

POEM FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"FROM THE MOUNT OF OUR LORD'S GLORY"

From the mount of our Lord's glory,
Other mountaintops appear.
Peaks in concert sing this story:
Our salvation has drawn near.
Shine, O Lord, from every height
Rays of wisdom, peace, and light!

Moses from Mount Sinai preaches
Words in stone that shatter hearts.
Down into the depths he reaches,
Bidding us from sin depart.
Rise, repent, O Christian, see
Light and life on Calvary!

As Elijah battles evil,
Truth and lies on Carmel fight,
Christians strive against the devil;
Warfare is our daily plight.
Grant us peace midst war and loss,
From the mount of our Lord's cross.

Jesus from Mount Calv'ry preaches
Blood-soaked words that heal our hearts.
Warfare ends, the battle ceases,
Peace and hope our Lord imparts.
Christ, transfixed on Calv'ry's tree,
Grant that we transfigured be!

Here we see salvation's story,
Here the law has been fulfilled,
Here is Christ in thorn-crowned glory,
Here our hearts His peace has stilled.
Here, our Lord, upon that height,
Shines on us as Light of Light!

Tune: Unser Herrscher
Words: Chad Bird



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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 OF LENT

12th March AD 2017

The Transfiguration reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness. Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Saviour. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter; unlike the one rebels and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare. Let the thought of the Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.



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 2
Serving Team: Team 1
Offertory bearers: Andrea & Richard Hearne
Church Gardeners: Team 3
Church Cleaners Team 2

Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday: 142

Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior: 175

Prayer Thought: The readings of the Mass assure us that God has great gifts, blessings and eternal life in store for us. He intends to make us new each day so that his glory can shine through our lives. Let us ask for hearts ready to receive of his generosity.

The Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross; give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 Genesis 12: 1-4
Reader at SMSG: Matthew Lucas
Reader at All Saints: Rita Shelley

(Old Testament Page 8 in the Bibles) tells us of the call of Abraham, of his vocation. As the people of God we are the great nation, the descendants, he was promised.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 33)

R/. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. ©

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. ©

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. ©

The Second Reading 2 Timothy 1: 8-10
Reader at SMSG: David Scrutton

(New Testament Page 179 in the Bibles) reminds us that each of us, too, is called

erected a church on Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration, dedicated to the Feast. Although the event celebrated in the Feast occurred in the month of February, forty days before the Crucifixion, the Feast was early transferred to August because its full glory and joy could not be fittingly celebrated amid the sorrow and repentance of Great Lent. The sixth day of August was chosen as being forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th, old style), when Christ's Passion is again remembered.

Orthodox theology sees in the Transfiguration a prefigurement of our Lord's Resurrection and His Second Coming, and more than this - since every event of the Church calendar has an application to the individual spiritual life - of the transformed state in which Christians shall appear at the end of the world, and in some measure even before then. In the foreshadowing of future glory which is celebrated in this Feast, the Holy Church comforts her children by showing them that after the temporary sorrows and deprivations with which this earthly life is filled, the glory of eternal blessedness will shine forth; and in it even the body of the righteous will participate.

It is a pious Orthodox custom to offer fruits to be blessed at this feast; and this offering of thanksgiving to God contains a spiritual sign, too. Just as fruits ripen and are transformed under the action of the summer sun, so is man called to a spiritual transfiguration through the light of God's word by means of the Sacraments. Some saints, (for example - Saint Seraphim of Sarov), under the action of this life-giving grace, have shone bodily before men even in life with this same uncreated Light of God's glory; and that is another sign to us of the heights to which we, as Christians, are called and the state that awaits us - to be transformed in the image of Him Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor."

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles

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

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Intention: Our Parish

Monday: Feria

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

8:00pm Bellringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: Feria

10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints

Intention: For Bishop Philip North

Wednesday: Feria

7:15pm Devotional Presentation in Parish

Hall prior to Mass

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles

8:00pm DVD Presentation on the Shrine of

Our Lady of Walsingham

in the Parish Hall

Intention: Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Thursday: Feria

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

11:15am Guided Mass for Yr4 - SMSG School

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Parochial Church Council in Parish Hall

Intention: For the Homeless and Refugees

Friday: St Patrick (Feast - Solemnity in Ireland)

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

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Intention: For the Church in Ireland

Saturday: St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bp & Dr.

