

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Today we celebrate this Mass in honour our Lord Jesus Christ, King and Centre of all hearts. He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead and of his Kingdom there will be no end. Meanwhile we submit ourselves to his rule and help to build his Kingdom here on earth.

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

2 Samuel: 5:1-3
 SMSG Reader: Shirley Scrutton Old Testament Page 229
 All Saints Reader: Sister Janet

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 122)

**R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say
 'Let us go to God's house.'**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
 'Let us go to God's house.'
 And now our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem. ®

Jerusalem is built as a city
 strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the Lord. ®

For Israel's law it is,
 there to praise the Lord's name.
 There were set the thrones of judgement
 of the house of David. ®

Second Reading

Colossians 1:12-20
 Reader: David Scrutton New Testament Page 168

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!
Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 23:35-43
 New Testament Page 76

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Fr Ross)

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, our King reigns from his Cross, he reigns in his eternal kingdom where he intercedes for us. Through our loving Redeemer let us make our petitions to our heavenly Father.

Intercessor: Let us pray that the Church may be faithful to Christ her Head, faithful to the inheritance of his sacrificial love. We pray for *Jonathan* our Bishop, that he with all his

priests and ministers may be good shepherds of those entrusted to their care.

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

We pray for the leaders of the nations that they may acknowledge the King of kings and bow to his will... for those who commit evil acts from ignorance of the truth... for nations and races that are divided... for the victims of slavery and human trafficking throughout the world...

We pray for wisdom and grace to serve all those who need our care... for those we have responsibility for, for those we live amongst and for those we do not know but pass by...

We pray that the Lord would have mercy on all who have fallen into sin... or into the power of cruel and unjust authority... or into sickness and infirmity... Fiddy Abraham, Andrea, Anna Archer, Henry Blake, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Liz Halliwell, Jane Holman, William Leese, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Diane West, Marian Wright...

We pray that the saving power of Christ, the first-begotten from the dead, may bring the faithful departed to eternal life... Margaret Hooton, Joan Short, Melvyn Woodhouse... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week... **20th** Henry Broughton, Mary Longhurst; **22nd** Jane Bull; **24th** William Read; **26th** Edwin Roberts; Alfred Blundell, Eileen Bainbridge... may they be granted the vision of glory which no mortal eye can see...

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

Celebrant: Father, grant our petitions, for you have called us out of darkness, and created a place for us in the kingdom of your beloved Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

I repeat this prayer now in my heart. I make it my own.

I keep on quietly repeating it

I repeat it, not only for myself, but for others.

I repeat it for those nearest and dearest to me.

I repeat it for those who do not

confess Christ as the Son of God.

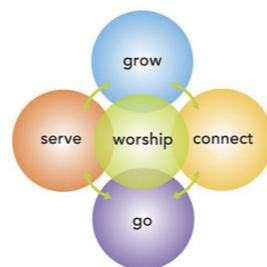
I repeat it for those who do not

believe in his Kingdom.

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
SUNDAY 20th November AD 2016



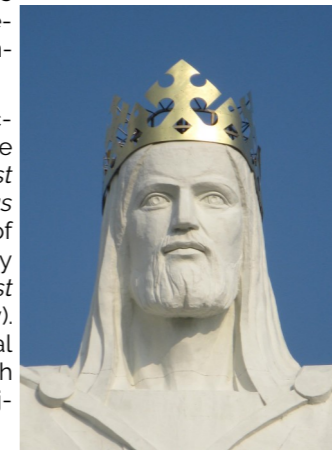
Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread"

The liturgy shows us many images of Christ, and yet in reality the liturgy shows forth only one Christ: the King, radiant, majestic, and divine.

