

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

We praise God as the One who saves us from suffering and death. But he is also our Master; we have duties towards him, and therefore the Christian life is one of constant effort. When we take part in the Mass we are re-stating our commitment and renewing our efforts.

The Collect

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
 SMSG Reader: Sharon Sherwood Old Testament Page 786
 All Saints Reader: Sister Janet

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 95)

**R/. O that today you would listen to his voice!
 Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
 hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,
 with songs let us hail the Lord. ®

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
 let us kneel before the God who made us
 for he is our God and we
 the people who belong to his pasture,
 the flock that is led by his hand. ®

O that today you would listen to his voice!
 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
 as on that day at Massah in the desert
 when your fathers put me to the test;
 when they tried me, though they saw my work.' ®

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
 Reader: Matthew Lucas New Testament Page 179

Gospel Acclamation (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!
 The word of the Lord abides for ever;
 that word is the good news
 which was preached to you.
Alleluia!

The Gospel Luke 17:5-10
 New Testament Pages 68

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: Fr Tunji)

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 Jonathan, 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, Henry Blake, Steve Cooper, Rebekah Coss, Eileen Cox, Margaret Hooton, William Leese, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Marian Wright... Let us pray to the Lord:

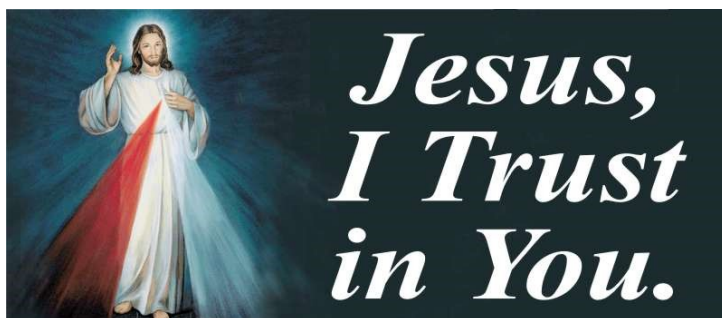
For those who have died, those who have shared with us in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known to God alone... Melvyn Woodhouse... and for all whose anniversary of death occurs during this week... 3rd John Taylor; 4th Francis Bates, Hilda Webb, June Sherwood; 5th Michael Felce, Jean Adams; 6th May Bright, Edwin Chukura; 7th Dorothy Hanns, Ann Foddy; 8th Cecil Hutchings (Priest), Francis Allen, Brenda Cox Powell, Charmaine Woodfield... Let us pray to the Lord:

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

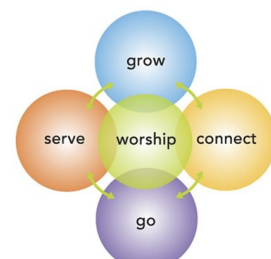
For all of us gathered in this holy place in faith, reverence, and love of God..... Let us pray to the Lord:

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:
 May the Lord Jesus be always with us. With his truth that makes us free; With his word that unlocks the mystery of man and reveals to man his own humanity; with his death and resurrection that makes us new and strong.
 (Pope St John Paul II)



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 2nd October AD 2016

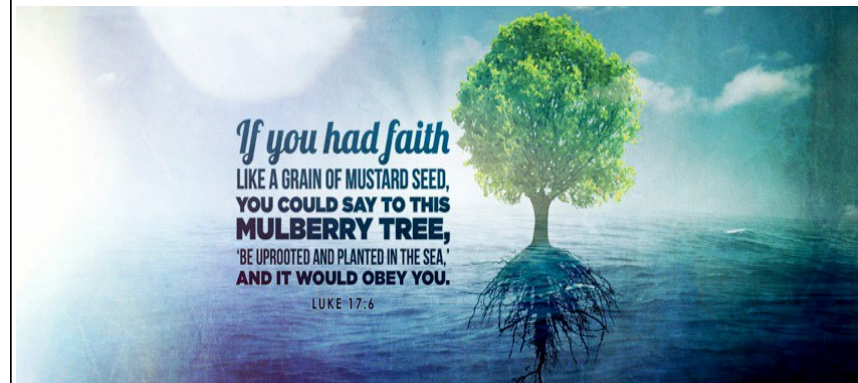


Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread"

