

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

In some important areas of life we can always find room for improvement and fresh understanding. One of these is human relationships; another is prayer. Christ our Lord invites us not only to pray regularly, but to pray in the proper spirit - to come before the Father without any pretences, opening up our hearts to receive grace as a total free gift. If we are humble before God, and leave aside all our pride, then we will really be able to pray this Mass today.

The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 Sirach 35:12-14,16-19
 SMSG Reader: Tricia Brassington Old Testament Page 565
 All Saints Reader: Diane West

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 34)

R/. This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. ©

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. ©

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. ©

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18
 Reader: ? New Testament Page 180

Gospel Acclamation (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!
 God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia!

The Gospel Luke 18:9-14
 New Testament Pages 69

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: John Hickman)

Priest: My brothers and sisters let us pray to our gracious God who is the fountain of all wisdom.

Intercessor: We pray for all Christian people; for N. our Bishop, and for all who teach and guard the faith..... May the message of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, and knit us together in the bond of your love.

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

We pray for the leaders of the nations, and for those in authority under them.....Give them the gift of your wisdom, and a right discernment in all things.

We pray for our Parish and the wider community in which we are set; for those who live and work here, and for those who visit this place..... Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

We pray for those who do not believe, for those who long for your love and forgiveness..... Open their ears to hear your voice, and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness...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... May Christ bring comfort and healing to all those in need.

We pray for the souls of those who have died...Margaret Hooton, Melvyn Woodhouse... and for all whose anniversary of death occurs during this week..23rd Ronald Cragg, Leonard Smith; 25th Florence Read, Jerome Halliwell; 26th Paul Manchester; 28th Kate Shillingford; 29th Elizabeth Bailey.... May they may enjoy the radiant dawn of eternal life.

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

In silence we pray for our needs and concerns

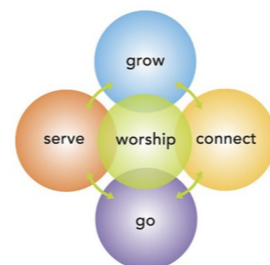
Priest: Father all-powerful, we bring our needs before you, and pray confidently for your help and mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Welcome once again, Lord, into this Christian heart, part Pharisee and part Publican, torn between pride and humility, and between many other forces besides-both good and bad. No doubt, there's a wealth of goodness in me, like a reservoir to be used; but let me see all of this as your gift, and use it for your service. And the sinfulness that is also in me, the roots of selfish passion and idle laziness-let me not forget my need for mercy and forgiveness. Above all, Lord, help me to be gentle in judging others, whose faults may be less grave than mine, even though more easily visible. And, beyond all questions of sin and grace, let me simply thank you for being here with us, building us up into a people who will share your blessed life for all eternity. Amen.



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 23rd 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"

One thing that we can learn from the Gospel episode today concerning the Pharisees is that, while God approves of no sin, His mercy and His forgiveness is available for all sinners except the proud. It isn't that God cannot or will not forgive the sin of pride but that the proud man will not ask for God's forgiveness.

We must all be on our guard against this insidious and destructive vice. It is insidious because it can grow in us almost without our knowing it, and once it has taken root it is difficult to eradicate. It is destructive because it spoils every other virtue we practice and every good work we do. Charity, or brotherly love, cannot flourish in a proud heart, for a proud heart is so full of self that it has no room for others. No true love of God can exist in a proud heart, for even the very acts of religion which a proud man performs, are done for the motive of self-glory and not for the glory of God. The Pharisee in this parable proves that fact. He boasted of his good works.

