

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to 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.

Confirmation: Finding a common suitable time for the preparation of adults desiring to be Confirmed has proved elusive this year. So the Rector is preparing candidates in their own homes. Please contact Fr Ross if you wish to be Confirmed. The Bishop will be Confirming at All Saints when we observe Candlemass, at 7:30pm on 1st February 2017, the first Confirmation to be held there for many, many years.

Rough Sleepers: A number of people have been asking where the rough sleepers that were in the lychgate have gone. The first thing to stress is that they have not been required to leave by Rector, Churchwardens or Parochial Church Council. Their 'move' has been brought on by the simple fact that the lychgate is open to the elements and it does not provide sufficient warmth or shelter from inclement weather now that the winter is upon us. One of the four people who were sleeping in the lychgate is, we are told, sleeping rough in an underpass in central Milton Keynes. The other three are still within the parish in a location known to the authorities, the Rector and others. They are sheltered and comparatively warm and keep the Rector fully informed as to their well-being.

Please continue to pray for these men and for all those sleeping rough in our Parish and elsewhere; as well as for all those charities and agencies that seek to minister to them.

Advent Boxes: Please return these NEXT Sunday, on the Feast of the Epiphany at either the Parish Mass or the Family Mass.

A number of you have asked if MK Night Shelter Project has Gift Aid forms. We have made enquiries, but unfortunately, have not been able to acquire any.

New Testament Greek course for beginners: hosted by 'Community Learning MK' - a ten-week starting on 11th January 2017. The course will cover the basics of the language and enable learners to understand short passages of scripture. It will run at the Rivers Centre in Bletchley each Wednesday from 7pm until 8.30. The cost will be £87 (concession £70). Learners are welcome to contact Philip Allsop for further information, or to visit our website: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/clmk. The Enrolments team can be contacted on 01908 556760.

Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148
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Associate Minister:

Fr Tunji Adebiyi - Tel: 01525 790954

Honorary Assistant Priests:

Fr Joseph Loveday SSC - Tel: 01327 351511

Church Army Officer:

Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148
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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: <http://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 SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

1ST January AD 2017



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)

Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."

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 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.

Prayer Thought

In AD 431 the Council of Ephesus decreed that the title 'Mother of God' (Theotokos) should be given to our Blessed Lady. All the honour we give to Mary flows from the unique honour God gave her in choosing her to be the mother of his Son. Today, on the first day of the new year, we celebrate this feast, and in so doing we acclaim that the fruit of her womb, Jesus, is God.

(STAND) **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
and also with you.

Penitential Rite

The priest invites the people to call to mind their sins and repent of them.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought and word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,**

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless the silence has just been observed. Then the priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer after Communion; at the end of which the people acclaim:

Amen.

All then pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

(STAND)

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

For the dismissal, the Priest faces the people and blesses them using a form appropriate to the Season:

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Communion Reflection:

Christ is born, give glory to God. Christ is on earth, be exalted. When we lost the image of God through transgression, the wise Creator fashioned us anew. When he saw mankind perishing, whom he had made with his own hands, he bowed the heavens and came down. From the holy Virgin Mary, he took human flesh and has been glorified. Reconciled to God through her, let us sing her praises, for she is truly the God-bearing mother.

(From the Byzantine Liturgy.)

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Today: 9:30am 11:00am Intention:	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles FAMILY MASS at All Saints Our Parishes at the beginning of 2017
Monday: 9:30am 8:00pm Pray for:	Ss Basil the Great, Gregory Nazianzen 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall Bellringing Practice the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped
Tuesday: 10:30am Intention:	The Most Holy Name of Jesus Mass + Elevenses at All Saints Fidelity to Christ & His Gospel
Wednesday: 7:30pm Intention:	Feria Mass at St Mary & St Giles Victims of Natural Disasters
Thursday: 10:30am Intention:	Feria Mass at St Mary & St Giles For Persecuted Christians
Friday: 7:30pm Intention:	Feria Parish Singers Rehearsal For the Faithful Departed
Saturday: 10:00am Pray for:	Feria 'Sweet Treat Saturday' Coffee Morning in aid of the SMSG Pipe Organ Fund Visitors to our Parish Churches
Next Sunday: 9:30am 11:00am Intention:	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles FAMILY MASS at All Saints Our Parishes

Readings next Sunday - The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading:	Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm:	72 (part)
2nd Reading:	Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6
Gospel:	Matthew 2: 1-12

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the priest interceding for the Church, the world, all those present at this celebration, and the Faithful Departed. At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer all join in the Great Amen.

