

Eddi's Service (AD 687)

Eddi, priest of St. Wilfrid
In his chapel at Manhood End,
Ordered a midnight service
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,
And the night was stormy as well.
Nobody came to service,
Though Eddi rang the bell.

"Wicked weather for walking,"
Said Eddi of Manhood End.
"But I must go on with the service
For such as care to attend."

The altar-lamps were lighted, –
An old marsh-donkey came,
Bold as a guest invited,
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,
The water splashed on the floor,
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock
Pushed in through the open door.

"How do I know what is greatest,
How do I know what is least?
That is My Father's business,"
Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

"But – three are gathered together –
Listen to me and attend.
I bring good news, my brethren!"
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger
And a Stall in Bethlehem,
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,
They listened and never stirred,
While, just as though they were Bishops,
Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes
And the windows showed the day,
And the Ox and the Ass together
Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,
Said Eddi of Manhood End,
"I dare not shut His chapel
On such as care to attend."

Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling wrote about St Wilfrid and Selsey and in this poem he refers to a service at Manhood End (Selsey), that was taken by Wilfrid's chaplain Stephen of Ripon, referred to as Eddi in the poem.



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Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:
May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

Confessions: May be made after Masses or by appointment.

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

To Hire the Parish Hall: 'phone Nicola Crompton on 07979 653515



The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford with All Saints, Calverton

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15th January AD 2017

The Gospel presents to us the scene of the meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist at the Jordan River. The narrator is the eye witness, John the Evangelist, who, before he was a disciple of Jesus was a disciple of the Baptist, together with his brother James, with Simon and Andrew, all are from Galilee, all are fisherman. So, John the Baptist sees Jesus, who steps forward from the crowd and, inspired from above, sees in Jesus the one sent by God. For this reason he points him out with these words: "Behold the lamb of God, he who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The word that is translated with "take away" literally means "to relieve," "to take upon oneself." Jesus has come into the world with a precise mission: to free it from the slavery of sin, taking humanity's faults upon himself. In what way? By loving. There is no other way to defeat evil and sin than with the love that moves one to give the gift of his life for others. In the testimony of John the Baptist, Jesus is given the traits of the Servant of the Lord, who "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4), to the point of dying on the cross. He is the true Passover lamb, who immerses himself in the river of our sin, to purify us.

What does it mean for the Church, for us, today to be disciples of Jesus the Lamb of God? It means putting innocence in the place of malice, love in the place of force, humility in the place of pride, service in the place of prestige. It is good work!

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 and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

Here is the
LAMB OF GOD
who takes away the sin
of the world!
John 1:29



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 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 every £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.

At St Mary & St Giles this week:

Sidesmen Team 3
Serving Team: Team 4
Offertory bearers: Clive & Liz Williams
Church Gardeners: Team 3
Church Cleaners Team 1

Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday: 135

Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior: 22

Prayer Thought

Our liturgy today reminds us that God sent his Son so that his salvation could reach to the ends of the earth, not just a limited group of men. Jesus is the Lamb of God who brings salvation by taking away the sin of the world.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 Isaiah 49:3,5-6

Reader at SMSG: Anna Page
Reader at All Saints: Rita Oakley

(Old Testament Page 618 in the Bibles) is a prophecy in which we hear God tell his servant that he has chosen him to be a light to all nations. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. He is the light of the world.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 40)

**R/. Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. ®

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. ®

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. ®

good, healthy dose of intolerance. It was G. K. Chesterton who once said that "Tolerance is the virtue of the man without convictions."

When we don't care about anything, then we can be as tolerant as we like. But the moment we start to care about something or someone - be it our property, our wife, our children, or our neighbourhood - then we find ourselves very quickly becoming intolerant: intolerant of anything or anyone which would harm or endanger that which we love.

The late great English writer and theologian, Dorothy Sayers, wrote of tolerance:

"In the world it is called Tolerance, but in hell it is called Despair, the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die."

And sadly, that does not just describe most people in the world today, but some Christians as well. How many Christians just don't care about anything but themselves? The apathy, indifference and lack of love among some Christians brings us right back to the words of Jesus in Rev. 2: 20.

The problem is that tolerant has changed its meaning. It used to mean 'I may disagree with you completely, but I will treat you with respect. Today, tolerant means - 'you must approve of everything I do.' There's a difference between tolerance and approval. Jesus accepted everyone no matter who they were. He doesn't approve of everything I do, or you do, or anybody else does either. You can be accepting without being approving.

Rick Warren

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Today:

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Intention: Our Parishes at the beginning of 2017

Monday: Feria

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

8:00pm Bellringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: St Antony, Abbot

10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints

Intention: For all Religious Orders

Wednesday: Confession of St Peter

6:00pm Rector available in Parish Office for the arrangement of the Occasional Offices

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Intention: For the Unity of the Church

Thursday: St Wulfstan, Bishop

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

11:15am Rector meets with Council Officer seeking Almshouses expansion

7:30pm Parochial Church Council

Intention: For the Diocese of Worcester

Friday: St Sebastian, Martyr

8:00am Mass at SMSG Sch (North Site)

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Intention: For those facing martyrdom today

Saturday: St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday:

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Intention: Our Parishes

Readings next Sunday

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6

Psalm: 39 (part)

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1: 1-3

Gospel: John 1: 29-34

But those who hope in the
LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles,
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31

Is it wrong to be Intolerant?