A few simple straight questions can tell us whether or not we are proud. Do we like others to see and hear of our good works, or do we prefer to do them in secret? Do we give as generously to charitable causes when no list of benefactors is published? Do we willingly take part among the rank and file in parish activities or do we feel offended if we are not the leaders? Do we criticize offhand those who are not all they should be, or do we thank God that we were saved from similar temptations? Do we always try to find an excuse for the failings of others or have we excuses for our own faults only? God forbid that any one of us should be suffering from this, the worst of all vices. If anyone recognises that he is, let him pray to God from the bottom of his heart for the opposite virtue, the true Christian virtue of humility, and look for every possible occasion to practice it. Let us all remember the two men praying in the Temple. One was full of himself and boasted to God and to all present, of his many good works. The other just humbly beat his breast and asked for mercy knowing that he had nothing to boast of. Yet, he left the Temple forgiven, the other returned home a worse sinner than when he had entered the Temple.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 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

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

Tuesday: The Welsh Martyrs
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
Pray for: the Church in Wales

Wednesday: S Chad & Cedd, Bishops
 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: The Diocese of Lichfield

Thursday: Feria
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: Rough Sleepers

Friday: Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray for: Fr Gary & the Parishioners of Castlethorpe

Saturday: Feria
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

NEXT SUNDAY: 31st 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 11: 22 - 12: 2
 Psalm: 145 (part)
 2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2: 2
 Gospel: Luke 19: 1-10

If you require a priest during the week, please contact either Fr Joseph or Fr Tunji.

All Souls Day Pious Lists:

The customary lists for the inclusion of names will be placed in church prior to each Mass on All Souls Day. When including names please ensure that they are printed in CAPITALS so as to aid the Priest celebrating each Mass.

Sidesmen	Team 4	Altar Servers	Team 4
Offertory	Jan & Dai	Evans	
Cleaning	Team 4	Gardening	Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 130
Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 15th Oct): 28

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 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 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.



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.

PCC News: 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 last meeting on Wednesday 12th October:

- Accepted a tender for works to the trees at St Mary & St Giles—as previously reported planning consent has been received to fell seven trees and crown reduce all others by 50% over a five year period
- Adopted the Criteria for an application for a Pioneer Minister's Post funded by the Archdeaconry. If this post is awarded then it will see a full-time minister based predominantly in the new housing expansion area and at All Saints
- Committed itself to form a Mission Action Plan to accompany the 'Criteria.' All CoE Deaneries and parishes are being asked to draw up these plans in which they commit to certain mission outreach targets. The Standing Committee and the Rector have been considering this over the past week., and this will be presented along with the 'Criteria' for the Pioneer Minister to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee next month.

The PCC also received a report from the Rector on a number of meetings and a further one on the matter of the Rough Sleepers. This is a growing problem across Milton Keynes and is forecast to get worse. His impassioned intervention at the Deanery Synod has resulted in clergy being invited to a meeting organised by Fr Ernesto, the Area Dean and he at Christ the Cornerstone on 9th November at 2:00pm. Fr Ernesto has been particularly supportive over this and the Rector is really grateful to him for that. At that meeting it is hoped to have some in attendance who work in other sectors with Rough Sleepers.

The situation locally is that there are now up to 4 rough sleepers in the churchyard on a regular basis and the Rector found another last week who had come from sleeping beneath a central Milton Keynes underpass, but who claimed to be only staying for one night. There have been fights between the men sleeping rough. The defecation appears to have stopped, but the men are still urinating in full view.

The Police are now involved due to complaints from the general public. However, those complaints are not a litmus test of public opinion which is evenly divided from what I have gleaned.

The Rector feels that he is fighting a losing battle with people giving them money...one lady he talked with about this said that she was not bothered if they spent money she gave them on alcohol or drugs as "at least it gives them some comfort" !!!

The PCC was in agreement that to move them on against their will at this stage would cause more problems than it would solve, but obviously wish the situation to be resolved and will continue to monitor it.

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



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*

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:

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit those in prison.
- Comfort the sick.
- 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.

5. Visit those in prison

This Holy Work has changed its meaning over time. The first Christians were, as we know, outlaws; so it was expected that some of their number would be in prison at any given time. Jesus was a prisoner; Paul was; Peter was; and many of the saints, bishops, and teachers of the first few centuries of Christian life were. So free Christians took it upon themselves to visit their friends, bringing food, solace, encouragement, and when possible liberation. They also sought the prisoners' blessing, since to be imprisoned for being a Christian was a mark of great courage and faith.

