

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Receive, O Holy Trinity, One God, this Holy Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which I, Your unworthy servant, desire now to offer to Your Divine Majesty by the hands of this Your minister, with all the Sacrifices which have ever been or will be offered to You, in union with that most Holy Sacrifice offered by the same Christ our Lord at the Last Supper, and on the Altar of the Cross.

I offer it to You with the utmost affection of devotion, out of pure love for Your infinite goodness, and according to the most holy intention of the same Christ our Lord, and of our Holy Mother the Church.

O God, almighty and merciful, grant us through this Holy Sacrifice, joy and peace, a holier life, time to do penance, grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works. Amen.

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 Wisdom 11:22 - 12: 2
SMSG Reader: Pat Eales Old Testament Page 529
All Saints Reader: Shirley Scrutton

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

R/. Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! ®

Strong is his love for us; he is faithful for ever. ®

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 - 2:2
Reader: Anna Page New Testament Page 174

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 19: 1-10
New Testament Pages 70

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: clergy)

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...**30th** Edward Payne (Priest), Dennis Poynter; **31st** John Gent, Sylvia Tombs; **1st Nov** Mildred Downing; **2nd** Florence Barker; **3rd** Edith Saunders, Bert Cowley, Sophie Tester; **4th** George Burgess, Dora Grimsley... 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:

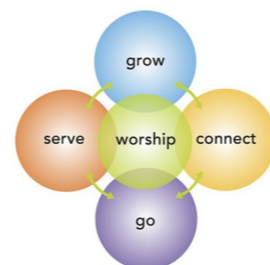
How great is your goodness, Lord, who does not shrink from letting your servant place you upon his heart! How great my own worth, since you have chosen me to have part in yours, to have you abiding in me, to love you as you deserve, above, myself.

Lord, take from me this hard heart, and give me a new, clean heart of flesh and blood. You who make my heart pure, take possession of mine and make it your home. Hold it and fill it, you who are higher than my topmost height, more inward than my inward being. You, the seal of holiness, beauty of all beauties, engrave on my heart your image and the imprint of your mercy. Be, O God, my eternal love and my inheritance. Amen.

(Baldwin of Canterbury)



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 30th 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 19: 1-10. Zacchaeus's interest in seeing what Jesus was like was caused by something more than idle curiosity. Unknown to him, the grace of God was working within him. He thought that he just wanted to see what Jesus was like. Jesus knew already what Zacchaeus was like and intended to see him and save him from his downward rush after earthly wealth. He would offer him eternal riches.

This is exactly what happened. Jesus entered the home and heart of Zacchaeus that day, and not only the home and heart of Zachaeus, but of his whole household. From that day Jesus had devoted followers in Jericho, and Christianity had a strong foothold in that ancient city.

We cannot have the slightest doubt that God wants us all in heaven. Neither can we doubt that he is sending out calls to us when we wander foolishly off the right road. Unfortunately for ourselves, we can refuse to listen to these calls. We can turn a deaf ear to God's offer of mercy and grace. If we do, one of our greatest sources of sorrow and regret in our future life, will be that, while we still had a chance to repent, our stupid stubbornness made us refuse to listen to our loving Father's calls to repentance.

Zacchaeus was not so stubborn or so foolish. The story of his conversion is put before us today, not as a matter of historical interest, but as a matter of vital spiritual interest. We are all sinners to a greater or lesser degree. Jesus is approaching each one of us today by means of this very lesson which we have read. Let each one of us try to see what Jesus is like. He is a loving brother who died that we might live, a fellow man who suffered tortures that we might have eternal joy. He was also the Son of God, the God of infinite love. At the same time, let Jesus see us as we really are. Let us expose and confess to him all our earthly weaknesses and injustices against God and neighbour. He will find a remedy for us. He will put us back once more on the straight road to heaven. Today, salvation will come to us and to our house. We will become again true sons of Abraham, true heirs to heaven.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 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

Monday: Feria

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

8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: ALL SAINTS DAY

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

Pray for: that aided by the prayers of the Saints we may follow Christ more faithfully

Wednesday: ALL SOULS DAY

9:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

10:30am Mass at All Saints

6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School

7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School

7:30pm PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles

Pray for: The Souls of the Faithful Departed

Thursday: St Martin of Porres, Bishop

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

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

Pray for: The Church in Peru

Friday: St Charles Borromeo, Bishop

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Pray for: St Stephen's House & All Seminaries

Saturday: Feria

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

NEXT SUNDAY: 32nd 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: 2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14

Psalm: 17 (part)

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 16 - 3: 5

Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38

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 5	Altar Servers	Team 1
Offertory	Younger	Young Christians	
Cleaning	Team -	Gardening	Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 22nd Oct): ?