Secular humanists and others celebrate the idea of tolerance as the greatest good, but many Christians appear to have been caught up in this Gadarene rush. It is as if the greatest virtue is now tolerance and the greatest vice is intolerance.

Yet is it such a virtue? As Christians we place great store in what the Scriptures teach. So, in considering the matter of tolerance, it is time to get biblical. Each day, as we read the Scriptures we read words of Jesus in which intolerance is expected. Yes, that's right...the Jesus that so many want to categorise as a warm-hearted, inclusive spiritual teacher at times expects intolerance. In his words to the Church in Thyatira he praises their 'faith, service and perseverance,' but he goes on to harshly rebuke them:

"Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols" (Revelation 2: 20). These believers were tolerating something which they should have been very intolerant about.

The truth is, God cannot and does not tolerate anything that is evil, and neither should we. There are plenty of other biblical texts one could appeal to in this regard. For example, in Habakkuk 1: 13 we read this about the Lord: "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing."

A holy and righteous God can have nothing to do with sin and evil. He certainly does not tolerate it. And neither should we embrace anything and everything. Some things we must actually resist. As St Paul writes, it in Romans 12: 9, "Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

Yes, we are to hate certain things, just as God hates certain things. We are not to tolerate sin, but are to ac-

tively oppose it, certainly in our own lives, but in society at large as well. If we do not oppose evil, and remain tolerant of evil, then we are asking for trouble. If we continue to teach about tolerance and intolerance instead of good and evil, we will end up with tolerance of evil.

Biblical Christianity has always been intolerant in the right sense of the word. For example, the story of Christian mission has been one of intolerance: hating evil practices that harm people, and being intolerant of idolatrous and deadly customs and practices. Missionaries in India for example opposed the evil practice of suttee.

In today's amoral mindset, such wholesale condemnation of this custom would be seen as "intolerant". Well, there are plenty of Indian women today who are very grateful indeed for such intolerance.

Once upon a time we knew what to do. A British district officer, coming upon a scene of suttee, was told by the locals that in Hindu culture it was the custom to cremate a widow on her husband's funeral pyre. He replied that in British culture it was the custom to hang chaps who did that sort of thing. There are many great things about India, but suttee was not one of them. In today's moral mindset it can seem as if we are no longer capable of being 'judgmental' and 'discriminating'. Add to that, 'intolerant'. And all these qualities go together. We are in fact to judge, to discern, and on many occasions, be intolerant. But all these elements of a healthy and properly functioning society can seem in short supply nowadays.

How about a little less tolerance and a little more common sense? How about we start being less worried about being "fair" to people behaving badly and a little more worried about those being hurt by those behaving badly?

For too long we have been too tolerant - especially of all the wrong things. We are in desperate need of a

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. ®

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Reader at SMSG: Mary Sagers

(New Testament Page 138 in the Bibles) we begin a series of readings from an important letter of St Paul. In it Paul greets the Church of Corinth and prays that God give them grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

John 1: 29-34

(New Testament Page 78 in the Bibles) John the Baptist presents Jesus to the Jews and to us as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, through his death and resurrection.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor: Fr Tunji)

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, Anna Archer, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Larry Francis, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Wendy... that

the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died:.. Henry Blake, Ronald Sefton, Eileen Haseldine, William Leese, Jeremy Tapper and to those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week....**16th** Doris Redgrave, Elizabeth Richards; **17th** Andrew Hailstone, Harold Weygood; **19th** Claude Bailey, Lynette Muckley, James Plummer; **21st** Alfred Blundell, Elsie Martin, Clara Read, Charles Edwards, Barbara Fountaine, Peter Hooper, Lottie Taylor, Molly Fossey... 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.

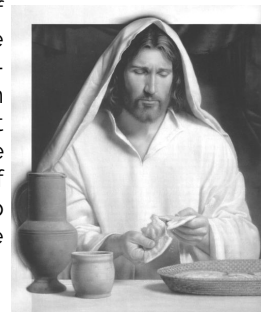
Let us pray for ourselves and our community:..... that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

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 Jesus you have given yourself to us in this sharing in your Body and Blood. You made this possible by giving yourself for us in the sacrifice of your love; though innocent you suffered for our sake and so took away our sin. Now we are fed and strengthened with this same sacrificial love. Lord keep us always in the fellowship of this meal. Liberate us from all self-concern which dulls your Spirit within us. May we bring the joy of your fellowship with us to all we meet. Amen.