With an ever-growing desire, all Advent awaits the "coming King"; in the chants of the breviary we find repeated again and again the two expressions "King" and "is coming." On Christmas the Church would greet, not the Child of Bethlehem, but "the King of peace gloriously reigning." Within a fortnight, there follows a feast which belongs to the greatest of the feasts of the Church year: the Epiphany. As in ancient times oriental monarchs visited their principalities, so the divine King appears in His city, the Church; from its sacred precincts He casts His glance over all the world... On the final feast of the Christmas cycle, the Presentation in the Temple, holy Church meets her royal Bridegroom with virginal love: "Adorn your bridal chamber, O Sion, and receive Christ your King!" The theme of the Christmas cycle may be summed up as Christ the King establishing His Kingdom of light upon earth!

If we now consider the Easter cycle, the lustre of Christ's royal dignity is indeed somewhat veiled by His sufferings; nevertheless, it is not the suffering Jesus who is present to the eyes of the Church as much as Christ the royal Hero and Warrior who upon the battlefield of Golgotha struggles with the mighty and dies in triumph. Even during Lent and Passiontide the Church acclaims her King. The act of homage on Palm Sunday is intensely stirring; singing psalms in festal procession we accompany our Saviour singing: "All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer King." It is true that on Good Friday the Church meditates upon the Man of Sorrows in agony upon the Cross, but at the same time, and perhaps more so, she beholds Him as King upon a royal throne. The hymn, "The royal banners forward go," is the more perfect expression of the spirit from which the Good Friday liturgy has arisen. Also characteristic is the verse from Psalm 96, "Say among the heathen that the Lord reigned," to which the early Christians always added, the response: "Proclaim among the Gentiles: the Lord reigns from upon the tree of the Cross!" During Paschal time the Church is so occupied with her glorified Saviour and Conqueror that kingship references become rarer; nevertheless, toward the end of the season we celebrate our King's triumph after completing the work of redemption, His royal enthronement on Ascension Day.

Neither in the time after Pentecost is the picture of Christ as King wholly absent from the liturgy. Corpus Christi is a royal festival: "Christ the King who rules the nations, come, let us adore" (Invit.). In the Greek Church the feast of the Transfiguration is the principal solemnity in honour of Christ's kingship, "The highest glory of Christ the King Eternal" (Invitatory). Finally at the sunset of the ecclesiastical year, once again the Church awaits with burning desire the return of the King of Majesty.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 5:00pm Ordination of Fr Benjamin Drury
 at Oxford: New Hinksey, St James
 Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Tuesday: St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
 Pray for: all Church Musicians

Wednesday: St Clement I, Pope & Martyr

Rector at a planning group for a proposed national clergy conference in 2017
 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: Pope Francis and for the Unity of the Church

Thursday: St Andrew Dung Lac & Companions, Martyrs

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: The Church in Vietnam

Friday: St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
 1:00pm Preparation for Christmas Fayre
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: The Church in Egypt, especially the Coptic Church as it continues to face persecution

Saturday: Feria

9:30am - 5:00pm Christmas Fayre
 at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

NEXT SUNDAY: THE 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
6:00pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3 ~ Psalm: 122 (part)
 2nd Reading: Colossians 1: 12-20
 Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43

Sidesmen	Team 3	Altar Servers	Team 1
Offertory		Handbell Ringers	
Cleaning	Team - 3	Gardening	Team 3
Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 116			
Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 12th Nov): 34			

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 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.



PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



this every week. Please do consider this, and see the Rector or Churchwardens if you would be willing to join a rota. Thank you.

All Saints Heating: 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.

The Rector met with the heating company that will be installing the new system ten days ago. There was some unexpectedly good, news in that the current system will not need to be disconnected until the new system is up and running, so we shall not be without heat on Sundays.

Weekend Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham: following the last two years' successful pilgrimages we have once again booked to go to the Shrine. In 2017 we shall be going on the weekend of Friday 18th - Sunday 20th August. Leaflets with Booking Forms are available in both our PARISH Churches for those who wish to book a place. The deposit is £30 to be paid at the time of booking (if paying by cheque please make them payable to 'The PCC of Stony Stratford with Calverton.' It would be really helpful if all booking forms and deposits could be placed in an envelope marked 'Walsingham 2017' and given to the Rector.

