

REFLECTION - '12th Sunday in Ordinary Time'

"Acknowledging Jesus"

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 10:26-33. What our Lord said to His Apostles applies to all Christians in the practice of their faith. By the very fact of living our faith openly and fully we are apostles by example. If we are always truthful and faithful to our promises, if we are honest in all our dealings, if as employers we pay a just wage and treat those working for us not as "hands" but as whole men and women, if as employees we give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, if we live chaste lives whether in single life or in marriage, we are true Christians. Above all, if we have true love of God and show our appreciation of all that he has done for us, and if we prove that love, by helping our neighbours, we are a light shining in the darkness, because we are helping others to see the true meaning of the Christian Faith.

This true light is needed more today perhaps than ever before. Our world is three quarters pagan or neo-pagan. The neo-pagans are those who once were Christians but abandoned their faith, sometimes through their own fault, but sometimes because of the bad example they were given by other Christians. These are worse off spiritually than the pagans who have never heard of Christ. The neo-pagans have only themselves to venerate, and they can find little spiritual uplift in that form of religion.

A large majority of today's teenagers, in most so-called Christian countries, have come to despise, or at least to neglect, the religion of their ancestors. In most cases the cause of this is that Christianity was never really put into practice in their own homes. These may be cases of weak personality—they prefer to follow the mob rather than try to force their way against it, but on the whole, the decline of religion among today's youth is due to bad example from their elders.

In today's gospel message, our Lord is asking each one of us to be a fearless apostle. We will be, if we are faithful to Christ. "Have no fear of men," He tells us, "don't mind what your fellow-men think of you, if you object to obscene language in your work-place. Don't fear what will be thought of you if you say your grace before and after meals in a public restaurant or hotel. Don't take that extra drink just because your companions at the party might ridicule your control ..."

These acts and many others like them, may seem trivial to some but they are giving testimony to the faith that is in us. Those who scoff at such things at first, may begin later to look into their own hearts, and come to realise what it is to be someone of principle. Eventually they may become people of principle themselves.

Let us remember our Lord's promise "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven."



Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: rector@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

Associate Minister: Fr Tunji Adebisi - Tel: 01525 790954

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

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

Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:
May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

Confessions: May be made after Masses or by appointment.

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

To Hire the Parish Hall: 'phone Lesley Salter on 01908 567404



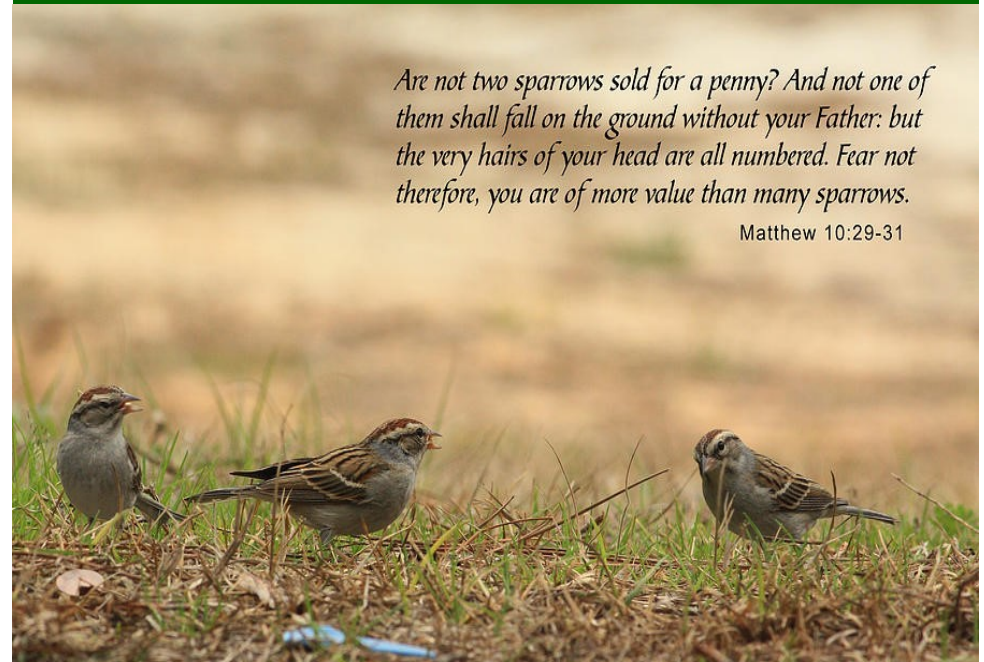
St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
with All Saints, Calverton

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25th June AD 2017

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them shall fall on the ground without your Father: but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:29-31



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 5
Serving Team: Team 4
Offertory bearers: David & Fiona King
Church Gardeners: Team 3
Church Cleaners Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?

