

REFLECTION - '14th Sunday in Ordinary Time' "Bearing our burdens"

The Gospel is from St. Matthew 11:25-30. Pagans and Jews had the same hardships of life to face as we have, and even greater ones. They earned their daily bread with the sweat of brow and body. Their illnesses were more frequent and less bearable than ours, for they had not the medical assistance that we have. Death came to young and old then as it does now, but for them it was a final parting from loved ones, and no hope of a future happy meeting served to lighten their sorrow. All their crosses were crushing weights, sent to make life more miserable. Life on earth was passed in gloom and darkness and there was no shining star in the heavens to beckon them on or give them hope.

Surely God is good to us, to put us into this world at this day and age, and give us the light of faith, and the knowledge of God and of His loving plans for us, which make the burdens of this life comparatively more bearable, even though they are still distressing. We still have to earn our bread. We still have sickness and pains. We still have death stalking the earth, but unlike the people before Christ we now see a meaning to all these trials.

The yoke of Christ is not really a yoke but a bond of love, which joins us to Him, and through Him, to our loving Father in heaven. The rule of life which He asks us to keep, if we are loyal followers of His, is not a series of prohibitions and don'ts. It is rather a succession of sign-posts on the straight road to heaven, making our journey easier and safer. He does ask us to carry our cross daily, that is, to bear the burden of each day's duty, but once the cross is grasped firmly and lovingly. Burden though it is, we are given grace to carry it.

Ours is a world which is in an all-out search for new idols. It is a world which has left the path marked out by Christ, and forgotten or tried to forget, that man's life does not end with death. To be a Christian and to have the light of faith to guide our steps in this neo-pagan darkness, is surely a gift, and a blessing from God, for which we can never thank Him enough. Thank you, God, for this gift. Please give us the grace and the courage to live up to it and to die in the certainty that we shall hear, as we shut our eyes on the light of this world, the consoling words, "come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you."



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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



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

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Sea Sunday) 9th July AD 2017

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn
from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in
heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For My yoke is easy and My
burden is light.*

~Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV



*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 2
Offertory bearers:	Clive & Liz Williams
Church Gardeners:	Team 3
Church Cleaners	Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 143

Weekday Worshipping Numbers w/e 1st July: 26

Prayer Thought:

God's rule and kingdom are established on Christ, the gentle and humble Messiah King. God furthers his providential plan not by human force and power but by the humanity of Christ and the power of his Spirit. Through our faith we are privileged to see God's ways of acting. Let us open ourselves to him and his kingdom in this Mass.

The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord 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 Zechariah 9:9-10

Reader at SMSG: Rosie Page
Reader at All Saints: Diane West

(Old Testament Page 797 in the Bibles)
God, through the words of a prophet, calls on the holy city, Jerusalem, to rejoice in God, her saviour.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

**R/. I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.**

I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. ®

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. ®

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. ®

The Lord is faithful in all his words

ple.

When I can be whole-hearted with him, I can begin whole-heartedness with others. I can allow them to be vulnerable, hot mess and all.

Maybe we will be patient with the slow emergence of one another's beautiful truth, and maybe we won't, but either way, being wholeheartedly for God is getting off the roller coaster. Peace is in the purity of God's presence.

"Purity is not a long struggle against that which is impure or forbidden. Rather it is singleness of heart. Catch the great thought that from Him, the Father of Lights, comes every good and perfect gift, and therefore nothing outside God is worth having or craving" —Fr. John Gaynor Banks

PCC News: at its recent meeting members were delighted that there had been a substantial increase in Giving so far this year, and that the Inland Revenue now allow Gift Aid to be reclaimed on cash donations up to an annual total of £5000. A number of reports which will assist the faculty application for the works to the bells and the bell frame at All Saints had been received.

It is expected that the renewal & repairs to the exterior floodlighting at SMSG will take place next week.

Works to remove the moss from the lychgate roof will be shortly put in hand. Churchyard plans are kindly being drawn up by Steve Thompson.

A further quotation is being sought regarding the poor condition of the chancel radiators at SMSG; and a quotation for modest upgrade & repair to the multimedia system in the parish hall.

Works to Noticeboards at both churches were commissioned.

Reports were received on Children and Young People's Ministry in our churches and our School.