Today things are different, at least in our part of the world. (Christians continue to be imprisoned and even executed for their faith in the Middle East, in China, in Pakistan, in North Korea and in other countries.) People in prison are there as the result of a judgment by a criminal-justice system that, while by no means perfect, does make them different from the Christian prisoners of Jesus' day. And modern prisons are not, by and large, visit-able places. So how are we to understand this Holy Work today?

We might start by remembering that even the prisoner guilty of the most awful crime is still created in God's image and is loved by God no less than God loves you or me. Along with the protection of society from truly dangerous individuals, one goal of imprisonment should always be rehabilitation so that the

"lost" can be "found" and restored to a right relationship with God and others. But this costs money – for addiction treatment, for education, and for other aids to rehabilitation that are too easily disposed of in times of budget cuts. And these programs do serve both society and prisoners – some studies indicate that both incarceration rates and crime drop as rehabilitation efforts increase

Educating ourselves about the facts of imprisonment is another step. Consider:

- What the population of prisons is and by how much it has grown?
- What proportion of our population is in prison?
- What proportion of all inmates are from ethnic backgrounds (are they disproportionately blamed for crime?). What proportion are on probation, or on bail?
- How many women are held in prison and has that number increased of late?

As Christians we have to be careful not to allow our thinking about prison and prisoners (when we think about them at all) to be influenced by scaremongering to win votes (a not-unknown political phenomenon).

We can also extend the meaning of the Holy Work to consider those who are imprisoned metaphorically in other places: the elderly isolated in nursing-homes (or their own homes); people imprisoned by their addictions or their fears or their ignorance; people imprisoned by others' views of them (immigrants, non-English speakers, people with disabilities...) The Holy Work of visiting the imprisoned can be as simple as a welcome that breaks down the wall of mistrust. That, each of us has opportunities to do every day.

To end with: a true story of the saintly Bishop of Lincoln, Edward King (1829-1910; Bishop of Lincoln 1885-1910):

Edward King famously befriended and converted condemned prisoners in Lincoln Prison. In 1887 he heard about a young fisherman from Grimsby who had killed his girlfriend in what was a *crime passionelle*, a lover's quarrel. The chaplain at the prison was having great difficulty in relating to the condemned man. As John A Newton writes:

"who was by all accounts completely brutalized, In the event, King relieved the chaplain of the duty and ministered to the young man himself. The murderer was young, uneducated with no knowledge of religion and very little understanding of right and wrong. 'He was simply a powerful animal,' as King told George Russell, 'and had acted on his animal instincts.'

The Bishop set to work, and taught him about the unseen realities of life and death, sin and forgiveness, from the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The youth was deeply moved, and the Bishop, having satisfied himself that he had been baptised, Confirmed. him, received his confession, and prepared him for Holy Communion.

King saw him daily for the last few weeks of his life. After wrestling with his conscience - because he thought the sentence was just - and having consulted the trial judge, King signed a petition for mercy on behalf of the boy. It was rejected by the Home secretary, and the Bishop was left to prepare the boy for his death. He celebrated the Eucharist in the death cell, and before the service took the youth by the hand and said, 'Let us say a little prayer to consecrate the hand which did the sad deed, before it holds the Body of the Lord.' King went to the scaffold with him, ministering to him as until the hangman released the trap. He wrote to Russell a day or two later: 'It was a terrible privilege, but I am most thankful that I was allowed to be with the poor dear man. He was most beautiful; and his last (and first) Communion on Sunday morning put me to shame. I felt quite unworthy of him. How little the world knows of the inner life.'

(Search for a Saint: Edward King, by John A Newton)

Why is it that it is almost impossible to imagine a diocesan bishop today devoting so much time to individual causes?