The Gospel is from St. Luke, 17:5-10. Although Christ was speaking to the Apostles, His words apply to all of us, in our own station in life. Following the example of the Apostles, we must all pray for greater trust in God. Most of us are inclined to forget God and his providence when our earthly affairs are going well. How often do we thank Him when we are enjoying good health, and when our home-life and business are going smoothly? How many of us make a prayer of thanksgiving for all the gifts we have received and are receiving daily from God's providence. How many, rather, pat ourselves on the back for what we claim as our own successes? It is only when a storm arises in our lives that we think of Him. Remember that storm on the Sea of Galilee? The Apostles were rowing cheerfully across the lake. They were probably telling tall stories about the size and the number of fish they had caught there in their day. They may have been striving against one another to show who was the strongest oarsman. They did not seem to notice that Jesus was sleeping soundly in the bow of the boat. They thought of Him only when the storm arose, and then when they realised that they were in danger they shouted to Him for help (Mk. 5 : 37). They didn't realise that both the calm and the storm were under His province.

It is too easy to forget God and fail to give Him the thanks and the credit for our well-being which we owe him. We rush to Him only when trouble strikes. In His infinite goodness He often answers such panic prayers. If, however, we had thought of Him every day and realised His place in our lives, with how much more confidence would we then approach Him in our hour of special need? If our own personal lives were stronger how much more readily would we accept the adversities and the trials that He sends us or allows to befall us for our eternal good? We can all ask God today to "increase our faith."

Look around today. Think of those with whom we work as well as those living in our own street. Many of them need help and need it badly. We can help them. God expects us to help them. It is His plan for getting us to help ourselves to get to heaven. If we fail to cooperate with God by helping to bring His stray children back to Him, we may find that we will be a straying child on our day of reckoning. God forbid.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 27th 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: Feria
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: St Francis of Assisi
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
 11:30am All Saints Fabric Committee Meeting
 7:30pm Milton Keynes Deanery Synod
 Pray for: All Franciscan Religious

Wednesday: Feria
 The Rector meets with the new Archdeacon
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm Mass for Healing at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: the Archdeacon of Buckingham

Thursday: St Bruno, Priest
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 7:00pm Greater Access Project Group Meeting
 Pray for: all Parish Priests

Friday: Our Lady of the Rosary
8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
 9:00am SMSG School Music Visit to Church
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: commitment to prayer, and for the intention of a parishioner in thanksgiving for mercies received.

Saturday: Feria
 10:00am Musical Bite Coffee Morning
4:00pm Confessions at St Mary & St Giles
4:30pm Evening Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches, and for all the spiritual development of all children

NEXT SUNDAY: 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish & for all Prisoners, the Prison Service and all Prison Chaplains & Visitors.
 (Week of Prayer for Prisons)

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:
 1st Reading: 2 Kings 5: 14-17
 Psalm: 98 (part)
 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2: 8-13
 Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

Sidesmen	Team 1	Altar Servers	Team 1
Offertory	David & Jenny	Williams	
Cleaning	Team 1	Gardening	Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 135
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 24th Sept): 307

Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148
 Email: rector@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

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

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

Associate Minister: Fr Tunji Adebiji
 Tel: 01525 790954

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

Parish Hall Booking Secretary: Nicola Crompton

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.



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 Sidesmen 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 4th October

11:30am All Saints Fabric Committee Meeting in church
2pm Church Craft Group at the Rectory

Thursday 6th October

7:00pm Greater Access Project Group meeting

Saturday 8th October

10am Coffee Morning at SMSG

Wednesday 12th October

SMSG School Open Day
All Welcome

Thursday 13th October

12:30pm School Merger Meeting

Sunday 16th October

3:00pm Autumn Concert

Wednesday 19th October

2:00pm The Fellowship

Thursday 20th October

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG

Saturday 22nd October

10:00am Musical Bite Coffee Morning

Saturday 29th October

7:30pm Organ Recital

Tuesday 1st November

ALL SAINTS DAY

10:30am Mass at All Saints

Wednesday 2nd November

ALL SOULS DAY

9:30am Mass at SMSG
10:30am Mass at All Saints
7:30pm Sung Mass at SMSG

Saturday 12th November

10:00am Choral Day at SMSG Church

Sunday 13th November

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
9:30am Parish Mass
11:00am Family Mass
3:00pm Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Monday 14th November

12:30pm School Merger Meeting

Wednesday 16th November

2:00pm The Fellowship
A talk by Ray & Jenny on their holiday in Morocco with slides

Thank you: to all those who gave gifts of Harvest Produce and canned/dried goods. The latter have been taken to the MK Foodbank and the former were auctioned in aid of 'Farm Africa' the charity we are supporting at this season of Harvest Thanksgiving.

