

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Our Sunday mornings belong in a special sense to God - it is the Lord's Day, when some time is set aside exclusively for public worship and prayer. Prayer, raising our hearts and voices to God, does not always come easy to us, partly because of distracting interests in so many directions, but partly due to weakness of faith. Yet the most worthwhile prayer is the kind that is constant and persevering, that never forgets God and keeps us always in his presence. In this Mass we can renew our desire to stay in permanent contact with our maker, through Christ, in the Spirit.

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

Exodus 17:8-13
 SMSG Reader: Oliver Williams Old Testament Page 52
 All Saints Reader: David Scrutton

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 121)
R/. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
 from where shall come my help?
 My help shall come from the Lord
 who made heaven and earth. ®

May he never allow you to stumble!
 Let him sleep not, your guard.
 No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
 Israel's guard. ®

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
 at your right side he stands.
 By day the sun shall not smite you
 nor the moon in the night. ®

The Lord will guard you from evil,
 he will guard your soul.
 The Lord will guard your going and coming
 both now and for ever. ®

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
 Reader: Rita Oakley New Testament Page 180

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active,
 discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 18:1-8
 New Testament Pages 69

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: John Hickman)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, God our Father wants all mankind to be saved and calls us to the knowledge of the truth. Let us pray to him with all our hearts.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the holy Church of God:..... that the Lord would guide and protect it.

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for all the peoples of the world:.....That the Lord would unite them in peace and harmony.

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters in need:... Fiddy Abraham, Andrea, Anna Archer, Henry Blake, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Jane Holman, William Leese, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Marian Wright..... that the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died:... Margaret Hooton, Melvyn Woodhouse... and for all whose anniversary of death occurs during this week...**16th** Frances Perceval; **18th** Ann Wright, Phylliss Blyth; **19th** Edith Luck, Edward Phillips; **20th** Edward Sharp, Dennis Archer, Ruth Forward; **22nd** Freddie Douglas, Jack Quick... that they may dwell for ever "in the shelter of the Most High".

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

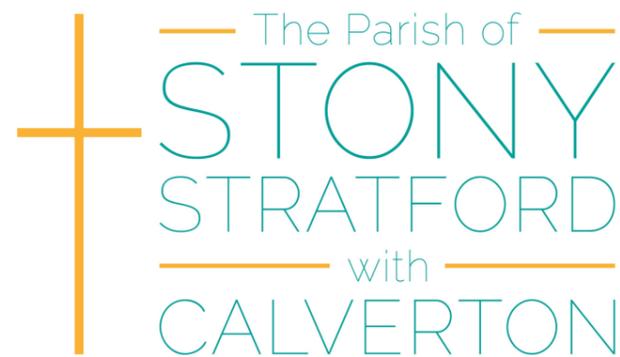
Let us pray for ourselves and our community:.....that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

In silence we pray for our needs and concerns

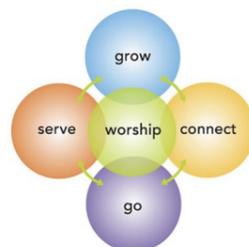
Priest: God of love our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