(Page 7 of Mass Setting at SMSG)

Priest:for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer: (STAND)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Agnus Dei (KNEEL)

When sung at SMSG: (Page 8 of Mass Setting)

**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Cup of Hope, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Prince of Peace, you take away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Word of Love, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The priest shows the consecrated Host to the people, saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.

**✠ Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

An antiphon and/or hymns may be sung quietly as the people reverently receive Holy Communion. It is customary to kneel throughout the distribution of Holy Communion except when going forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament and upon returning to your place.

Prayer after Communion (STAND)

Let us pray.

**and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you our God. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the general absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Music for the Mass texts is available on a card in each of our Parish Churches for those who wish to use it)

The Kyries: When sung at SMSG: (Page 1 of Mass Setting)

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison, eleison.

The Gloria in excelsis ('Mass of Christ the Saviour' Setting)

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth,
peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth,
peace to people of good will.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.**

**you are seated at the right hand,
the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth,
peace to people of good will.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace on earth,
peace to people of good will. Amen. Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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 Numbers 6:22-27

(Old Testament Page 102 in the Bibles) gives us the special priestly blessing of Aaron and his descendants consisting of a triple invocation of Yahweh, God's divine name.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 67)

R/. O God, be gracious and bless us.

God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. ®

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth. ®

R/. O God, be gracious and bless us.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. ®

The Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

(New Testament Page 159 in the Bibles) Jesus was born of a woman and subject to the Jewish law. But he has freed men from slavery to the law and made us sons and heirs along with him.

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

In many and various ways
God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets;
but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.
Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 2:16-21

(New Testament Page 50 in the Bibles) Mary reflected on the events concerning her divine child and on the eighth day named him 'Jesus' as God had commanded.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As the Gospel is announced the people respond:

✠ ✠ ✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

(STAND)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(all bow during the next three lines)*
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(STAND)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, at this season, the kindness and love of God our Saviour has appeared among us. Let us

offer our prayers to God, not trusting in our own good deeds, but in his love for all mankind.

Intercessor: For the Church of God..... that we will joyfully proclaim and live our faith in Christ the Word who was born for us of the sinless Virgin Mary, let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

For the peace and well-being of the whole world..... that God's gifts to us in this life will lead us to salvation in the world to come, let us pray to the Lord:

For our community and our families, who welcome Christ into their lives.... that they learn to receive him in the poor and suffering people of this world, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who suffer from hunger, sickness or loneliness... Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Henry Blake, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Liz Halliwell, Jane Holman, William Leese, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Wendy... that the mystery of Christ's birth will bring them health and peace, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have died recently.....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week..1st Nicholas Dytham, Bernard Robert, Anne Hope-Lang;; 2nd Thomas Ambrose; 3rd Mary Battams; 4th Fanny Wace, Hilda Stock, Leonard Savage, Rose Barnes; 5th Katherine Payne, Michael Hawkins; 6th William Larman; 7th Bill Bainbridge... let us pray to the Lord:

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: Lord God, Mary gave birth to your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, in purity and love. May she bring our prayers before you, for we make them in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Gifts of Bread and Wine are brought to the altar by Anna & Rosie Page. Then priest says the Offertory Prayers as we sing a hymn (either standing or sitting). A collection is taken and brought forward. If the hymn has finished and the priest is still saying the Offertory Prayers the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

(STAND) Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.

The priest says the Prayer over the Gifts to which all respond:
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The priest sings a Eucharistic Preface appropriate to the celebration, after which all join in the acclamation: (KNEEL)

When sung at SMSG:

(Page 5 of Mass Setting)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me.'

Priest: The mystery of faith:

(Page 5 of Mass Setting at SMSG)