

Continued from the previous page:

The prayer of the Church venerates and honours the *Heart of Jesus* just as it invokes his most holy name. It adores the incarnate Word and his Heart which, out of love for men, he allowed to be pierced by our sins. Christian prayer loves to follow *the way of the cross* in the Saviour's steps. The stations from the Praetorium to Golgotha and the tomb trace the way of Jesus, who by his holy Cross has redeemed the world.

"No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action. If the Spirit should not be worshiped, how can he divinize me through Baptism? If he should be worshiped, should he not be the object of adoration?

The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit. Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth. But the simplest and most direct prayer is also traditional, "Come, Holy Spirit," and every liturgical

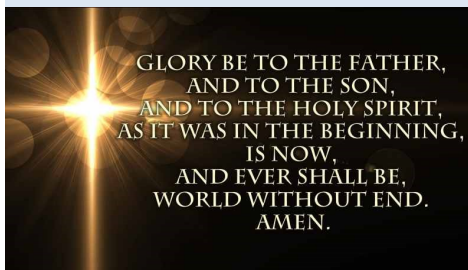
tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns; e.g.

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love." (from the Pentecost Sequence)

And as our own Bishop Jonathan prays (using words from the Byzantine 'Troparion' used at Evening Prayer (Vespers) at Pentecost:

"Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth, present everywhere and filling all things, treasure of all good and source of all life, come dwell in us, cleanse and save us, you who are All Good."

The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church.



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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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th February AD 2017

No less an authority than Christ himself calls his true followers the "salt of the earth." and the "light of the world." These are titles of honour, surely, and of the greatest distinction. Christ is putting his true follower on almost a level with himself. He is the Light of the world; he is the Salt of the earth. He gives us knowledge of the true nature of God, as shown by the Incarnation. He it is who gives this life its flavour, who gives this life its meaning, its preservation. By his death and resurrection he takes away the sting of death, and removes its eternal corruption, by the guarantee and promise of a resurrection to eternal life.

In true humility, we can all say that we are far from worthy of any such honourable titles. Yet if we think about things a little deeper then we may see that we are doing our little bit of Christ's work, in cultivating our own small corner of his vineyard. Parents who teach the Christian way of life to their children by word and example, are spreading the Christian faith. Those who work in office or factory, who show that they are Christians by their honesty and charity towards other, their respect for God, and the things of God, in their speech, are spreading their Christian faith. All those who show moderation in their lives, who give sacrificially to the Church and to other worthy causes and those in need, are working with Christ in bringing God's children back to their Father who is in heaven.

Unlike the salt that has lost its flavour, and the light that is kept under the bushel, the Christian who has lost their way can change their attitude, provided they are aided by God's grace which is never refused. They can become once more what they ought to be: an effective witness to their neighbour.

Life on earth is short. The demands of our Christian life may not always be easy, but we know that if we live up to them, we are other Christs. We are continuing his great work by our own good example to our neighbours, and we are giving glory to God, and are being prepared for the eternal light of heaven.

SALT & LIGHT



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)

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 1
 Serving Team: Team 3
 Offertory bearers: Brian & Fiona Collins
 Church Gardeners: Team 2
 Church Cleaners Team 1

Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday: 160
Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior: 31

Prayer Thought

In this Mass, as in every Mass, we come together as God's people, as the men and women he has freely chosen as his own. God in his love has given to each one of us the gift of faith and he wants us to let its light shine in good works before the men and women of our generation, so that they may be led to praise the Lord. In order to bear such witness to God we need a special relationship with him; we need God's grace. Let us prepare to meet our Lord in this holy sacrifice of the Mass so that we go forth with renewed vigour.

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 Isaiah 58:7-10

Reader at SMSG: Isa Thomas
 Reader at All Saints: Eilish Friedman

*(Old Testament Page 625 in the Bibles)
 God exhorts the Jews of old and Christians today to genuine religion expressed in good works.*

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 112)

R/. The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. ®

The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news;

hearts prayer to Christ in the form of invocations: Son of God, Word of God, Lord, Saviour, Lamb of God, King, Beloved Son, Son of the Virgin, Good Shepherd, our Life, our Light, our Hope, our Resurrection, Friend of mankind. . . .

