

REFLECTION - '13th Sunday in Ordinary Time'

"Here we have no lasting city"

In the Gospel reading this morning Christ tells his Apostles, and those who succeed them, that they must be prepared to undergo great sacrifices, even death itself, if called on to do so for the sake of Christ. Even though they had only a very vague idea then of what he meant, when the time came, they remembered his words and gladly suffered imprisonment, hardships, and finally martyrdom for Christ. This shows how the resurrection of Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit on them, changed them from worldly weaklings into fearless heroes. They had become convinced that Christ was the Son of God who had come on earth to bring all to heaven. They came to realise how transitory, and unimportant, the few years of the earthly life were when compared with the eternal life of bliss to follow.

It was not only the Apostles who gave their lives gladly for Christ. There are thousands of martyrs who, during the first three centuries of the Church, not only accepted but welcomed death for Christ's sake, because they were convinced that it was the door to eternal life, the only life that mattered. Nor did occasions for martyrdom cease when the Church was granted freedom by Constantine, the first convert Roman emperor. Here and there, down through the centuries, the followers of Christ have been persecuted because of their belief in him, and many of us can be proud that we have had among our ancestors men and women who died for the faith. There are still those who are suffering a lingering martyrdom, worse than quick death on the scaffold, because they obey God rather than man. We can help them to persevere, by our prayers. We might be free from any overt persecution, but ought to show our gratitude to God for being allowed to practice our religion openly and without fear, by doing just this. We must live according to the convictions of our Christian faith. We are here in this world for a few short years, our real and lasting home is in heaven.

As well as carrying out our own personal duties, we must remember the spiritual needs of others. They, too, need to go to heaven and anything less will be eternal disaster for them. We may not be able to preach, or teach them the truth of the Christian faith, but we can and must help all those who are doing so.

Remember our Lord's words today. He who receives or gives hospitality and help to a prophet will have the reward of a prophet. He who helps those who are preaching and teaching the message of salvation, the good news of Christ, at home and abroad, will himself share in the reward of these preachers and teachers. When we get to heaven, one of the many pleasant surprises awaiting us will be the gratitude we will receive from saints we've helped to send to heaven, people we never knew or perhaps thought about. We helped those who thought about them and worked for their salvation, and we thus have a share in their reward.



FORWARDINFAITH

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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 Lesley Salter on 01908 567404



The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

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

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd July 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)

INFORMATION

The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA Large Print Orders of Service are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. At All Saints it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for every £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.

Reception of Holy Communion: All Baptised and Confirmed Christians are encouraged to receive Holy Communion. If you are unwell or uncertain about receiving the Precious Blood please do still receive the Host. Our Chalice Assistants are not authorised to permit the intincting (dipping) of the Host.



Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door, shortly after the end of Mass, should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

At St Mary & St Giles this week:

Sidesmen	Team 1
Serving Team:	Team 1
Offertory bearers:	Gardening Teams
Church Gardeners:	Team 2
Church Cleaners	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?

Weekday Worshipping Numbers w/e 24th June ?

Prayer Thought:

Today the Lord welcomes us around his altar to break with him the bread of his Word and his Body. Let us in turn welcome him into our midst and into our hearts.

The Collect

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

Reader at SMSG: Pat Done
Reader at All Saints: Rita Shelley

(Old Testament Page 275 in the Bibles) we hear how a pagan woman welcomed the prophet Elisha because he was a holy man of God.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 89)

R/. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth
will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established
as the heavens. ®

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice
the source of their bliss. ®

For it is you, O Lord, who are
the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping
of the Holy One of Israel. ®

The Second Reading Romans 6:3-4,8-11

pathway for spiritual development that describes a disciple at each phase of growth based on biblical definition of a disciple that includes all the beliefs, values, attitudes and commands Christ intended.

Sadly, research shows that there is no correlation between how long a person has been in the church and their level of spiritual maturity. For too long the church has been using the wrong ministry strategy and structures. We need a whole-church disciple making strategy or philosophy of ministry where we know how every ministry structure contributes to the making of a disciple. For instance, worship attendance provides inspiration and information but cannot provide clarification and application of the Faith Disciple making requires the support and accountability of close relationships typically found in disciple making small groups, for you cannot be accountable in a crowd. The church needs a ministry strategy that provides groups designed for seekers through to mature believers and equipped leaders who know the differences in how groups function at every level.