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

This Week: at St Mary & St Giles this week major works will be undertaken to trees in the churchyard. Eventually all six lime trees will be felled - two of them this week. The very large Lawson Red Cedar (the third tree from the lychgate) will also be felled. Major crown reduction is to be undertaken to trees overhanging the churchyard path and some of the yews overhanging neighbouring properties. A major bifurcated bough on the large Wellingtonia outside the west door will be removed. All other trees will see staged crown reduction - 10% this year and the same over the next four years.

This means that the path from the Market Square to the High Street will be closed for much of next week, and when the Wellingtonia bough is being removed the west door will be inaccessible.

Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 2017: Thank you to all those who have booked places so far. Please could all completed booking forms along with deposits of £30 per person be given to Fr Ross as soon as possible, so that we can give the Shrine an early indication of numbers and secure rooms. If you have not been to Walsingham before this is an ideal introduction to the wonderful ministry of the Shrine. Fr Ross or any previous pilgrims will be only too pleased to tell you more.

Arrangements for the Parish Mass of Confirmation: The Bishop will be Confirming at All Saints when we observe Candlemass, at 7:30pm on 1st February 2017.

We have four adults and two young people preparing for Confirmation. This will be a really special occasion for them and I hope that as many of us as possible will make every effort to sup-

port them with our presence at Mass in All Saints on this day.

This is also the first Confirmation to have been held in All Saints for at least 55 years, and is a real sign of the recent growth in the worshipping community.

As is our custom there will be a reception held afterwards in church and Diane West, Ann Westley and Joyce Todd amongst others would be very grateful to receive offers of savoury and sweet finger food.

Advent Boxes: If you have forgotten to return your box today, please do by the end of January. This enables our Treasurer to send in the amount raised to the Winter Night Shelter as soon as possible.

Looking ahead: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which, this year, is observed on 1st March. Easter Day is observed on 16th April. In the last few years trying to hold a Lent Course on a weekday evening has proved not to be a good time to get a sufficient number of people to attend; and yet there is a clear need for such a Course. Fr Ross would be grateful to hear from people as to what day/time of the week would be possible for a goodly number of people to participate.

New Diocesan Initiative: Growing disciples has been recognised as a major priority. I am asking for your help and support for a new prayer resource which seeks to encourage and nurture the everyday discipleship of people in our churches by focussing on what they do Monday - Saturday. To make this work, I am hoping you will identify, approach and encourage at least 1 potential contributor.

The new resource is called 'Whatever you do' and is a prayer calendar. The vision is to connect our everyday lives and our faith by affirming that

wherever we find ourselves Monday-Saturday, God is with us and active and present and working for good in the world. (...Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" -1 Corinthians 10:31).

We are planning to launch Whatever you do from April. Our challenge is to find 52 people from as many different places of work as possible for the first year! In broad terms we are looking for people to offer a short reflection on what it is like to be in their place/role/industry ... and what could be prayed for/about. That place of work can be anonymous if required.

Their story and prayer points will be Tweeted and posted on Facebook daily for a week, as well as appear as a monthly reflection in The Door. A series of prayer points will form part of this as well as a 'collect' for use in a Sunday Service.

N.B. if anyone wishes to participate in this initiative then please see the Rector for the details and application form.

St Frances de Sales, Wolverton: on the 24th January Fr Bernard Barrett and the Faithful at St Francis de Sales will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Church. The Rector has been invited to attend the Mass to mark the occasion in the evening. Please pray for Fr Bernard and all his people.

Two Illustrated Talks: by Ray & Jenny Rowson - Part of StonyWords! 2017 & MK 50 celebrations.

1. 'Three Years that Changed the World' - The true story of Jesus Christ in pictures from the HOLY LAND. Tuesday 24th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm in The Parish Hall. Free entry.

2. 'Capernaum' - A pictorial tour of the town where Jesus taught and healed on the shore of the Sea of Gali-

lee. Thursday 26th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm in The Parish Hall. Free entry

Mission Visitors Meeting: On Thursday 26th January at 7.30pm a meeting will be held at the Rectory for all those involved in visiting new residents in their homes. Please see Sister Janet for further details or if you wish to part of this important mission initiative.

Saturday 28 January 3pm MK:50 Gala Concert: We will be celebrating 50 years of Milton Keynes and 50 years of the Father Willis pipe organ in the Church at SMSG. Come and hear the organ played as part of this FREE golden celebration concert, performed by local musicians, choirs and school children. A glorious afternoon of musical fun for all ages, featuring a song with original words for the occasion!

Next Coffee Morning: will be held at 10:00am in St Mary & St Giles on Saturday 4th February in aid of our Organ Appeal

Next Lunchtime Concert: will be performed at 12:30pm in St Mary & St Giles Church on Thursday 16th February. All are very welcome to this free concert. Hot drinks are provided and everyone is free to bring a packed lunch if they wish to do so.

Rough Sleepers: as you may have noticed there appeared to have been a period during December and the New Year with no Rough Sleepers in the lychgate. However, over the past week or so it appears that one or more new faces have appeared. The Rector has also become aware that some of the older faces are still using the lychgate during the day, and is meeting said people regularly. He is also now part of a group seeking to alleviate this problem with others from the Parish & Wolverton.