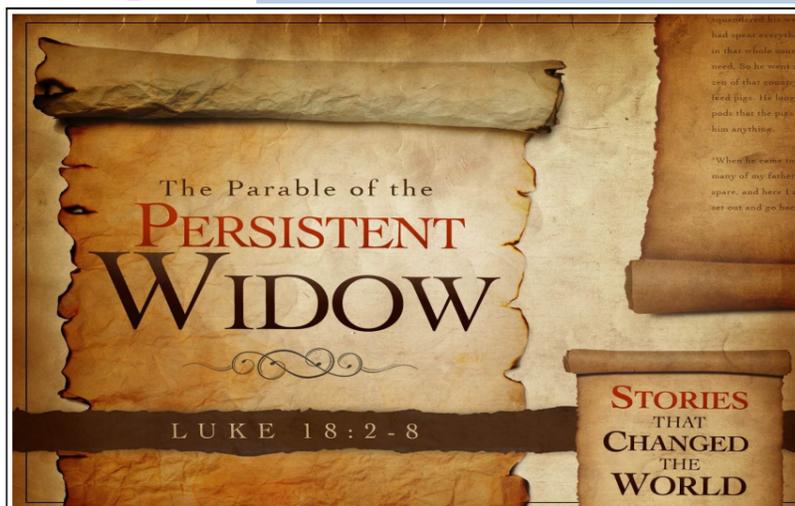
Lord, who was this widow-woman, with her firm confidence, and her refusal to take NO for an answer? How could she be so sure she was right, in spite of the first attitude of the judge? Is my faith as deep as hers, or like that of Moses with his upraised hands? I thank you for the encouragement of today's Scripture, and for your own living presence in this Blessed Sacrament. Teach me to stay always with you, by worship and prayer as well as in a spirit of faith. Show me how I can be of more help to others, to bear their burdens and succeed in the purpose of their lives. Make me an instrument of your peace and a minister of your grace, to follow in all things the path you have planned for me. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 16th 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"



Our divine Lord teaches us, in the Gospel this morning, the need for perseverance in prayer. This perseverance develops our trust and confidence in God. It helps us to become humble and to realise how weak we are when left to ourselves. It keeps us close to God, as we learn how dependent we are on His generosity. If we only would realise that God is perhaps never closer to us than when we think He is forgetting us! The trials of life, spiritual or temporal, which He allows us to suffer are not obstacles to our spiritual progress but rather stepping-stones without which we could not cross the rivers of life at all.

God wants every one of us in heaven but just as no two people on earth have the same identical features, so also no two people on earth have the same road to lead them to heaven. God is supervising the journey of each one of us. He is ever there to help if the obstacle on one's road is insurmountable. We may and we must, keep asking God for the spiritual and temporal favours which we know we need. We must never grow despondent or believe that God has lost interest in us, if He delays in granting these favours. When we shall look back on our earthly journey from the happy vantage point of heaven, we shall see how effectively and how lovingly God regulated our journey. When He did not grant a certain favour it was because He had a much more important one to give us, one we did not ask for or even realise we needed.

"Ask and you shall receive," not perhaps what you wanted, but what God knew you needed. "Seek and you shall find," not the easy way which you thought you deserved, but the harder way which would make you more deserving of heaven. "Knock and it shall be opened unto you," not the door you were standing at, which would have delayed or endangered your progress, but the door further down the street where refreshment and new courage to continue on your upward climb were awaiting you.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

3:00pm Autumn Concert in St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall

8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: ST LUKE, EVANGELIST

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'

Pray for: the Bishops of the Church

Wednesday: Feria

9:00am Calverton Apprenticing Charity Meeting

12:15pm Funeral of Margaret Hooton at All Saints

2:00pm The Fellowship in the Parish Hall

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: Local Charities and those they serve

Thursday: Feria

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at St Mary & St Giles

Pray for: The Police, Ambulance & Fire Services

Friday: Feria

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Pray for: for the souls of the departed

Saturday: St John Paul II, Pope

4:00pm Confessions at St Mary & St Giles

4:30pm Evening Prayer at St Mary & St Giles

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

NEXT SUNDAY: 30th 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 35: 12c-14, 16-18b

Psalm: 34 (part)

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

Sidesmen Team 3 Altar Servers Team 3

Offertory Sue Bates

Cleaning Team 3 Gardening Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 151

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 8th Oct): 31

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

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

Parish Website: www.parishstonystatfordcalverton.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

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 see 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

