

Sermon On The Mount in Poem

by DeWayne Bricker

Blessed are the poor in spirit
On days one through seven
For God has promised them
All that's in heaven

Blessed are they that mourn
God has heard their cry
Comfort and love He sends
To help them all get by

Blessed are the meek
That feel less than their worth
Rise up and take heart
You will inherit the earth

Blessed are those that hunger and thirst
For righteousness willed
Take heart and be strong
For you will be filled

Blessed are the merciful
Compassion and love abound
Mercy shall be shown to them
When the terror of night comes round

Blessed are the pure in heart
When evil on them doth trod
Be strong and do not faint
For you all will see God

Blessed are the peacemakers
That stand against the hate
They are the sons of God
That dwell within the gate

Blessed are those who are persecuted
For righteousness and her young
The kingdom of heaven is theirs
Their songs will all be sung

Blessed are you that endure
The insult and the lie
Your reward will be great
And with me you all will fly

You are the salt of the earth
But if salt shall lose its taste
It all is good for nothing
But for garbage and for waste

You are the light of the world
A light can not be hid
Put it atop the stand
And boldly remove the lid

So, let your light so shine
On days one through seven
That all may see your works
And give glory to God in heaven



The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29th January AD 2017

At the end of the Gospel of the Beatitudes, the poor appear as the privileged ones in the discourse, the definitive, true protagonists in the story.

The first recipients of the Beatitudes are, in fact, the 'poor in spirit', an expression that indicates those who have their hearts and consciences directed intimately to Our Lord. They are the expression of the just who are tried by moments of suffering and difficulties. However, they are called 'blessed' because God's merciful and compassionate gaze rests on them. These are the poor that the Bible text really refers to. The poor in the Bible are the humbled, the '*anawim*', who bear a burden on their shoulders. They are given God's favour and because of this the Word identifies them as just, meek and humble. All kinds of attitudes are included in the eight beatitudes. This way the true significance of the 'just poor' is revealed; the ones who don't confide mainly in themselves but in God. The poor are those who detach themselves concretely and interiorly from the possession of persons and things and above all of themselves. The poor don't find security in the gods of this world like success, power or pride but the true Lord God in Heaven.

Thus, the poor, meek and humble become a scandal before the world because they witness that we can found our lives on God, with the same certainty of His constant presence and so they confirm the existence and works of God. Each one of us is invited to verify where our certainty rests and if our daily life and actions proclaim God's efficacious presence in the world.



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)

Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148

Email: rector@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

Associate Minister: Fr Tunji Adebiji - Tel: 01525 790954

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr Joseph Loveday SSC - Tel: 01327 351511

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

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

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 5
Serving Team:	Team 2
Offertory bearers:	Bellringers
Church Gardeners:	Team 3
Church Cleaners	Team -

Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday: 152

Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior: 26

Prayer Thought

Jesus tells us in today's gospel that the poor in spirit are blessed by God. When we come together to celebrate the memory of Jesus' death and Resurrection we come as poor having nothing to offer to the Father save what he has given in to our hands.

The Collect

Let us pray.

O God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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 Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Reader at SMSG: Doreen Brooks

Reader at All Saints: Eilish Friedman

(Old Testament Page 790 in the Bibles) is a prophecy in which God says that when redemption comes it will be those humble in their own eyes who will receive it. Jesus recalls this teaching.

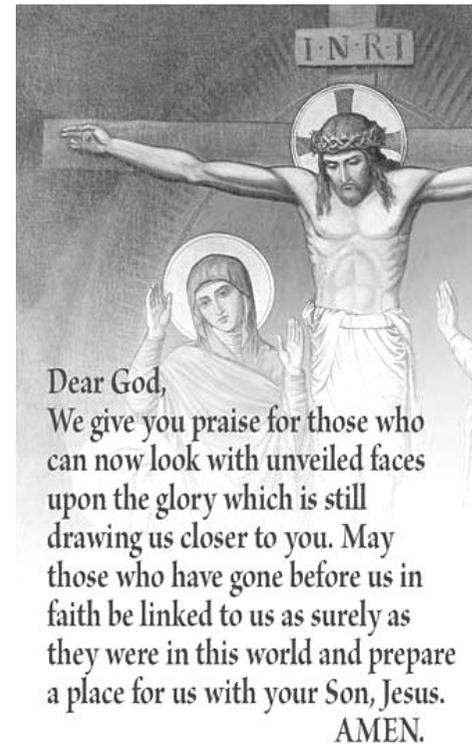
The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 146)

R/. How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. ®

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. ®

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. ®



Milton Keynes Food Bank: Thank you to everyone who helps provide much needed gifts of food to aid the work of this important charity.