If you wish to make a donation to Farm Africa please do so today, using the Gift Aid envelopes provided by the charity. Our Treasurer can then send off the monies to its office.

Vacancy for a Hall Caretaker/Booking Secretary: After four years of dedicated work Nicola Crompton has decided that it is time to hand over this role to another person. The Rector and Churchwardens are very grateful to her for all her hard work over this period and to Chris, who has been roped into assist regularly.

The Churchwardens, Louise and Kieran, are keen to appoint a successor and would be grateful if any who are interested in the position would see them as soon as possible. This post comes with a modest remuneration.

Pantomime: 30 tickets are left for our trip to the Pantomime at Milton Keynes Theatre on Tuesday, 3rd January at 6pm. All seats are £18, but accompanied children from our Parish Family go for free. Please book you seats as soon as possible from Lesley Salter.

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. The PCC is currently advertising for a new organist and your prayers for a suitable person to be appointed are requested.

Church Craft Group: Sister Janet will be hosting a meeting of the Craft Group at 2:00pm **THIS** Tuesday 4th October at the Rectory in preparation for the Christmas Fayre on 'Lights' Switch on Day (which this year in on 26th Nov). Thank you to all those who work hard through the year making things to sell on the stall. New members are always welcome. Please see Sister Janet for further details.

Church Library Reading Day: Do you ever feel you'd like to sit down and read a book during the day, but there's always one more job to be tackled first?

We are hosting a "reading day" on Wednesday 26th October at Tricia's house, and would love you to join us. Relax with a good book and like-minded friends. Come for an hour, or come for the whole day, 9.30 till 3.00, to suit yourself. See us for full details.

Bring your own book, OR borrow one from the church library in advance, OR we will have a small selection available on the day.

Places will be limited, so please see one of us as soon as possible as we will need to know how many people are coming. We are looking forward to welcoming you for a relaxing, interesting and enjoyable time. *Tricia & Jenny*

Advent Calendars: the Meaningful Chocolate Company has again produced a Christian Advent Calendar, using Fair Trade chocolate. It also includes a 28 page activity book all about Christmas. They can be ordered on the signup sheets in both churches - but orders need to be in no later than Sunday, 16th October. If you would normally give a chocolate Advent Calendar, please consider buying these! For more information please ask Lesley Salter or go to <http://www.realadvent.co.uk/>

The Works of Mercy...

There is currently much emphasis in the western Church by the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and indeed our own Bishop Jonathan on mercy. This in no small part is because at times it becomes apparent that we live in a somewhat individualistic,

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

selfish and even vindictive age - despite great acts of kindness and goodness that we see from time to time.

The Church has traditionally encouraged her children to understand the practice of merciful love by dividing the works of mercy into two kinds: corporal (that is, bodily) and spiritual. What we saw in the life of St Teresa of Calcutta is a shining example of a life dedicated especially to practicing the corporal works of mercy:

- (1) Feed the hungry.
- (2) Give drink to the thirsty.
- (3) Clothe the naked.
- (4) Shelter the homeless.
- (5) Visit those in prison.
- (6) Comfort the sick.
- (7) Bury the dead.

We continue a series of brief articles considering these Corporal Works of Mercy followed by a series on the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

- (1) Admonish sinners.
- (2) Instruct the ignorant.
- (3) Counsel the doubtful.
- (4) Comfort the sorrowful.
- (5) Be patient with those in error.
- (6) Forgive offences.
- (7) Pray for the living and the dead.

Let us pray that we may be a merciful people.