But the one name that contains everything is the one that the Son of God received in his incarnation: JESUS. The divine name may not be spoken by human lips, but by assuming our humanity The Word of God hands it over to us and we can invoke it: "Jesus," "The LORD saves." The name "Jesus" contains all: God and man and the whole economy of creation and salvation. To pray "Jesus" is to invoke him and to call him within us. His name is the only one that contains the presence it signifies. Jesus is the Risen One, and whoever invokes the name of Jesus is welcoming the Son of God who loved him and who gave himself up for him.

This simple invocation of faith developed in the tradition of prayer under many forms in East and West. The most usual formulation, transmitted by the spiritual writers of the Sinai, Syria, and Mt. Athos, is the invocation, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners." It combines the Christological hymn of *Philippians* 2:6-11 with the cry of the publican and the blind men begging for light. By it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Saviour's mercy.

The invocation of the holy name of Jesus is the simplest way of praying always. When the holy name is repeated often by a humbly attentive heart, the prayer is not lost by heaping up empty phrases, but holds fast to the word and "brings forth fruit with patience." This prayer is possible "at all times" because it is not one occupation among others but the only occupation: that of loving God, which animates and transfigures every action in Christ Jesus.

Continued overleaf

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Today:
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 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: Ss Cyril & Methodius, Bishops
10:30am Mass + Elevesnes at All Saints
 7:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal in All Saints
Intention: The Unity of Eastern and Western Churches

Wednesday: Feria
 10:00am Meeting re: Rough Sleepers
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: For the Homeless

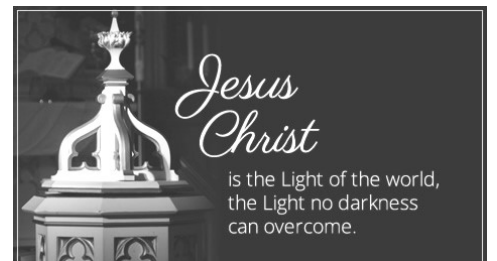
Thursday: Feria
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 4:00pm Meeting re V4 Crossings
Intention: For the Unemployed

Friday: Feria
8:00am Mass at SMSG Sch (North Site)
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Intention: For our Church School

Saturday: Feria
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday:
6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Septuagesima)
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
Intention: Our Parishes

Readings next Sunday
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 1st Reading: Sirach (Wisdom) 15: 15-20
 Psalm: 119 (part)
 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 2: 6-10
 Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37



receive any vouchers, then please pass them to Kieran or Fr Ross. We are collecting vouchers until 2nd May. Once all the vouchers are in and collated they will be used to get equipment for P.E. Thank you.

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.

Rough Sleepers: as you may have noticed there have been some nights when the lychgate has once more been used by Rough Sleepers during the past week. While we have, rightly, supported the MK Winter Night Shelter Project in MK, we should note that it only has the resources to care for 15 Rough Sleepers on any one night. With 29 'known of' rough sleepers in central Milton Keynes alone and others across the town then there is a huge gap in the provision. One of the major tasks is to be aware of the individuals caught up in this cycle of homelessness and the awful consequent addictions that accompany it. Ensuring that their whereabouts is known both to the authorities and to volunteers becomes essential if they are to be kept safe from harm. On numerous occasions I have been aware of the Police and other agency/charity staff seeking the where-

abouts of an individual rough sleeper. All too easily we can assume that this might be because of some criminal behaviour, but in reality it is to find out if they are safe or if they need medical care.



In November I was invited to be part of a group called LISP (Locally Identified Solutions and Practices) which originally covered Wolverton, but now covers Stony Stratford as well. On this group are local Police Officers, clergy and other charity workers who have local knowledge and who work together to keep each other informed of the movement of individual rough sleepers and to identify where solutions may be found. Please pray for the work of this important Local Initiative. Fr Ross

The Way of Prayer:

There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray "in the name" of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father.