Weekday Worshipping Numbers w/e 17th June?

Prayer Thought:

"My dearly beloved, is it not beyond human power to express the ineffable delicacy of this sacrament in which spiritual sweetness is tasted in its very source, in which is brought to mind the remembrance of that all-excelling charity which Christ showed in His sacred passion? Surely it was to impress more profoundly upon the hearts of the faithful the immensity of this charity that our loving Savior instituted this sacrament at the last supper when, having celebrated the Pasch with His disciples. He was about to leave the world and return to the Father. It was to serve as an unending remembrance of His passion, as the fulfilment of ancient types — this the greatest of His miracles. To those who sorrow over His departure He has given a unique solace." St Thomas Aquinas.

The Collect

O Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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 Jeremiah 20:10-13

Reader at SMSG: Oliver Williams
Reader at All Saints: Sister Janet

(Old Testament Page 651 in the Bibles)
Jeremiah is persecuted for declaring God's message, but continues to profess his faith in the deliverance God will bring.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 69)

R/. In your great love, answer me, O God.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. ®

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God.

given it to; and he knows when I give my heart to something or someone, I give them my full attention. If my favourite team's game is on, don't expect me to do anything else but watch it for those few hours. How many of us as teenagers, if our heart's interest happened to walk by, our whole day would stop as we looked for a chance to talk to him or her.

It sounds a little pathetic, but in a very real way, I've often given my heart to nothing more than games and feelings. Clearly, whoever—or whatever—wins my heart, no matter how insignificant it may be in the big picture, has a pretty deep influence on me. Meanwhile, when I practice my faith, I must admit it's more outward, and my heart isn't always in it.

God wants me to obey his commandments, yes, but not in some rote fashion. He knows if he can win my heart, he can get me to actually enjoy following him in the same way I enjoy the much less important things to which I've given my heart.

Time and time again in the Old Testament, God tells his people to stop showing him superficial devotion, and show some heart:

"In the blood of calves, lambs, and goats I find no pleasure ... Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim" (Isaiah 1:10-20).

*"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7).
"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord ... He who has clean hands and a pure heart... will receive blessing from the Lord" (Psalm 24:3-5).*

Long before Jesus was reprimanding the Sadducees and Pharisees for their shallow religiosity, the Holy Spirit was guiding the hand of prophets and psalmists to tell us to put our hearts into our faith.

To be continued...

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
Pray for: the victims of the Grenfell Tower Fire

Wednesday: St Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: Fidelity to Christ

Thursday: Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: the Bishops of the Church

Friday: The First Martyrs of the See of Rome

8:00am Mass at SMSG Sch - North Site
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray that: all Christians facing persecution and martyrdom today

Saturday: Feria

4:00pm Confessions
4:30pm Evening Prayer 1 of Sunday
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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:

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a
Psalm: 89 (part)
2nd Reading: Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11
Gospel: Matthew 10: 37-42

the churchyard. The Rows will run from east to west, and the number of the Plots in each row will run from north to south.

Due to the position recent burials have taken place in the churchyard, once the plan is compiled it will look as if we have not started at the beginning, namely: A1. However, that cannot be helped and is the way the plan is to be compiled. It will not be necessary to photograph the memorials, as there are no plans to remove any of them. However, there will need to be an index accompanying the plan and this will need to indicate whether a memorial has been erected on that plot, and its type, e.g. headstone, ledger, tablet etc.

Both of these plans will be invaluable documents for our Parish Churches as they will form part of our historical archives, and, in the case of St Mary & St Giles assist in future enhancement of the churchyard; and, in the case of All Saints, help us to maintain an accurate record of existing and further burials as they occur.

All Saints Property Register

At St Mary & St Giles the Property Register was compiled by Kieran Salter some years ago. Unfortunately, this has not been completed at All Saints, and the Rector and Churchwardens would be delighted if a small group wished to take up this important project.

Again it makes for an interesting project compiling a register of all the contents of the church: its furniture and fittings, plus its ornaments, liturgical vessels and vestments. The entries are all accompanied by digital photographs, except in the case of the silverware, brassware and other valuable objects, for which there needs to be an additional set of actual printed photographs kept separately for insurance purposes.