A major report for the Anglican Communion indicates that leaders cannot assume those in their churches will be growing disciples of Jesus Christ. They must be intentional about disciple making so that faithful attenders become dedicated, growing disciples of Jesus Christ. Pastors and church leaders must first affirm Christ's purpose for the church - to faithfully fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples; second, identify the right outcomes - disciples who continually seek to obey everything Christ commanded and third, employ the right strategy and structures - life-to-life ministries that provide growth for people at every level from pre-seeker to mature believer. Discipleship should happen simply because the church exists.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 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

1:00pm Holy Baptism at St Mary & St Giles:

Ava Grace Cole-Pendry

Intention: Our Parish

Monday: St Thomas, Apostle

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

8:00pm Bellringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: St Elizabeth of Portugal

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'

Pray for: the Church in Portugal

Wednesday: St Antony Mary Zaccaria, Priest

Deanery Clergy Meeting at lunchtime

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Pray that: we may become Intentional Disciples

Thursday: St Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

7:30pm Parochial Church Council

Pray for: all young people as they face the temptations of life in becoming adults

Friday: Feria

8:00am Mass at SMSG Sch - North Site

12:00n Soup Lunch followed by Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Pray for: The Faithful Departed

Saturday: Feria

10:00am Coffee Morning in Parish Hall in aid of SMSG Restoration Fund

2:00pm A Summer Concert by the Frances Thornton Music Academy at SMSG

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 14th 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:

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-10

Psalm: 145 (part)

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-30

A Broken and Contrite Heart

So, if the heart is the cause of lust, then should I rip it out as well? If by "heart" you mean the innermost part of us, then yes. God wants to rip out our hearts so he can uproot sin at its source. He wants to wage battle with the devil on the battlefield that means the most, and this battle is likely to cost us our lives. For Christ tells his disciples, "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

If I am to be a disciple of Christ, I need to be that vulnerable. Christ sacrificed himself to lead by example. So, if I feel empty when doing the things the Faith calls us to do, maybe my efforts to put my heart into it have not been enough. I can put a piece of my heart into anything, or I can even put the whole thing in and then retrieve it later when I find something else to give it to. The hard part is sacrificing it—putting the whole thing in and not asking God for it back.

Next week: What Christ Means by Purity of Heart

Intentional Discipleship:

This is a challenging and developing initiative throughout the Church, which dramatically challenges the assumptions we have made over recent decades about the need to simply do what the church has always done, not realising that in our post-modern, post-truth age, those assumptions do not produce disciples of Jesus Christ.

Recent research shows that discipleship does not happen simply because a church exists. Rather, it occurs when there is an intentional and strategic thrust to facilitate spiritual maturity. Although most churches can point to some program or discipleship activity, few churches have a church of disciples. Pastors and church leaders cannot assume that their members will be growing disciples of Jesus Christ simply because they faithfully attend church. Instead, leaders must be intentional about

the priority of disciple making, the outcomes and ministry structures used for disciple making so that faithful attenders become dedicated, growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

How do we measure success in the church today? Sadly, in much the same way we do in business: buildings, bodies, £'s and busyness. We have the wrong priorities. The size of our buildings how many attend, our income and our activities become our talking points rather than finishing the Great Commission by being and making disciples. This leads to the danger of a Christ-less Christianity which has created leaders who are addicted to recognition and success, and congregations that believe forsaking all things to follow Jesus to be optional and a separate issue from salvation. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned theologian, pastor and holocaust victim, puts it quite simply, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." We must reaffirm that the purpose of the church is make disciples of Jesus Christ and make that the priority.

What kind of product is the church producing? We have believers who affirm the Faith without applying it, and who have made a decision for Christ without becoming a disciple of Christ. What we are seeing is the wrong outcome, where the Church is failing to live up to its promise; and not even coming close to fulfilling it. Believers are largely indistinguishable from non-believers in how they think and live. It is as if the church has accepted a non-discipleship Christianity to render it ineffective at its primary task: the transformation of individuals and communities into the image of Christ. Too many Christians think that faith means to "agree to a set of religious facts about Jesus rather than choosing to take up their cross daily and follow him. Jesus said that we are to teach disciples to obey everything that he commanded (Mathew 28:19-20).

We need to provide a clear

Reader at SMSG: Eilish Friedman

(New Testament Page 129 in the Bibles) Paul reminds us that our baptism has united us to Christ in a very special way. God's grace is constantly inspiring us to avoid sin and live as Christ wants us to live.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel

Matthew 10:37-42

(New Testament Page 9 in the Bibles) Christ tells us that he himself has first claim to our allegiance. We should show hospitality to those who bring his message to us.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Fr Joseph)

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, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, 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...Ted Atkinson, David Barker; *and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during*

this week, amongst them.. 2nd Olive Weir; 3rd Florence Varney; 4th David Thorn, Margaret Missenden; 5th George Lovell, Edith Goodridge; 6th Billy Pickering, Patricia Doolan; 7th Robert Vincent, Alice Read... 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.

