

# POEM FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## "WOMAN AT THE WELL by Edward Potts "

I am the woman He met at the well,  
My life was in shambles, I was living in hell,  
He asked for a drink and I filled a cup,  
He talked and I listened as He tilted it up.

He told of my life and what it had been,  
He knew all about my living in sin,  
He spoke so gently, my heart almost burst,  
"Drink of my water and you'll never more thirst."

He said His Father on heaven's throne above,  
Looked down on this world with a heart full of love,  
No price was too great, no life was too small,  
So in loving kindness, God was giving His all.

"You've heard of Messiah, well I am the One,  
I am called Jesus, God's only Son,  
It's to people like you my Father sent me,  
Drink from My cup, I'll set you free."

I rushed from the well and ran into town,  
I called for the people to gather around,  
"There's a man at the well who says Messiah has come,  
He told me my life, every thing I had done."

I went to the well a woman in sin,  
When I left that well I had Jesus within,  
The curse on my lips had been changed into praise,  
I'll never more thirst the rest of my days.

That Man at the well, His praises I'll sing,  
I drank of the water, new life it did bring,  
My life which was empty is now full and free,  
Because of that water God's Son gave to me.



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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



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

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

19th March AD 2017

Today, in the Gospel, we hear the story of the Woman at the Well in Samaria. Little is told of her in the western tradition, but in the Orthodox and Syrian Churches she is commemorated on the 20th March.

In those Churches it is recorded that the apostles of Christ baptised her and gave her the name 'Photini' which means 'the enlightened one.' She is remembered by the Church as a Holy Martyr and Equal to the Apostles. After Ss. Peter and Paul were martyred, St. Photini and her family left their homeland of Sychar, in Samaria, to travel to Carthage to proclaim the Gospel of Christ there.

During Nero's reign, he had her sons and sisters horribly tortured and martyred, and imprisoned her for 20 days, after which he summoned her and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St. Photini spat in his face, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?" Nero gave orders to throw St. Photini down a well, where she surrendered her soul to God in the year 66. *(The image is from an ancient Syrian Manuscript)*



*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 3
- Serving Team: Team 2
- Offertory bearers: Jean Hulley
- Church Gardeners: Team 3
- Church Cleaners Team 3

**Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday:** 132  
**Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior:** 32

**Prayer Thought:** The Lord's Supper (commonly called 'The Mass') is our most privileged meeting with Christ in word and sacrament. Today we reflect on the meeting between Jesus and the woman of Samaria. We see how he makes himself known to her as a man, a prophet, as Messiah and Saviour. This is how he also reveals himself to us.

**The Collect**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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** Exodus 17:3-7  
 Reader at SMSG: Oliver Williams  
 Reader at All Saints: Diane West

(Old Testament Page 52 in the Bibles) describes how God provided water for his grumbling people in the desert. God is so much better to us than we deserve.

**The Responsorial Psalm** (from Psalm 33)

**R/. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. ®

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. ®

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' ®

the Chapter and Verse be announced as the writers did not include them, and the references are clearly indicated in the Newsletter for those who wish to read them again afterwards at home.

Thank you.

**Bible Reading at home:** During the Confirmation Course this year, as I always do, I mentioned that the Bible is not a volume to be read from cover to cover because it is not written chronologically.

This year the obvious question was asked: "Is it possible to obtain a Bible that is laid out chronologically?"

The answer is that there is. It is called 'Cover to Cover Complete: Through the Bible as It Happened.' It is available on Amazon at £24.99 and can also be ordered through bookshops. However, I have discovered that bulk buying of the NIV Version from the publisher is cheaper, so if at least ten people would like a copy I can order them at a discounted price. Would all those interested please let me know if they would like to be included in such a group order.

This edition is designed to be read over the course of the year for about 15 minutes each day. It includes illustrations, maps, charts, diagrams, a timeline, and devotional articles; which are very useful aids to study and prayer.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**TODAY: 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

**Monday: St Joseph, Husband of the BVM**

8:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall  
 8:00pm Bellringing Practice  
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

**Tuesday: Feria**

10:30am **Mass + Eleveses at All Saints**  
 Intention: The People of Iraq & Syria

**Wednesday: Feria**

2:00pm MK New Communities Group  
 7:15pm Devotional Presentation in Parish Hall prior to Mass

7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**

Intention: The People of Southern Sudan

**Thursday: Feria**

9:00am Guided Mass for Yr3 - SMSG School  
 10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross  
 Intention: The People of North Korea

**Friday: Feria**

8:00am **Mass at SMSG Sch (North Site)**  
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal  
 Intention: The People of Zimbabwe

**Saturday: ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

8:00am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 9:30am Posy Making at St Mary & St Giles  
 12:00n Lent Lunch in Parish Hall  
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

**Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent**

**Laetare Sunday/Mothering Sunday**  
**N.B. Clocks go forward 1 hour at 01:00**  
 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: 4th Sunday of Lent**

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13  
 Psalm: 23 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14  
 Gospel: John 9: 1-41



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 See of Sheffield – A Statement by the Bishop of Wakefield, Chairman of The Society:** The predominant responses to last week's news regarding the See of Sheffield have been dismay at the nature of the campaign that was mounted against the outcome of the Church's process for discerning God's call to the See of Sheffield, and sorrow at the result of that campaign.