The prayer of the Church, nourished by the Word of God and the celebration of the liturgy, teaches us to pray to the Lord Jesus. Even though her prayer is addressed above all to the Father, it includes in all the liturgical traditions forms of prayer addressed to Christ. Certain psalms, given their use in the Prayer of the Church, and the New Testament place on our lips and engrave in our

with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. ®
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. ®

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Reader at SMSG: Sharon Sherwood

*(New Testament Page 138 in the Bibles)
Paul tells the Corinthians that faith depends on divine power, not on human wisdom.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

*(New Testament Page 4 in the Bibles)
Jesus reminds all who believe in him of their high calling to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, called to bear witness to Christ through truly Christian lives.*

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: John Hickman)

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, Gerry Bonner, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Larry Francis, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Isla Mullins, Pete, Tony Oakley, Wendy...that the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died:... Henry Blake, Muriel Francis, Eileen Haseldine, Cyril Millward, and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**5th** Walter Taylor; **6th** Richard Perceval; **7th** Emma Taylor, Annie Maria Cowley; **9th** Christina George; **10th** James Roberts, Bill Barby; **11th** Edna Turner, Vi Grove, Anthony Redgrave... 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, the Holy Eucharist in which we have taken part is a sign of the peace and joy which you left with us before your departure to the Father. Make this sign become a reality in the world through us. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to the men and women we meet, to become in our own small way the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The glory will be yours, and your Father's, dear Lord. Remain always in our hearts, you who are the radiance of the Father's glory. Make us, frail and sinful as we are, instruments of that glory, by the good works which you inspire in our hearts and bring perfection through your grace works of love, justice and devotion to the concerns of others; for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Thank you: to everyone who made the Confirmation Service at All Saints such a special occasion for our newly Confirmed Christians. The Bishop is always pleased to visit the Parish, but this was the first time he had celebrated in All Saints Church; and he was most encouraged by the signs of new life and vitality at All Saints. With both of our churches being outward and missionally focused, there is every opportunity for the advancement of the Kingdom in the years to come in which we are all called to share. Please continue to pray for the newly Confirmed:

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

After the Mass had finished I told the Bishop that he had now preached in the pulpit that Blessed John Henry Newman preached in and celebrated at the altar at which Fr Edward Bouverie Pusey had celebrated Mass. The Bishop was clearly moved. As many of you will know the 'Tracts for the Times' were planned at Calverton by these notable 'Tractarians' (as they became known) along with, the then, Fr Henry Edward Manning on their visit to Calverton to meet with Fr Charles George Perceval, who was Rector of All Saints from 1821 until his death in 1858. Thus our Parish played a key part in the development of what became known as 'The Oxford Movement.' Both Newman and Manning were later to become Cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop Jonathan wants us to mark this important part of our parish's history with a major celebration for both Parish Churches, and it seems fitting to

do this next year when it will be 160 years since Rector Perceval died and when we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Re-Consecration of the now St Mary & St Giles Church.

As part of these celebrations it would be good to produce an historical record of the Parish. There have been small publications in the past, but these are now out of print. To that end, the Rector would be pleased to receive copies of historical documents, or the loan of former publications, and pointers as to what records are available online and still in print. *Thank you.*

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.

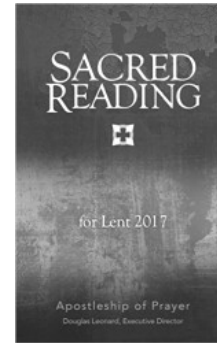
Advent Boxes: Our Treasurer, David, will be finalising the totals from the Boxes, the Carol Singing and the Christingle Service this week. If anyone still has a box at home it can be returned to St Mary & St Giles at 9:00am tomorrow morning.

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 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: Thank you to those who have returned their Palm Crosses so far. Those still to return them may hand them in to our Sacristan John in the Sac-

risty as soon as possible in order that he can burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Those returning them to All Saints should hand them to the Rector, who will then give them to John.

1st March - Ash Wednesday Masses: this year as well as the 9:30am Said Mass and the 7:30pm Sung Mass at St Mary & St Giles, I am proposing to celebrate an 11:30am Mass at All Saints to be followed by a Lent Lunch of Soup, Bread and Cheese. Offers of soup, bread & cheese and help would be appreciated. Donations will go towards our Lenten Charity: The Additional Curates Society.

Lent Boxes: Our Lenten Appeal this year will be for the Additional Curates Society and Lent Boxes have been ordered and will be available from next Sunday.

Lent Lunches: as well as the Lent Lunch on Ash Wednesday, there will also be lunches held on the Saturdays of Lent. A list of the dates can be found on the free-standing notice board at St Mary & St Giles, and offers of groups of volunteers to 'host' each lunch and provide soup and/or bread & cheese would be very much appreciated.

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 follow church. The same pattern will be followed with the evening Masses on the first three days of Holy Week.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers: It's that time of year again when our Church School is collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers 2017. If you, family members or friends shop in Sainsbury's and