2. Give drink to the thirsty

I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink. (Matthew 25:35)

Nearly 1-billion people lack access to a supply of safe water. More than 3.4 million people a year die from water-related diseases. Every 21 seconds a child in the world dies of such diseases. Nearly one-fifth of all childhood deaths are caused by diarrhoea, which kills more young children than AIDS, TB, and malaria combined. (Source: water.org.)

We live in a world that's thirsty. What can we do? Giving drink to the thirsty can be in the form of making monetary or food donations to the local food bank, soup kitchen, and other initiatives that bring food and drink to the poor. Parish Churches supports several clean water initiatives around the world.

Moreover, giving drink to the thirsty can also be accomplished through our role as voters and through our lifestyle choices. For example, we can support clean water policies to ensure that there will be clean water for future generations to drink. Meanwhile, even in our own homes we can make our contributions to the effort to preserve clean, fresh water: for example, by using environmentally friendly laundry detergents or by trying to be moderate in the amount of water we put on our lawns or use each day.

Here's an example of a group dedicated to providing drink for the thirsty: a group of secondary age schoolchildren's teacher writes of a project his school was involved in:

"I knew that typhoid and other diseases were rampant in part related to a lack of fresh drinking water in developing countries. A seminarian from Nigeria told me once during a visit there that I had saved his life. I looked at him in surprise and asked why. He said the antibiotics we had sent over had treated his typhoid, and without them he would have died.

Sometime later I coordinated efforts between a Bishop and his diocese in Nigeria, and our Church School to raise monies for a well in Nigeria. At that time, a well could be dug and provide fresh water for an entire village for £2, 000. The students raised money in a variety of ways, and I was amazed that when the appeal was closed we had actually raised £6,000 — enough for three wells. So, through these efforts, men, women, and children of three separate villages were able to get fresh drinking water!

It was a small effort, and the students may never meet the people that benefited. But it was a work of mercy that will bear good fruit for many years to come.

Prisons' Week 2016 (9th to 15th October): to visit those in Prison is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy, and we shall be reflecting upon that particular theme in three weeks time, but beginning next Sunday is the Week of Prayer for Prisons in all churches.

For forty years now, Prisons Week has encouraged prayer through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons.

Prisons Week raises awareness and generates prayer. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, in prisons and in their own communities. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

Prisons Sunday – the second Sunday in October – marks the beginning of the week of prayer each year, running through until the following Saturday.

The Prisons' Week Prayer is:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities

of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another.

To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ

in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

The importance of orthodox faith: "This is the thrilling romance of Orthodoxy. People have fallen into a foolish habit of speaking of orthodoxy as something heavy, humdrum, and safe. There never was anything so perilous or so exciting as orthodoxy. It was sanity: and to be sane is more dramatic than to be mad. It was the equilibrium of a man behind madly rushing horses, seeming to stoop this way and to sway that, yet in every attitude having the grace of statuary and the accuracy of arithmetic. The Church in its early days went fierce and fast with any warhorse; yet it is utterly un-historic to say that she merely went mad along one idea, like a vulgar fanaticism. She swerved to left and right, so exactly as to avoid enormous obstacles. She left on one hand the huge bulk of Arianism, buttressed by all the worldly powers to make Christianity too worldly. The next instant she was swerving to avoid an orientalism, which would have made it too unworldly. The orthodox Church never took the tame course or accepted the conventions; the orthodox Church was never respectable. It would have been easier to have accepted the earthly power of the Arians. It would have been easy, in the Calvinistic seventeenth century, to fall into the bottomless pit of predestination. It is easy to be a madman: it is easy to be a heretic. It is always easy to let the age have its head; the difficult thing is to keep one's own. It is always easy to be a modernist; as it is easy to be a snob. To have fallen into any of those open traps of error and exaggeration which fashion after fashion and sect after sect set along the historic path of Christendom—that would indeed have been simple. It is always simple to fall; there are an infinity of angles at which one falls, only one at which one stands. To have fallen into any one of the fads from Gnosticism to Christian Science would indeed have been obvious and tame. But to have avoided them all has been one whirling adventure; and in my vision the heavenly chariot flies thundering through the ages, the dull heresies sprawling and prostrate, the wild truth reeling but erect."

GK Chesterton