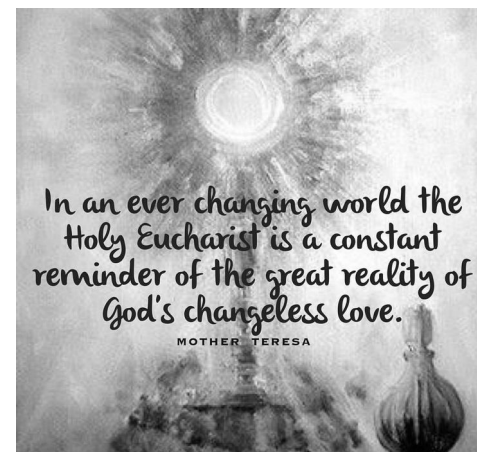
Let us pray for ourselves and our community:..... that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

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:

"The time after Holy Communion is a very profitable time for the soul. If you spend it in the company of the good Jesus you are doing him a great service. When you have received the Lord and are in his presence shut the eyes of your body and open the eyes of your soul and look into your own hearts. If you practise this habit of staying with him, he will make his presence felt to you in many ways, according to the desire you have of seeing Him. So great indeed may be your longing for him that he will reveal himself to you wholly." St Teresa of Avila



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Recently Departed: Many of us will recall Ted Atkinson, who had moved to Devon to be near his family following health problems. Sadly, I've received an email on Friday to say that Ted had passed away peacefully in hospital on 19 June after suffering a stroke. Please pray for the repose of his soul. *Jesu, mercy. Mary, pray.*

Calverton Fete Planning Meeting: The Fete will be held a week earlier than usual this year - on Sunday 27th August from 2:00pm. A Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th July at 7:30pm in All Saints Church to which all are welcome.

We would appreciate any help with the following:-

1. Helping with Stalls.
2. Refreshments.
3. Cakes & Scones.
4. Unwanted Books.
5. Items suitable for Prizes.
6. Someone who is able to do Children's Face Painting.

If you are able to help in any way please contact: Jill Barby 01908 569245 or email: jillybarby@gmail.com; or see Jonathan Dunn or Eric and Diane West. *Thank you.*

SMSG Coffee Morning: The next Coffee Morning is at 10:00am on Saturday 8th July in the Parish Hall. Please see Hazel Wallis if you can help in anyway. *Thank you.*

Lent Appeal Result: as usual a brilliant effort resulted in the Additional Curates Society being sent £1158.00 from our Lent Appeal. Many thanks to all who participated in any way in raising these funds to provide priests in 'poor and populous parishes.'

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.

Coffee Morning in aid of All Saints: at 10:00am on Saturday 15th July in the Parish Hall a coffee morning will be held. Please see Jill Barby if you can help in anyway. *Thank you.*

**Giving Your Whole Heart:
The Challenge of Discipleship
The Heart and Chastity**

Thankfully, God knows we're human. He understands we're going to need some help understanding this concept of giving the whole heart. So he made us to give our hearts to another person who can aide us in loving him. In a way, he meets us in the middle. He graciously created the sacrament of matrimony to serve as a bridge between our carnal, temporal passions and

the unconditional love that will bring us eternal life.

"Christ sees in the heart, in man's inner self, the source of purity." (St. John Paul II)

While the Church promotes the celibate religious life, she also has always upheld marriage as a sure path to holiness when lived out with integrity.

The Church lifts up marriage so highly because the love for spouse required in marriage is akin to the love for God required in our spiritual life; it's an all-or-nothing kind of love. It requires that we love for the sake of the beloved, not just for what they can give us, not just for any particular quality they have. That is the principle underneath the virtue of chastity. More than a list of do's and don'ts, it's a state of the heart; and when we reach that state, it all makes sense.

Just as loving God for his own sake is the essence of holiness, loving our spouse for his or her own sake is the essence of chastity. If we don't grasp this essence, following the Church's teachings on sexuality doesn't make sense. It seems foolish to say "no" to contraceptives, for example, if we do not understand the sanctity of marriage, and the spousal, theological meaning of our bodies.

Lust and Chastity

Lust is desiring sexual pleasure for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes (CCC 2351). This is very different from loving the person for their own sake. It disregards what is best for the person, and places desires of the flesh before desires of the heart.

St. Paul touches upon aspects of chastity when he explains how the desires of the flesh interfere with the desires of the Spirit:

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For

the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh" (Galatians 5:16-17).

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5).

St. Paul's words warning us about sins of the flesh are in accord with Jesus' strong words regarding sins of lust:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away." (Matthew 5:27-30)

Let's be careful not to lose the heart of the matter here, though. St. Paul and Jesus are not saying our bodies lead us away from God. Many people believe Jesus is speaking in hyperbole in Matthew 5:29-30, but I think his point is quite literal. When we commit sins of the flesh, it's not our hands or our eyes that are causing us to sin. The act originates from the desire—as St. Paul suggests—and the desire comes from the heart. It is our heart that causes us to sin, not our eyes or hands.

In the days of the early Church, the heresy of Gnosticism vilified the body and blamed it for sins of the flesh, but Jesus taught that these desires originate in the heart:

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery ... All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man." (Mark 7:21-23)