The basket to place gifts of non-perishable food is situated near to the oak table in St Mary & St Giles, and these are taken to the local Food Bank for distribution to those in real need as the basket becomes full or once a fortnight (whichever is sooner).

Those wishing to make donations to this project at All Saints can ask the clergy to add them to the basket at St Mary & St Giles. Thank you.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Today:

4th 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 John Bosco

10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints

7:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal in All Saints

Intention: The Church's mission to children and young people

Wednesday:

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMASS)

2:00pm MK New Communities Group

7:30pm MASS OF CONFIRMATION at ALL SAINTS

Intention: For those to be Confirmed

Thursday: Feria

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

11:15am Calverton Almshouses Charity

Intention: For the Sick

Friday: Feria

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

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Intention: For Rough Sleepers

Saturday: St Gilbert of Sempringham

10:00am Coffee Morning in Parish Hall

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday:

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

11:00am FAMILY MASS

& Holy Baptism at All Saints

Intention: Our Parishes

Readings next Sunday

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10

Psalm: 112 (part)

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 2: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16



be followed with the evening Masses on the first three days of Holy Week.

Praying for the Dead

The earliest Scriptural reference to prayers for the dead comes in the second book of Maccabees. The books of Maccabees were among the last written books found in the Old Testament. They recount the struggle of the Jewish people for freedom against the Seleucid Empire, around 100-200 years before the birth of Christ. They are written from an Orthodox Jewish point of view. The second book of Maccabees tells how Judas Maccabee, the Jewish leader, led his troops into battle in 163 B.C. When the battle ended he directed that the bodies of those Jews who had died be buried. As soldiers prepared their slain comrades for burial, they discovered that each was wearing an amulet taken as booty from a pagan Temple. This violated the law of Deuteronomy and so Judas and his soldiers prayed that God would forgive the sin these men had committed (II Maccabees 12:39-45).

This is the first indication in the Bible of a belief that prayers offered by the living can help free the dead from any sin that would separate them from God in the life to come. It is echoed in the New Testament when Paul offers a prayer for a man named Onesiphorus who had died: "May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day"(II Timothy 1:18). The cave-like tombs under the city of Rome, which we call catacombs, bear evidence that members of the Roman Christian community gathered there to pray for their fellow followers of Christ who lay buried there. By the fourth century prayers for the dead are mentioned in Christian literature as though they were already a longstanding custom.

The practice of praying for the dead is rooted first in Christian belief in the everlasting life promised in Jesus' teachings and foreshadowed by his disciple's experience that God had raised him from the dead. After death, even though separated from our earthly body, we yet continue a personal existence. It is as living persons that God invites us into a relationship whose life transcends death.

Praying for the dead has further origins in our belief in the communion of saints. Members of this community who are living often assist each other in faith by prayers and other forms of spiritual support. Christians who have died continue to be members of the communion of saints – as the Church of England teaches in her Funeral Rite the Church comprises those "living and departed in the Lord Jesus.". We believe that we can assist them by our prayers, and they can assist us by theirs.

Our prayers for the dead begin at the moment of death. Often family members will gather in prayer around the bedside of the person who has died. The Funeral Rites of the Church include a Vigil Service for the deceased, which can be held in the home, in the church, or in a funeral director's chapel of rest. Those Rites also include a Funeral (or Requiem) Mass and the Rite of Committal (which generally takes place at the burial site). The prayers express hope that God will free the person who has died from any burden of sin and prepare a place for him or her in heaven. Death remains a mystery for us – a great unknown. Yet Christian language evokes a hopeful response in the face of death, an assurance that our love, linked to Christ's love, can help bridge whatever barriers might keep those whom we love from fully enjoying the presence of a loving and life-giving God.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Reader at SMSG: Pat Eales