12:00n Lent Lunch in Parish Hall

7:30pm Luminatus Concert at SMSG

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles

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

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Intention: Our Parish

Readings next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

Psalm: 95 (part)

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

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.

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 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.

Invitation to the Calcutta Brasserie: on Tuesday, 28th March at 7pm. The Music for All group is organising a meal at the Calcutta Brasserie as a fundraiser, but mainly as a fun occasion for all who would like to enjoy an evening in good company with good food you haven't had to cook yourself! The price is £18 per person, the normal price for a 'Banquet meal' at the Calcutta Brasserie. If you would like a ticket, please see Eilish Friedman or Dai Evans as soon as possible.

The Significance of the Transfiguration to the Orthodox Churches:

Our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters in Christ, like us observe the Feast of the Transfiguration in August, and also share with us the custom of marking it again 40 days before Good Friday.

Father Seraphim Rose writes about the significance of the Transfiguration for the Orthodox Churches: "Forty

days before He was delivered to an ignominious death for our sins, our Lord revealed to three of His disciples the glory of His Divinity.

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart; and was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light" (Matt. 17:1-2). This was the event to which our Lord was referring when He said, "There be some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). By this means the faith of the disciples was strengthened and prepared for the trial of our Lord's approaching passion and death; and they were able to see in it not mere human suffering, but the entirely voluntary passion of the Son of God.

The disciples saw also Moses and Elijah talking with our Lord, and thereby they understood that He was not Himself Elijah or another of the prophets, as some thought, but someone much greater: He Who could call upon the Law and the Prophets to be His witnesses, since He was the fulfilment of both.

The three parables of the feast concern the appearance of God to Moses and Elijah on Mount Sinai, and it is indeed appropriate that the greatest God-seers of the Old Testament should be present at the glorification of the Lord in His New Testament, seeing for the first time His humanity, even as the disciples were seeing for the first time His Divinity.

The Transfiguration, counted by the Church as one of the "Twelve Great Feasts," had an important place in the Church calendar already in the fourth century, as the homilies and sermons of such great Fathers as Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Ephraim the Syrian, and Saint Cyril of Alexandria attest; its origins go back to the first Christian centuries. In the fourth century also, Saint Helena

by God as Abraham was. We have done nothing to deserve his goodness to us.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. **Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

The Gospel

Matthew 17: 1-9

(New Testament Page 16 in the Bibles) tells how the apostles were prepared for the shock of the passion and death of Christ by a glimpse of his glory

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Fiddy Abraham)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord for courage to give up distractions and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Intercessor: Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to the mission of Christ the Redeemer. (*We pray for N our bishop and . . .*) May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

V/. Lord, meet us in the silence:

R/. give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. (*We pray for . . .*) May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities. (*We pray for . . .*) May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give

time, care and comfort to the sick. *We pray for . . . Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Gerry Bonner, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Larry Francis, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Ron Smart, Rory, Tony Oakley, Wendy.* May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence be with them.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. (*We pray for... Henry Blake, Tony Finnegan, Muriel Francis, Eileen Haseldine, Cyril Millward, Betty Spicer... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...12th Sarah Henson, Roy Price, Nellie Tomkins, Joan Blow; 13th Arthur Barker; 14th John Wright, Richard Brooks; 16th Alice Eales, William Butterworth; 17th Phoebe Battams, John Shillingford, John Eales; 18th Douglas Rose... May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.*

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: Lord, meet us in the silence: **give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Grant, O God, that we may never lose the way through our self-will, and so end up in the far countries of the soul; that we may never abandon the struggle, but that we may persevere to the end, and so be saved; that we may never fall out of the race, but that we may always press forward to the goal of our high calling; that we may never choose the cheap and passing things, and let go of the precious things that last for ever; that we may never take the easy way, and so leave the right way; that we may never forget that sweat is the price of all things, and that without the cross, there cannot be the crown.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Planned Giving - Envelope Scheme: the new sets of envelopes for the next financial year are now available for collection in each of our Parish Church for those who regularly use them. If anyone not currently giving through the envelope scheme would like to do so please see David Williams, Our Treasurer for further details. Similarly, if anyone would prefer to give by Standing Order, David would be happy to talk this through with you.