Sunday 16th October 3:00pm Autumn Concert	Monday 14th November 12:30pm School Merger Meeting
Wednesday 19th October 12:15pm Funeral of Margaret Hooton in All Saints Church 2:00pm The Fellowship	Wednesday 16th November 2:00pm The Fellowship A talk by Ray & Jenny on their holiday in Morocco with slides 7:30pm SMSG School Governors' Meeting
Thursday 20th October 12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG	Thursday 17th November 7:30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting
Saturday 29th October 7:30pm Organ Recital	Saturday 19th November 7:30pm Parish Quiz Night at SMSG School
Tuesday 1st November ALL SAINTS DAY 10:30am Mass at All Saints	Friday 25th November 1:00pm Volunteers please to set up for the Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 2nd November ALL SOULS DAY 9:30am Mass at SMSG 10:30am Mass at All Saints 7:30pm Sung Mass at SMSG	Saturday 26th November 10:00 - 17:00 Christmas Fayre at St Mary & St Giles
Saturday 12th November 10:00am Choral Day at SMSG Church	Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday 9:30am Parish Mass 11:00am Family Mass 6:00pm Advent Service of Light at St Mary & St Giles
Sunday 13th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9:30am Parish Mass 11:00am Family Mass 3:00pm Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial	



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.

Heating at All Saints: The PCC met last Wednesday evening and considered the matter of the existing heating system at All Saints, which is very inefficient leaving the church cold in winter, which causes a quick rise in the air temperature leading to dangerous levels of condensation on electrical equipment, as well as the clergy having to wear extremely damp vestments.

Our Insurer's had previously forbidden the use of the 'tube heaters' in the pews, and have recently reiterated that warning. Our Insurer's have also said that the PCC should also consider the implication of any condensation/water vapour in the atmosphere being created by the existing system which can seriously damage the fabric of the building, particularly where it may assist with the early onset of rot in timber and corrosion of electrical installations including the organ which are most susceptible to fire risk where there is condensation.

It is the view of our architect that the existing system is at the end of its useful life, and as there is dripping condensation it is a danger to those in the Church, given the potential for electrical faults. He pointed out that one of the major causes of fire in churches is poor and old electrical installations. He recommended that we urgently arrange to change the system.

The electrician who has done major work at All Saints over the past few years states that the existing system "is archaic, inefficient, and very expensive to run." He also agrees that the fact that it causes condensation is a fire risk, and in his opinion the system should be replaced. He also pointed out that the existing convector heaters at ceiling height "are well past their original intended service life." Research has shown that they are between 50 and 60 years of age.

It is the view of the Secretary to the Diocesan Committee for the Care of Churches that, given the professional advice of our architect, insurers, and electrician, the PCC should proceed as a matter of urgency to replace the existing system for the good of the building and for the sake of the people gathered for worship.

The PCC had already obtained a Faculty to replace the existing system with a much more efficient and economical system as designed by the foremost churches heating designer and our architect. Initially, the PCC had thought that there would not be sufficient funds available without the addition of grants and/or further fundraising. However, the project cost turned out to be less than originally expected, and there are sufficient funds, after the VAT has been claimed back upon completion of the work. This means that PCC could not apply for grants for this project as grant making bodies only give grants where sufficient funds are not available.

In terms of the cost and funds available this is the position:

Cost of removing the present system:	£2316*
Cost of the new system & installation:	£30,840*
Architect's Fees (Maximum)	£1500*
Total Cost (inc VAT)	£34,656

*prices only valid until 31st December 2016

Total Monies in All Saints Restoration Fund	£31,131
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So ostensibly there is a shortfall of £3525. However, once the VAT (£5776) has been claimed back from the Inland Revenue the net cost of the project is £28,880 which will leave £2251 in the Restoration Fund. However, it needs to be noted that the PCC has to pay the VAT in the first place, and can only

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claim it back upon completion of the work, and all bills are paid.