We are encouraged that so many – women and men; bishops, clergy and laity; liberals, evangelicals and Catholics – have gone further, pointing out that, as the Archbishop of York said in his statement, what has happened "clearly does not reflect" the 2014 settlement that paved the way for women to be ordained as bishops while securing an honoured place within the Church of England for those who, for theological reasons, are unable to receive their sacramental ministry. This strong and widespread affirmation of the 2014 settlement gives us hope that, in the providence of God, some good may yet come out of an awful situation.

In his statement, Archbishop

Sentamu stressed that when we disagree, we should "disagree Christianly, remembering at all times that our identity is in Christ alone". The response of the clergy and people of The Society in the Diocese of Sheffield to the provocation they have experienced has been exemplary. We wish to assure them of our full support at this difficult time. We are grateful to all of the bishops of The Society for their ministry in building up those of their clergy and people across the Church of England for whom this has been a bitter blow.

The need now is to build on the growing consensus in support of the Five Guiding Principles. The statements made by Archbishop Sentamu and a number of other diocesan bishops are very helpful indeed. In due course they will need to be accompanied by action to restore confidence in the House of Bishops' Declaration and to correct definitively the false statements that have been made about the Declaration, the Five Guiding Principles, and the beliefs of traditional Catholics. The Executive Committee of Forward in Faith has begun to consider what actions need to be taken, and by whom. We are engaged in discussions with others and will report further as plans develop.

**Reading at Mass, a polite request:** would readers please announce the readings in the way in which they are printed in the Lectionary, e.g. using today's readings: "A reading from the Book of Exodus" or "A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Romans."

The reading of the Scriptures is something that is part of Common Prayer. That is, it is done uniformly. It isn't done to indicate some particular knowledge that we might think lesser mortals may not know.

The Scriptures should NEVER be introduced as being "taken from" – as our Lord told us that nothing would be taken away from Scripture. Nor should

**The Second Reading** Romans 5:1-2.5-8  
Reader at SMSG: Doreen Brooks

*(New Testament Page 129 in the Bibles) St Paul reminds us how very great is God's love for us. We were sinners, not his friends but separated from him, when he sent his Son to suffer and die for us.*

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!** Lord, you truly are the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may not thirst. **Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**The Gospel** John 4:5-42

*(New Testament Page 81 in the Bibles) we hear Jesus offer us water. It is not the water that Moses provided, but grace - the water that is eternal life. And he reminds us that we must worship God in the true and sincere way he asks.*

#### **The Prayer of the Faithful**

(Intercessor at SMSG: Dai Evans)

*Priest:* My brothers and sisters, we should pray at all times, but especially during this season of Lent: we should faithfully keep watch with Christ, so let us pray to our heavenly Father.

*Intercessor:* That Christians everywhere may be responsive to the word of God during this holy season....., let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

That people everywhere may work for peace to make these days the acceptable time of God's help and salvation....., let us pray to the Lord:

That all who have sinned or grown lukewarm may turn to God again during this time of reconciliation....., let us pray to the Lord:

That we ourselves may learn to repent and turn from sin with all our hearts....., let us pray to the Lord:

That the sick and suffering may be given grace and strength, especially...*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...* let us pray to the Lord:

That the faithful departed, especially...*Tony Finnegan, Bob Gray...* and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**19<sup>th</sup>** William Clark, Wilfred Cunningham; **20<sup>th</sup>** Nan Bell; **21<sup>st</sup>** Alice Styles, John Martinez, Charles Summers, Charles Sherwood, Charles Hazlewood; **22<sup>nd</sup>** Susanna Poulter, Mary Read, Fred Hearne; **23<sup>rd</sup>** Elizabeth Read, Minnie Roebuck; **24<sup>th</sup>** Tina Brook; **25<sup>th</sup>** Mary Taylor, Hugh Rees ... that they may enjoy the blessed vision of divine glory for ever, let us pray to the Lord:

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Priest:* Lord, may your people turn again to you and serve you with all their hearts. With confidence we have asked your help: may we now know your mercy and love in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Communion Reflection:**

*We were hungry, Lord, and you have given us to eat, thirsty and you have given us to drink. Lord we thank you for this food and drink that will not perish but will remain forever. Our hearts and souls long for you - like the deer that yearns for running streams, so our soul is yearning for you, O God. Let us never be satisfied with anything less than you. We will be tempted to satisfy our restless hearts in other ways. Help us to resist that temptation, Lord. Help us to realize that our hearts were made for you and that they will not rest until they rest in you. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust in you*

# 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.

**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 THIS 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 before 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 Sunday 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.

**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