If you have any further questions or would like to be part of one of these three project groups, then please do have a word with Fr Ross or the Church-

wardens:

Louise Brown and Kieran Salter - St Mary & St Giles
Jill Barby and Jonathan Dunn - All Saints

Giving Your Whole Heart: The Challenge of Discipleship

'Sometimes when I'm at Mass or doing something out of charity, I still feel this emptiness inside. Despite being told over and over that living the Faith will bring the greatest sense of fulfilment to my life, sometimes I'm just not feeling as if it is so.' How often do we feel like this?

After a closer look at Scripture, though, it becomes clear that in those moments, I'm just missing the point. In my effort to praise God through my words and deeds, I often hold back the most important thing: my heart.

When the rich man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus tells him to follow the commandments. The rich man says he has always done that, so Jesus replies, "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Mark 10:19-20). The rich man walks away sad. Why? Because he treasured his possessions, and "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mark 6:21).

God wants our hearts. Nothing less will suffice. If we put our heart in lesser things, we can't give it to God. But why does God want our hearts so much? Well.....the heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live ... the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden centre, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others ... The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

No wonder that's what God really wants. The Lord knows I have given my heart to things—and people—I shouldn't have

with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion turn towards me. ®

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants
in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. ®

The Second Reading Romans 5:12-15
Reader at SMSG: Doreen Brooks

*(New Testament Page 129 in the Bibles)
though sin has entered the world through
man's disobedience, God gives us the free
gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord; and you also are witnesses. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 10:26-33
*(New Testament Page 9 in the Bibles) If we
are loyal to Christ and faithful in proclaiming
his message, he will declare himself
for us in the presence of God the Father.*

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, Polly Barclay, Doreen Brooks, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Rosalie

Osbourne, Pete, Susan, Tony Oakley, Wendy...that the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died...
Babies: Neron, Neriah & Jesse; and for
Stuart Booden, Terry Crook, & Pamela
Tulloch; *and for those whose anniversaries
of death occur during this week,
amongst them...* 19th Anthony Cave, Philip
Stock, David Chittenden; 20th Agnes
Broughton, Percy Edwards, Jean Bates;
21st Bertram Holman, Alfred Reynolds;
24th Doris Rodwell, Rene Phillips; 25th
Henry Cox; 26th Marjorie Wilde; 27th Eva
Griffith, Winifred Lunn; 28th Ella west,
Margaret Sharp; 29th Frederick Butler,
Joan Whetstone; 30th Tony Holman; 1st
July Lily Pell, Roy Newton... 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

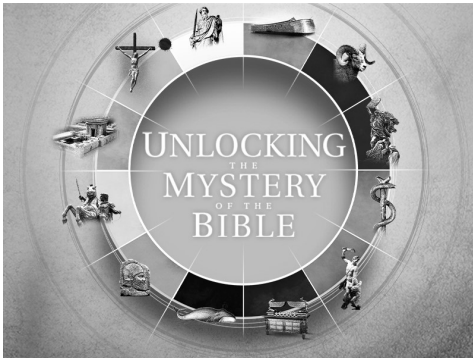
Priest: God of love our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Grant me Thy grace, most merciful Jesus, that it may be with me, and work with me, and continue with me even to the end. Grant me ever to will and desire what is most pleasing to Thee. Let Thy will be mine, and my will ever perfectly follow Thine, that so I may neither choose nor reject, save that Thou choosetest and rejectest. Grant me to die to all that is in the world, and for love of Thee to be content to be despised and unknown in this life. Grant me, above all things, to rest in Thee, and to still my heart to perfect peace in Thee. For Thou art the true peace of the heart, Thou art its only rest, and of the Thee there is no rest. In this peace, that is in Thy self alone, my chief and eternal good, may I lie down and take my rest. Amen.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: For many of us the Scriptures can seem a mystery, and the 'Cover to Cover' edition of the Scriptures can help us make more sense of its historical timeline. Of course, even aids like this can lead to further questions and even a thirst for greater knowledge. Therefore, to encourage us all in our reading of Holy Scripture I am preparing to launch an excellent DVD based Course on the Scriptures as soon as possible. The 8 Week Course is called 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' and I have posted a trailer for the Course on the Parish Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member then simply send a request to join our group: 'Parish of Stony Stratford with Calverton.'



This Autumn will see the launch of this Course. Unfortunately, current diary commitments do not allow for a sensible running of the Course without having to stop and start. As well as an evening Course, there will also be a daytime Course as well; as I am aware that not everyone is able to attend evening sessions. Each participant will have a high quality booklet, Bible Timeline and bookmark to aid us as we go through the Course.