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 Adebiyi
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.



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 CoFE 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:

- (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.

6. Comfort the Sick

The parable of the Good Samaritan is so powerful that the very term has passed into our language. Jesus tells us that when the Samaritan found the man who had been assaulted, he bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine, then brought him to a place where he could recover (Luke 10:34).

One of the glories of our Catholic Christian tradition is the many institutions founded over the centuries to care for the sick. Heroic women and men have dedicated their entire lives to caring for the sick and elderly, and it may be that God is calling you to such a vocation. That is not the path for most of us, but we all should be concerned about health care in our nation. As Christians we should do what we can to further just policies and also assist our hospitals, hospices and convalescent homes, many of which have a Christian foundation and some still do.

Yet institutional solutions are not enough. St John Paul II recovered from the attempt on his life, he wrote a moving exhortation on the meaning of human suffering, *'On the Christian Meaning of human suffering' (Salvifici doloris)*. In that remarkable document he wrote, "The institutions are very important and indispensable; nevertheless, no institution can by itself replace the human heart, human compassion, human love or human initiative, when it is a question of dealing with the sufferings of another" (SD 29). During his own recovery, the Holy Father noticed that often doctors talked about his "case" in front of him,

without including him in the conversation. They were no doubt very professional, but John Paul recognized how important it is for the patient to feel that he or she is more than just a "case".

Visiting the sick is a work of mercy that calls for special discernment. Illness isolates people, and visits and cards remind them that they are not alone. But we must also be sensitive to individual needs: some people prefer privacy when they are unwell. We need to be humble enough to ask those who are sick what help they want, rather than assuming that we know already. On the other hand, we may find that we are not making that visit to the hospital because we are uncomfortable with the fact that seeing someone we love who is ill reminds us of our own mortality. We should pray for our loved ones who are sick, and also pray for the light of the Holy Spirit to know how best to serve their needs, not our own.

We should also be mindful of the situation of people, often our neighbours, who have no friends or family at hand. Our parishes can offer many opportunities here: visits to rest homes, meals for those who have returned home after a stay at the hospital, arrangements to take those who do not drive to the doctor's office. If we notice that someone we usually see at church has not been around, perhaps a discrete contact is in order. Bringing Holy Communion to those who are not able to come to church is a wonderful ministry, and the Rector is only too happy to do so. Likewise while all of us are called to visit the sick, unless he is informed that someone is ill, he may not know and he would rather be told a thousand times than not at all.

We are told in the Book of Sirach: "Do not shrink from visiting a sick person, because for such deeds you will be loved" (Sir 7:35). The Good Samaritan gave the unfortunate man soothing medicine, and discerning care for others is Christ's prescription, too.

Of course we live in age where good ness is often derided and there have been any number of rather warped criticisms of Mother Teresa who did her best in what were abject and underfunded conditions to minister to the sick and dying. Even at the time of her work in Calcutta there were local objections from Hindu fundamentalists to the local authorities and the police. The local chief medical officer and a senior police officer went to Mother Teresa's home for the sick and dying to investigate the matter. Upon their arrival the story goes that Mother Teresa was so engrossed in her work that it took her some time before she realised that they were there.

When she eventually became aware of their presence she offered to show them her work, which they politely declined. There were a crowd of Hindu fundamentalists outside waiting with anticipation outside. The police officer is reported to have said, "Yes, I will send this woman away, but only after you have persuaded your mothers and sisters to come here to do the work that she is doing. This woman is a saint."

We may not be called to do the same work as Mother Teresa, although some of us may be so called; but each of us can do something to alleviate suffering and bring comfort and healing to those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.



"I see God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?"

- Mother Teresa