If you have never been to Walsingham before this is the best introduction you can get as it gives time and space to experience both the ministry of the Shrine to us as Pilgrims and time to ourselves for taking a step out of the normal routine of life into a place of peace and deeper realisation of God's presence. If you would like to know more please see Fr Ross, Sister Janet or any of those who were on pilgrimage this year.

Retiring Collection to defray the costs of the Christingle Service: as is our custom, from next Sunday we shall begin to raise funds to ensure that the collection taken at the Christingle Service goes to our **Advent Charity** which this year will be for the Winter Night Shelter Project for Rough Sleepers in Milton Keynes. Further details of this registered charity can be found at: www.winternightsheltermk.com Advent Boxes will be available from today in both churches.

Vergers: in both our churches assist the Rector at the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony and at Funeral Rites. Mr Eric West fulfils this role at All Saints. Until very recently Mr Keith Hindley has fulfilled this role at St Mary & St Giles, but has now decided that it is time to step down from a role that he has fulfilled diligently and with very good humour and grace over the past years. We have been fortunate in that all those who have served as Verger in our Parish Churches have been warm and welcoming to people while patient at times when those new to church at the Occasional Offices seem not to realise where they are!

Filling Keith's position was not going to be an easy task, but I am delighted to announce that I was able to relay to a very pleased PCC on Thursday of last week that the person who will succeed Keith in this role is Mrs Kath Hindley. Please pray for her as she takes up her duties.

The Works of Mercy...

We continue a series of brief articles considering the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

1. To instruct the ignorant; 2. to counsel the doubtful; 3. to admonish sinners; 4. to bear wrongs patiently; 5. to forgive offences willingly; 6. to comfort the afflicted; 7. to pray for the living and the dead.

1 To counsel the doubtful

What does this mean? How can we live this work of mercy?

Many people today are confused. They might be looking for meaning in their lives, for answers to the biggest ques-

Light's Switch On Day: is now less than a week away. As usual we shall be holding our annual Christmas Fayre. Please do consider helping to set up and/or clear away on the Friday or Saturday. A list of stalls etc needing help is posted on the free-standing noticeboard in St Mary & St Giles and even if you can only spare one hour that help would be very much appreciated for every hour offered by each of us will soon add up to a marvellous effort.

This year we are holding a 'Grand Raffle' with a major first prize and four other good prizes. We need your help to sell as many tickets as possible. Raffle tickets began to be distributed last week - there are plenty more available for those who need more or who were not here last week to take a bundle with them.

This raffle if we sold all the tickets could make over £4000 for EACH Restoration Fund at St Mary & St Giles & at All Saints. Our Treasurer would be pleased if we could have some volunteers to sell tickets from a stall outside the church in the High Street on a Saturday mornings. If you are able to help please have a word with David Williams, Hazel Wallis or Sister Janet who are organising this between our churches. *Thank you.*

Remembrance Sunday Collection: I have been asked to relay the news that the collection at last Sunday's Act of Remembrance raised £411.19, which was an increase of over £30 on the previous year. Attendance was estimated to be over 350.

Grand Christmas Draw: As everyone leaves Church this morning they will be given a bundle of 10 books of raffle tickets for this draw which has a first prize of £1000 which will be drawn at the end of the Carol Service at All Saints on the 18th December. If we manage to sell all the tickets we shall raise £10,000 and the profits will be divided equally between both our Parish Churches Restoration Funds. We ask that everyone participates and seeks to sell tickets to those they know.

We would also appreciate it if we could have volunteers to sell tickets between 9:30am and 12:00noon on Saturdays between now and the 18th December outside the High Street Door.

