will any other circumstances of nationality, birth or earthly privilege help us on the day of judgment.

We are dealing with God's mercy while alive. He will forgive any sin and any number of sins if we truly repent, and resolve to correct these faults. To do this is the only one guarantee that even God himself can give us of a successful judgment. Every person who lives in God's grace will die in God's grace and be numbered among the saved. Those who choose to live habitually in sin, and refuse to amend their lives, will die in their sinful state, and thus exclude themselves from eternal salvation.

As St Paul teaches us, "For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3: 22-24)

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: **21st 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: **The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: **St Rose of Lima, Virgin**
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
 Pray for: The Church in Peru

Wednesday: **St BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Bishop Jonathan

Thursday: **Feria**
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: all those on holiday

Friday: **Feria**
 7:30pm 'Vivant' in concert at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: victims of crime

Saturday: **St Monica**
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading: Sirach 3: 17-20, 28-29
 Psalm: 68 (part)
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a
 Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

31st August - 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 Rowlson, Ray Rowlson, 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	Team 3	Altar Servers	Team 3
Offertory	Hazel Wallis		
Cleaning	Team 3	Gardening	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 13th Aug): ?

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Today's readings put before us the desire of God that all nations should come to know Jesus Christ. They also ask us to call to mind and examine our own response to the message of Christ which we have been fortunate enough to have received.

The Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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: Rosie Page
All Saints Reader: Rita Wiseman

Isaiah 66:18-21
Old Testament Page 632

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 117)

**R/. Go out to the whole world;
proclaim the Good News.**

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! ®

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. ®

Second Reading

Reader: Tricia Brassington

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13
New Testament Page 191

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 13:22-30
New Testament Pages 65

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Fiddy Abraham)

Priest:

My brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord for the good of all his creation and for all those who are in need of our prayers.

Intercessor:

For the Church built on the foundation of Christ..... that it may be holy in all its works and always seeking the way of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

For the poor and those neglected by society..... that divine compassion may fill the hearts of all peoples in order that generosity may abound, and that reconciliation and trust would blossom between those who are at enmity, let us pray to the Lord:

For all who live in this parish..... that we may see in them the face of Christ; that any thoughts of hostility may become ones of love, and that we may serve Christ in them

as he serves us, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who are in any kind of need or distress at this time... Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Jill Barby, Henry Blake, Eileen Cox, Margaret Hooton, Terry Mason, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Dee Stobie, Wendy, Marian Wright... that they may be granted the assurance of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have been delivered from the cares of this transitory life... Rebecca Flatley, Steve Gardner, Paul Hudson, Anita Stallard...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**21st** Stanley Richardson; **22nd** William Morgan; **23rd** Hilda Martinez, Leslie Braggins, Godson Ononeme... that they may be held in the life of the Kingdom where lost beauty is restored and lost innocence is renewed, let us pray to the Lord:

✕ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

For ourselves at the beginning of a new week..... that we may faithfully bear the name of Christian amongst those with whom we live and work, let us pray to the Lord:

Priest:

Lord of love,
you have opened our hearts to the Gospel;
so may our hearts be opened to proclaim it.
Receive the prayers of believers
baptised in the saving grace
of your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the nourishment of our souls received at your altar. We ask today that you inspire us to live to the full the Eucharistic mystery we have just taken part in. Help us to meet the demands of our faith, and to proclaim with our lives the meaning and greatness of God's love for all people. We pray for the good of the Church and Christians everywhere. Guard the lives of all those who work at making your name known in the world. Amen.

NOTICES

Calverton Fete: Is held this year on the 4th September from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. If you can help with setting up and clearing away, or with running stalls, or with donating home-made cakes and offers of books and/or bric-a-brac do please see Jane Hardy or Eric & Diane West. 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.

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Church Army Officer: Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com

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

Associate Minister: Fr Tunji Adebisi
Tel: 01525 790954

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

Parish Hall Booking Secretary: Nicola Crompton 07979 653515