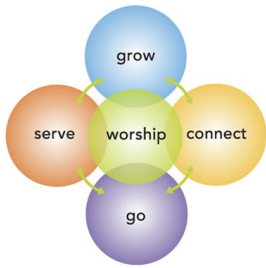


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 28th 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)*

In the Gospel Reading this morning Jesus has been invited to dine in the house of a leading Pharisee. The Pharisees were so convinced of their own perfect knowledge and observance of the law, that they thought nobody else could possibly know it or observe it as perfectly as they did. In a very simple parable, Jesus told them where their pride would lead them.

A proud Christian, that is, a proud follower of the humble Christ, is a contradiction in terms. Christ, the Son of God, lowered himself to our level when He took our human nature. He was born in a stable, reared in the obscure village of Nazareth, earned his meagre meals as a country carpenter, died on a cross as a malefactor with two thieves as companions and was buried in a God's banquet. Thank God, there are few whose pride leads them to these extremes, but there are far too many who set themselves up as judges over their neighbour and appoint themselves as the models to be imitated by all others.

If we are honest there is an element of pride in each one of us. There is a natural inclination in each one to esteem ourselves a little better in most ways, if not in all, than our neighbour. We must keep this in check and not let it grow in us. Any gifts of mind or body that we have are from God — our duty is to use them properly and to thank God for the loan of them. If He gave greater gifts to another, then thank God for it. Another was able to make better use of them than we would. We have enough gifts to go on. We shall not be judged on the use or abuse of gifts which we did not receive.

If we use all the gifts which God gave us, to help my neighbour, the spiritually poor, the lame and blind, to heaven, instead of keeping ourselves aloof from them as the Pharisees did, then our judgment will be easy. We shall be "repaid in the resurrection of the just."

A proud Christian sets himself up as a critic of God's wisdom. He muses: God forgives sinners too easily. God doesn't know them as well as I do. That conversion cannot be trusted, it will not last, he says. The "sinners" prosper, they are blessed with good health, a happy family, more than their share of the world's goods, and here am I who never failed God, who always did what was right and even more, and I am neglected by God. God doesn't know his real friends!

These are the questionings of a proud soul. Such Christians raise themselves above their neighbours in their own minds. They choose the first places, and from their self-appointed heights they look down on their fellow guests. Could Jesus have done more to induce us to listen to his counsel than when He said: "Learn of me, for I am humble of heart?"



**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**TODAY:** **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

**Monday:** **The Beheading of St John the Baptist**  
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall  
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice  
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

**Tuesday:** **St Margaret Clitherow, Anne Lines & Margaret Ward, Martyrs**  
**10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'**  
 Pray for: Those facing martyrdom today

**Wednesday:** **St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne**  
 9:30am Children's Activity Morning at SMSG  
 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:** **St Giles of Provence, Hermit & Abbot**  
**10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 Pray for: Our Parish and its mission

**Friday:** **Feria**  
 No Mass today  
 Pray for: All those in hospital

**Saturday:** **St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor**  
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

**Next Sunday:** **23rd 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: Wisdom 9:13-18b  
 Psalm: 68 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24a  
 Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

**THIS WEDNESDAY - 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 4	Altar Servers	Team 4
Offertory	Daniel & Louise Mullins		
Cleaning	Team 4	Gardening	Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?  
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 20th Aug): ?

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*In today's Mass we are invited to turn our thoughts to compassion made real in gentleness, to a way of living that represents a radical alternative to the self-centred aggressiveness and violence that so often characterises human affairs. The Gospel way demands that we know how to be last and least if we are to give leadership in a genuinely Christian fashion. Power and control must be transformed by love, insight, compassion and solidarity.*

## The Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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: Mary Saggars  
All Saints Reader: Diane West

Sirach 3:17-20,28-29  
Old Testament Page 540

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 68)

**R/. In your goodness, O God,  
you prepared a home for the poor.**

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,  
they shall exult and dance for joy.  
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;  
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. ®

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,  
such is God in his holy place.  
God gives the lonely a home to live in;  
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. ®

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:  
when your people were starved you gave them new life.  
It was there that your people found a home,  
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. ®

### Second Reading

Reader: Pat Eales

Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24  
New Testament Page 191

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord;  
and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

### **Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Luke 14:1,7-14  
New Testament Pages 65

### 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...  
Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Jill Barby, Henry Blake, Eileen Cox,  
Margaret Hooton, Terry Mason, Pete, Shirley Scrutton, Dee Stobie,  
Wendy, 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... Rebecca Flatley, Steve Gardner, Paul Hudson, Anita  
Stallard...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur  
during this week...**28<sup>th</sup>** Morgan Morgans, Norman Tombs, John  
Hughes; **29<sup>th</sup>** Betty Dickinson; **30<sup>th</sup>** Sally Bradbury, Elizabeth  
Bailey, George Syrratt; **31<sup>st</sup>** George Fountaine, Betty Webb,  
William Tansley, John Cowley; **1<sup>st</sup>** Edward Eales, Thomas Poulter,  
Doris Grieve, Joyce Plummer**2nd** Kathleen Swann; **3<sup>rd</sup>** Leo  
Andrews, Lucy Roe... 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:

*Lord Jesus, what we have celebrated today is beyond what eye  
can see or ear hear, For you bring us into the very presence of  
your Father through these great mysteries. You have spoken your  
word to us, a word of service and humility: plant it deeply in our  
minds and hearts. You give us an example by giving yourself to  
us: keep it always before our eyes. As you have come to us in  
this sacred banquet: may our words and actions bring your love  
to all those we meet this week.*

## 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.

**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.

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

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