The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC are very grateful to everyone who gives to the continuing mission of the Church within our parish. While the amount asked of the Parish by the Diocese continues to rise, it is good to be able to report that in 2016 we were able to send £1000 more to the Diocese than we had in 2015. There are leaflets (Giving in Grace) recommended by the Archdeacon in both of our churches to enable us all to prayerfully consider our giving to the mission of the Church *Thank you.*

An Appeal by our Young People: Following a discussion some of our young people are keen to help a Parish in Coventry Diocese raise funds to enable their participation in the Youth Pilgrimage to continue. They are keen to sell homemade Easter cards which Ray Rowson is printing for them. They are also going to make and sell homemade biscuits and cakes on the same stall after the Mass on a Sunday. They write:

"Last year at Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage Tile Hill's marquee blew away. Also last year at the youth pilgrimage the theme was acts of mercy. So we decided that as our act of mercy we would raise some money towards Tile Hill's new marquee. We are going to be selling Easter cards and cakes. Please bring along a little money to help with this worthwhile cause. *Jamie and Rosie*"

THIS WEDNESDAY - A Journey to the Cross: starting this Wednesday evening at 7:15pm during Lent there will be a short 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 at 7:30pm. The same pattern will be followed with the evening Masses on the first three days of Holy Week.

THIS WEDNESDAY - DVD Presentation on Walsingham: a number have people have asked if more could be explained about Walsingham and the Pilgrimages that take place there. It is said that 'a picture paints a thousand words,' so perhaps a DVD presentation may paint millions! Fr Ross will be showing a DVD produced by the Shrine in the Parish Hall. This will be of interest to those who have been on Pilgrimage and to those who might be considering doing so, but really would like to know more about what happens on a weekend Pilgrimage. So make a date in your diary for the 15th March after the 7:30pm Mass. See Fr Ross for more details.

Mothering Sunday Posy Making: as is our custom we shall be distributing posies on Mothering Sunday at both Masses. To prepare for this Sister Janet would be most grateful for offers of help in making the posies on Saturday 25th March at 9:30am in St Mary & St Giles. Please let her know if can help with this project.

Donations: Following the step of faith taken by the PCC last year in deciding to go ahead with the installation of a new heating system at All Saints, an appeal was launched by the Rector for donations for All Saints Fabric Fund. I am delighted to announce that following a lot of hard work with the Small Lottery be-

fore Christmas, with a number of generous donations, and the receipt of a large donation transferred to the PCC accounts last weekend, the amount in the Fabric Fund is £14,000. Thank you to all those who have been so generous with their time and their gifts.

I am also delighted to report that in the past week a donation of £250 towards each of the 'Items of a Lasting Nature' Funds of our Parish Churches has also been received.

Lent Lunches: are served on the Saturdays of Lent. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to host these. The lunch held at All Saints on Ash Wednesday raised over £80 for our Lent Appeal and was well attended with tables and chairs being set up down the aisle in the Nave.

2018 - Parish Celebration: Bishop Jonathan wants us to mark the important part our Parish played in the Oxford Movement with a major celebration for both Parish Churches. 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.*

Annual Meetings: As usual it is that time of year again for all the things connected with the round of these meetings. The *Vestry Meetings* for the election of Churchwardens will take place on Sun-

day 26th March at the end of each of our Parish Churches Principal Acts of Worship. Nominations for the Office of Churchwarden require the approval of the Rector and must be received 24 hours prior to the Vestry Meeting. We are permitted to elect two Churchwardens for each of our Parish Churches.

The *Annual Parochial Church Meeting* takes place at 12:00noon on Sunday 2nd April at All Saints Church (this meeting alternates between our two Parish Churches on a bi-annual basis). The Agenda for this year's meeting, along with the Minutes of last year's meeting and the 2015 Annual Report and Accounts will be available following the March Parochial Church Council Meeting - as the PCC has to 'receive' the accounts before the Annual Report and Accounts can be published.

The revision of the Electoral Roll for the Parish is now open and forms for inclusion on the Roll are available in both churches. Please note that we are not required to renew the Roll until 2019, so if you are already a member of the Roll you do not need to fill in a form. If you have joined the parish in the last twelve months and are over the age of 16 then please do fill in a form and return them either to the Rector or to Deb Kidd. Nomination Forms for election to the Deanery Synod and/or Parochial Church Council are available from the Rector.

Children's Activity Morning: All children are invited to come to the Parish Hall for an Activity Morning on Tuesday, 11th April. We will start at 9.30am and finish at 1.30pm, after a shared lunch. There is no charge for this event and nothing to bring, but booking is essential! Please see Ray, Jenny, Andrea, Richard, Sue or Lesley for more details and to book a place.