One session of the Course will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday evenings

and another at 2:00pm on Thursday afternoons - both at the Rectory. The Course will be begin in the week beginning 17th September with the meetings in that and subsequent weeks being at 7:00pm on Tuesday 19th September and at 2:00pm on Thursday 21st September. The Course is eight sessions long and there will be a break of two weeks after the first four sessions. The Course will be repeated twice next year, hopefully on different days, so as to allow as many of us as possible to participate.

The Programme is as follows:

Session 1	Tues 19th/Thurs 21st Sept
<i>Introduction & The Bible Timeline Chart</i>	
Session 2	Tues 26th/Thurs 28th Sept
<i>Early World</i>	
Session 3	Tues 2nd/Thurs 4th Oct
<i>Patriarchs</i>	
Session 4	Tues 10th/Thurs 12th Oct
<i>Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings</i>	
Session 5	Tues 31st Oct/Thurs 2nd Nov
<i>Conquest and Judges, Royal Kingdom</i>	
Session 6	Tues 7th/Thurs 9th Nov
<i>Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return</i>	
Session 7	Tues 14th/Thurs 16th Nov
<i>Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfilment Part 1</i>	
Session 8	Tues 21st/Thurs 23rd Nov
<i>Messianic Fulfilment Part 2, The Church</i>	

Please pray for the success of this course. A 'overview of the Course will be held in the Parish Hall before the Summer Holidays - as with the actual course on an evening and a daytime.

Rector's Midsummer Break: Fr Ross is unavailable until Thursday 29th June (Ss Peter & Paul). If you need a priest please contact either Fr Tunji or Fr Joseph.

Thank you: to all those involved with organising and running the various concerts and events throughout 'Stony Live Week' at St Mary & St Giles. As usual there was a wide variety of music and some wonderful involvement from the

children at our Church School.

Sea Sunday: On Sunday 9th July the entire Church is committed to praying and promoting the work of its mission amongst sailors.

Most denominations support some form of mission amongst sailors or a particular charity. In the Church of England our Charity is the 'Missions to Seafarers', while the Roman Catholic Church's Mission is called 'The Apostleship of the Sea.' What matters is that we care about those who lead an often very hard working life, away from home and loved ones; not forgetting the many seafarers that, when they return to their home port, have no loved ones to share their lives with.

Please read more about the work of the Mission to Seafarers issued in last Sunday's Newsletter (there are a few spare copies on the oak table at the rear of the nave in St Mary & St Giles and on the table by the south door at All Saints); and, if you are able to, make a donation to its mission by placing it in the envelope provided - filling in the Gift Aid section if you pay tax. Please return the envelopes to either of our churches on 9th July. Thank you.

Churchyard Plans: Both of our Parish Churches are required to produce plans of the churchyards with known burial plots marked upon them. These plans, when compiled are not going to be complete, as many of the graves are either unmarked or the memorial inscriptions are so worn as to be illegible.

The Rector and Churchwardens would be delighted to hear of those who would like to take on this task - ideally a small team for each churchyard.

At St Mary & St Giles the task is somewhat simpler in that the churchyard is closed for burials, is much smaller, and

the memorials are mostly illegible.

It will involve producing a to scale plan of the churchyard and a numbered marker upon it for every memorial, whatever its condition. An index will need to be provided with the numbers of each memorial and indicating to whom it pertains, or whether it is unknown due to illegibility.

Accompanying that plan will need to be a numbered photograph of each memorial pertaining to the numbered marker on the plan. This will enable the Parochial Church Council to begin the process of applying for the faculty to remove the most worn and broken memorials.

One of our long term aims as part of our regeneration project has been to make the churchyard at St Mary & St Giles more welcoming by clearing shrubs, felling diseased or problem trees, as well as the crown reduction of the remaining trees. Ease of maintenance of the churchyard can then be improved by sewing grass on the south side of the church. It then may be possible to introduce a very small number of strategically placed benches securely fixed in place.

At All Saints, while the task is bigger - given the size of the churchyard - much clearance work has already been undertaken, and most of the existing memorials are legible.

However, because the Churchyard is still open for burials, the plan will need to divide the whole of the churchyard into row numbers and plot numbers. This is because there is a requirement by the Diocesan Authorities that when an application to introduce a memorial is made, it must be for a specific plot number indicated on the application.

Therefore, 'Row A Plot Number 1' will need to be in north east corner of