There is, understandably, concern that this leaves the Restoration Fund with only a small amount towards any emergencies. However, the PCC has decided to complete this project, and it has done so mindful of:

- the advice of professional people regarding the condition of the existing heating system
- the needs of the growing congregation at All Saints - last Sunday there were five families with young children present
- the fact that this growth would be impeded by a church that is cold
- a desire to seek further monies for All Saints' Restoration Fund

The PCC has taken a step of faith in committing itself to this project's completion and in seeking additional donations/fundraising to achieve a greater amount in All Saints' Restoration Fund. Prior to the PCC meeting offers of generous donations had already been received and since the PCC Meeting there has been an offer of a monthly donation towards the new system's running costs. If anyone wishes to make a donation or run a fundraising event to benefit All Saints Restoration Fund the PCC would be very grateful.

Other PCC News: as well as committing itself to the heating project at All Saints the PCC, at its meeting last Wednesday (*a more fulsome report will follow next Sunday*):

- Accepted a tender for works to the trees at St Mary & St Giles
- Adopted the Criteria for an application for a Pioneer Minister's Post funded by the Archdeaconry
- Committed itself to form a Mission Action Plan to accompany the 'Criteria'
- Received Reports from the Rector on a number of meetings and a further one on the matter of the Rough Sleepers

Fr Benjamin Drury: having been in a new parish for some seven months, Fr Benjamin's new Incumbent, Fr James Wilkinson and the Bishop of Dorchester believe that he has now made sufficient progress in order that he may be ordained priest. The Ordination will take place at 5:00pm on Sunday 20th November in the Parish Church of St James, New Hinksey, Oxford. I have been invited to Concelebrate the Ordination Mass with Bishop Jonathan and Fr James, who has extended an invitation to those who wish to attend. In order to help him plan, he has asked that any who wish to attend let me know by Sunday 23rd October, in order that I can relay to him definite numbers attending. *Fr Ross*

Retirement: after considerable prayer and thought our Organist, John Neal, has decided that it is time for him to retire. John's 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.

Thank you: to everyone who supported and helped with St Mary & St Giles School Open Day. *Kieran*

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...

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 Let us pray that we may be a merciful people.

4. Shelter the homeless

"The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Mt 8:20). Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, was born in a borrowed manger, had no fixed address once he began his public ministry, and was buried in another man's grave. It is quite an irony: He who made the universe became a homeless person.

The news makes us aware of the plight of millions of refugees driven from their homes by war, but homelessness is literally also right on our doorstep. Because the problem is perennial, there is a danger that, like the rich man in the parable, we no longer see the Lazarus we practically have to step over.

This corporal work of mercy forces us to open our eyes to the misery of those who, for a variety of reasons, have no place they can call home. We don't like to allow dogs or cats to stray on our streets, but we become numb to the fate of our own brothers and sisters.

Faith communities, make efforts to provide shelter for the homeless. These initiatives deserve our financial support and, if possible, our volunteer efforts. Along with providing a temporary roof over their heads, we need to help those homeless who are able to do so to get back on their feet and accompany them on the difficult path that leads to the dignity of being able to afford a place to stay. This can involve helping with job skills or offering employment. Whenever possible, we should give a hand up as well as a handout. We should also encourage efforts to provide for truly affordable housing.

Even as we grapple as a society and Church with the overarching challenge of homelessness, there still are those poor individuals we encounter every day who, like the Son of Man, have nowhere to lay their head. Some of them suffer from serious mental illness and are beyond the help of any but those with professional training. But a kind word, and a kind act, can brighten their day. As with the other works of mercy, sheltering the homeless requires discernment and the stewardship of our resources. Yet when in doubt, it is better to err on the side of charity. The patron of parish priests, St. John Vianney, was told that a beggar to whom he gave frequent assistance was in fact not poor at all; he answered, "You never lose when you give to God."

This work of mercy also invites to ask ourselves how hospitable we are. The Letter to the Hebrews urges us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb 13:2). Sometimes it is easier to imagine that the stranger might be an angel than it is to see that someone in our own family or among acquaintances is one.

In short, this work of mercy can be summed up in the direct words of the Rule of St. Benedict: "Let all guests be received like Christ."