Extra supplies of tickets are available this morning for those who want to try and sell larger quantities, and if you run out extra tickets can be obtained from Hazel Wallis at St Mary & St Giles and from Sister Janet at All Saints. Please could all sold ticket stubs with names, addresses and 'phone numbers of purchasers on them be handed in to the same people along with monies from sales.

Local Council rules allow us to hold any number of these raffles and to raise up to £250,000 in any given year. This has the potential to enable us to raise much larger sums for our Restoration Funds which maintain the Fabric of the Church and fund special projects.

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.

Sound System: The Rector asked for help with the sound system at St Mary & St Giles some months ago for several weeks, but there were no volunteers. While he was away, and because he has been dealing with it for months no one switched it on or put the lectern microphone out. The lack of amplification meant that there were several complaints. It is to be hoped that this encourages volunteers to come forward. Full training for what is a very simple system to operate will be given and if we had 8 or 9 volunteers we could then have a rota so that the duties were spread over a two month period rather than one person doing

tions (Why do I exist? Is there a purpose for my life? What is my calling in life?, etc.). Sometimes, a person simply needs someone that they can talk to, that they can "bounce ideas off." If we are willing to listen, we have the first tool for living this work of mercy.

But being a good listener is not enough. It is also important that we understand the context of a person's questions. Where are they coming from? What was their childhood like? Do they have a strong family support system? Do they have a religious background? Do they currently practice their faith, and is it The Faith, rather than some false understanding of it?

All of this is important if we are to be able to provide good counsel. Why does it matter? Because we have to know where a person IS, if we are to help him to find the way to where he is GOING. Our goal in life is to get to heaven, to spend all eternity in the presence of Almighty God: All Joy, Peace, Love, Happiness, Friendship is ultimately found in union with Our Lord Jesus Christ — beginning in this life, and being fulfilled forever in eternal life. The ultimate goal of "Counsel the Doubtful" is to help the person who we are counselling to find Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. When they find the Lord Jesus, and embrace Him and His Teachings as the Way, they will find the real meaning and purpose in life. In what practical ways can we counsel the doubtful?

- Be a good listener and provide counsel to our own children, and other children within our circle of family and friends.
- Be a good listener to those struggling in their marriages, and encourage them to seek to base their marriages more perfectly on Christ.
- Be a good listener to those who are struggling with unplanned pregnancies, and help them to see their unborn child as a blessing from the Creator, rather than as a burden to be eliminated.
- Be a good listener to those struggling with various emotional struggles, and help them to turn to the Lord Jesus for healing of their emotions. It helps if we understand the way our emotions are supposed to work.
- Be a good listener to those who are struggling to make ends meet, to those who are the victims of injustice, slander and gossip, and to those who need a listening ear.
- Be a good listener to those who are sick or terminally ill, to those who caring for sick loved ones, and to those who are dying.

Above all, when we are seeking to practice the Spiritual Work of Mercy of Counsel the Doubtful, we need to pray to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, so that we may be open to His Guidance — so that the Holy Spirit can speak through us to give guidance to those in need of good counsel.

Parochial Church Council News: at its meeting last Thursday:

- Received the news that the faculty had been obtained for works to the trees in St Mary & St Giles Churchyard
- Agreed to the appointment of a new architect (acceptance awaited before announcement)
- Agreed to the terms of All Saints Insurance Renewal
- Received news that 2017's Parish Share will be over £60,000 and agreed to launch a Stewardship Renewal Programme from Advent Sunday
- Received reports on the meetings that the Rector had been involved in with regard to the new Mission Post; the Homeless/Rough Sleepers situation, and reports regarding our Mission Visiting Teams, work with children and young people, Safeguarding matters and the work of our Church School...not least with regard to the merger of Queen Eleanor with SMSG which is now agreed and will take effect from 1st January 2017
- Was informed by the Rector that, due to the likelihood of major developments in 2017, his Sabbatical would now have to be deferred until 2018