(New Testament Page 138 in the Bibles) we learn that most of the early Christians at Corinth were from among the poorer classes. Paul recalls this fact to remind the Church there that it is not those who are wise in their own eyes God calls to the faith.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

The Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a
(New Testament Page 3 in the Bibles) we listen to the beatitudes. May our lives be inspired by them.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor: Dai Evans)

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, Muriel Francis, Eileen Haseldine, William Leese, Cyril Millward, Ronald Sefton, Jeremy Tapper and for

those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**29th** Olive Savage, William Richardson, Frances Reeve, Martin Mallows, Harry Coombs, Joan Smith; **30th** Alfred Styles, Violet Wilkes; **31st** Richard Maycock, Alice Eales, William Perry; **1st Feb** Peter Willett, Robert Gillman, Eric Foskett; **2nd** Hugh Johnson; **3rd** Lauretta Hindley; **4th** William Neal, Walter Poynter, Judith Heath, Arthur Webb... 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, through the wise man you said long ago, 'Whoever is simple, let him turn in here. Come and eat of my bread'. The bread you have given us is yourself, the bread of life, incarnate wisdom. Lord be with me and work with me that I may always do what is pleasing to you.



The site of the Sermon on the Mount overlooking the Sea of Galilee & the Golan Heights

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Receive the Holy Spirit



THIS WEDNESDAY: 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 support them with our presence at Mass in All Saints on this day. They are:

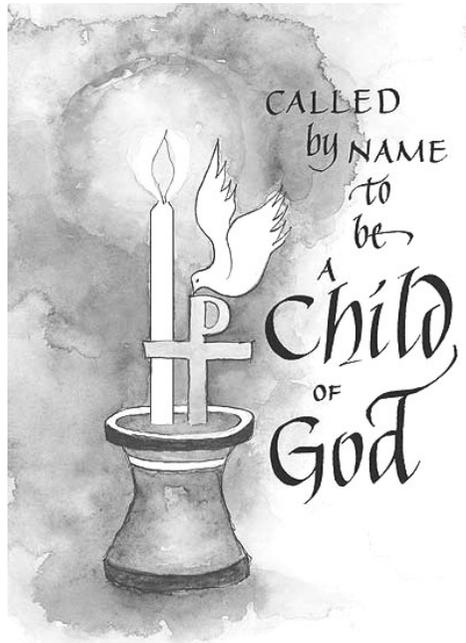
Imogen Mullins
Arthur Williams
Muncelle Dunn
Grenville Wiseman
Jake Wiseman
Rita Wiseman

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.

Holy Baptism at All Saints: Since the change of the time of worship at All Saints a number of young families worship with us as well as quite a number of other new people. This, accompanied by the Confirmation Mass this Wednesday is hugely encouraging. A further sign of growth at All Saints will occur on the Sunday after the Confirmation when, during the Family Mass at All Saints, on the 5th February we shall be Baptising Isla and Eoin Timms (Grandchildren of Steve & Doreen Thompson).



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 to pleased to tell you more.

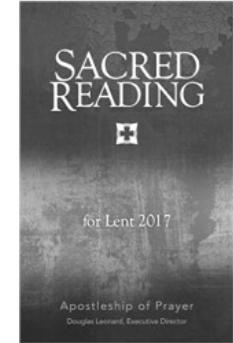
Advent Boxes: If you have forgotten to return your box today, please do by Tuesday at the latest. This enables our Treasurer to send in the amount raised to the Winter Night Shelter as soon as possible.

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.

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.

The Rector's recommended Lenten Companion/Book



This powerful Lenten prayer book from the Apostleship of Prayer engages and inspires readers with the Church's daily scripture readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, introducing Christians to the traditional spiritual devotion known as lectio divina, or "sacred reading", in a new way.

The cost per copy is £2.99, and orders may be placed with the Rector up to Sunday 5th February to ensure delivery by the beginning of Lent - Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March this year.

Palm Crosses: Please return your Palm Crosses to the Sacristy as soon as possible in order that our Sacristan John can burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

A Journey to the Cross: On Wednesday evenings during Lent the Mass will begin in the Parish Hall with a DVD presentation of one of a series of images of Christ's journey to the Cross. Each one includes reflective words, scripture references, a short prayer and concludes with one verse of a hymn. Mass will then following church. The same pattern will