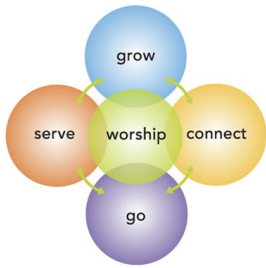


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 4th September AD 2016

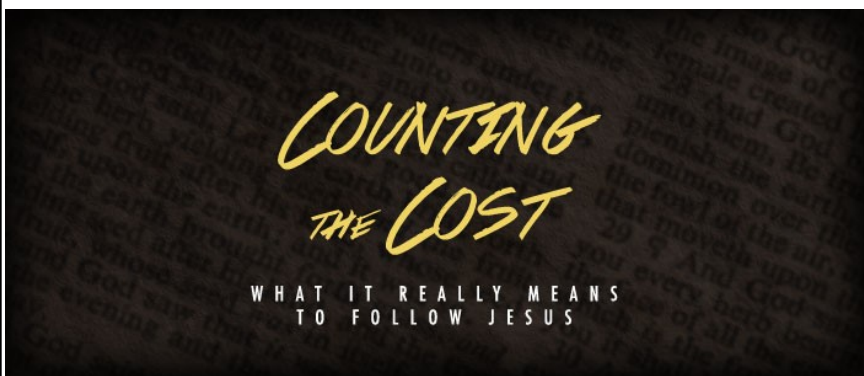


Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

The Gospel this morning teaches us that the essential condition for true discipleship, demanded by Christ, was, and still is, total dedication, total commitment of oneself to Him. There can be no such person as a half-Christian. "He that is not with me is against me," Jesus said on another occasion. We cannot be for Christ on Sunday and against Him for the remainder of the week. To be His true disciples, His true followers, we are called to live our Christian life every day and all day.

Following Christ means making our way to heaven. It is a life-journey. We have a limited time in which to complete this journey. Therefore, we must travel a certain distance each day. This does not mean that we must spend every day in prayer and meditation. There are other tasks to be done, but we must Christianise these other tasks. Even the members of religious orders who "leave the world," that is, who are set free from the family and financial cares of this world by their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, have to busy themselves with other cares like teaching, nursing, tilling the soil perhaps, house-keeping, writing and many such activities. They cannot and do not spend all their day and every day in prayer and meditation. Nor does Christ demand this of them.

While we are to pray daily, we are also called to take on financial and family cares. It is by fulfilling these worldly duties in a Christian way that we are dedicating ourselves to His service. This is total commitment to Christ. The married man or woman who is loyal to his or her spouse and to the family, if there is one, and who provides diligently and honestly for his own and the family's spiritual and temporal welfare, and who always does this with the intention of pleasing God, is following Christ and is moving steadily day by day towards heaven.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: **23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**
 2:00pm Calverton Fete
 Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: Feria
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: Feria
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
 Pray for: All our local Schools

Wednesday: Feria
 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: Fr Oliver Coss SSC to be Licenced as Vicar of All Saints Northampton

Thursday: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: that we may honour our Lord's Mother

Friday: Feria
 8:00am **Mass in St Mary & St Giles School**
 Pray for: those considering Confirmation

Saturday: Feria
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 24th 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: Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14
 Psalm: 51 (part)
 2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17
 Gospel: Luke 15: 1-32

TODAY IS: Calverton Fete Day: from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. It is not too late to get involved and help - please see the Churchwardens.

Do come along and invite your family, friends and neighbours to come along and visit this beautiful village church with wonderful views from the top of the tower over the North Bucks and Northants countryside. Stalls, refreshments and live music complete the atmosphere of this annual event.

Sidesmen	Team 1	Altar Servers	Team 1
Offertory	Parish Singers		
Cleaning	Team 1	Gardening	Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 27th Aug): ?

Don't Forget: Organ Heritage Weekend starts on Friday

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

St Paul often insists that what Christ brought us is freedom, but we know only too well that this is not freedom to do everything that we would like to do. Freedom in Christ means getting rid of all the shackles that keep us from joy and the love of God, and most of all, that means freedom from sin. Before we begin this celebration let us admit before God that we are sinners, and ask Christ to free us from all those things which keep us in bondage.

The Collect

O God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

Wisdom 9: 13-18
SMSG Reader: Lesley Salter Old Testament Page 528
All Saints Reader: Shirley Scrutton

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 90)

**R/. O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
to your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. ®

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. ®

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. ®

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. ®

Second Reading

Philemon 9b-10, 13-18
Reader: Dai Evans New Testament Page 183

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 14:25-33
New Testament Pages 66

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Matthew Lucas)

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, Henry Blake, Eileen Cox, Margaret Hooton, Terry Mason, Pete, Tony Oakley, 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...**4th** Iain Russell; **5th** George Bates, Edna Cowley, Barbara Willett, Gerald Redgrave; **6th** John Roberts, Laura Smith; **7th** Ann Shirley, Daphne Manistre; **8th** Diana Smith; **9th** Mary Rogers; Ernest Berrill; **10th** Jane Gent, Edie Copping... 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, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love,
Where there is injury, let me bring pardon,
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith,
Where there is despair, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, let me bring light,
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
Lord, let the aim of my life be -
To comfort, rather than be comforted,
To understand, rather than be understood,
To love, rather than be loved.
For, it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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