The Archdeacon has urged the Rector to take his sabbatical next year from Feb 14th (Ash Wednesday) to 16th May.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 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

Monday: **Feria**

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

Tuesday: **St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe**

Ebbsfleet Council of Priests
10:30am **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**
Pray for: Anglican Benedictines

Wednesday: **Feria**

9:00am Guided Mass for Yrs 3&4 SMSG South
10:15am Guided Mass for Yrs 5&6 SMSG South
Society of the Holy Cross Chapter
7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
Pray that: we may grow in The Faith

Thursday: **Feria**

10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
7:30pm Calverton Fete Planning Meeting
Pray for: Victims of Crime

Friday: **Feria**

8:00am **Mass at SMSG Sch - North Site**
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray for: Those who mourn

Saturday: **St Swithun, Bishop**

10:00am Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall in aid of all Saints Restoration Fund
3:00pm Milton Keynes Music Makers Concert with Cream Teas in All Saints Church in aid of the Restoration Fund

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 15th 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:

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Isaiah 55: 10-11
Psalm:	65 (part)
2nd Reading:	Romans 8: 18-23
Gospel:	Matthew 13: 1-23

Thing,' in which he explores the biblical view of faith as a matter of passion for God's will rather than perfect dogmatic adherence. In his book, purity is understood as right willing. That is, willing the Good, or what God wills—"the one thing needed," in Jesus' words (Luke 10:42).

Purity is not so much whiteness, then, as it is a matter of being true to God and his will. Sin is to be eliminated only so that potential and goodness may flourish, not for its own sake. And sin can only be permanently eliminated through a single-minded, whole-hearted drawing near to God, because it is his presence and will that purifies.

Pure olive oil includes no additive or adulterant. Pure water is water and nothing else. A pure heart is a heart which is fully alive and unobstructed, with all its energies directed to a single end. The only thing that has the capacity to hold such an intense concentration of energy is God; with anything less the energies are scattered and focus is lost.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). This pure, whole-heartedness fits us for God himself. And what we see of him is his own "whole-heartedness." He is who he is, and nothing else (Exodus 3:14). He invites us to become who we are, and nothing else.

Purity of heart comes from being drawn to God, and grappling in his presence with our tendencies to sin: to cover, prevaricate, and numb who we really are from ourselves, from God, and from others. Whatever the relative importance of marital fidelity and chastity to purity of heart, it must be acknowledged that purity of heart is the absolute foundation for a faithful, chaste, or otherwise pure life. (see Matthew 5: 27-32). Only one who is moving toward singleness of purpose will have courage to pursue virtue, despite temptation and failure.

Deceit, or impurity of heart, is what we do when we will two things,

rather than one. We do one thing and want people to believe we do another. We feel one thing and want people to think we feel another. Psychologists tell us a divided heart is highly correlated with addiction, depression, violence, aggression, suicide, eating disorders, self-medication, and all manner of human dis-ease.

So the heart is utterly crucial to Jesus, because impurity and hypocrisy come from divided hearts (see Luke 6:45). Jesus did not come into the world simply because we have some bad habits that need to be broken. He came into the world because our divided hearts must be wholly integrated.

What we are in the deep, private recesses of our lives is what he cares about most, because the truthfulness of who we are is necessary for our oneness and healing. In order for connection to happen, we have to allow ourselves to be seen, really seen. "The pure in heart will see God" (Matthew 5:8).

The Purity of God's Presence Is Peace

What if the Cross, then, was the unfiltered, whole-hearted presence of God? What if, beneath the pain of reality, there is peace? Stability?

What if God was saying "I bare myself to you, the human race, you the human person. I have been as vulnerable and transparent to you as it is possible to be. My arms are completely open. I am naked. I am hurting. I am needy. I am bloody, sweaty, thirsty, pinned down, exhausted, empty. I went first. I am safe. I still AM. Won't you be utterly real with me, too"?

Courage comes from the Latin "cor," meaning "heart." Originally it meant to tell who you are with your whole heart. Purity—single-mindedness—takes courage, the courage to go all-in with God. The willingness to let go of who I think I should be in order to be who I am. To whole-heartedly be imperfect and stop being fake with him and other peo-

and loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. ®

The Second Reading Romans 8:9,11-13
Reader at SMSG: Isa Thomas

(New Testament Page 131 in the Bibles) St Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit dwells in us The Holy Spirit constantly inspires us to live true Christian lives and gives us the power to do so.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

(New Testament Page 10 in the Bibles) we hear Jesus thank his heavenly Father for the graces he has bestowed on us Christians. He calls on us all to come to him for comfort and peace of soul.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Fr Ross)

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, Lesley C, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Rosalie Osbourne, Pete, Susan, Eric, 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...* **9th** Trevor Brown, Violet Hanrahan; **10th** Mary Bull; **12th** Alfred Saunders, Fred Martin, Stan Fitch; **13th** Graham Suckling; **14th** Phyllis Hickman, Ted Smallbones, Elsie Todd; **15th** Cherie Hill, Mary Mitchinson... 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:

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

Deep peace of the heart of Mary to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the rolling wave to you.

Deep peace of the bright blue sky to you.

Deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

(St Columba's Blessing)



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Sea Sunday: TODAY 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 return any 'Sea Sunday' Donation Envelopes to either of our churches by next Sunday at the latest. Thank you.

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.*

THIS SATURDAY - Coffee Morning in aid of All Saints Restoration Fund: 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.

THIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON - a Concert in All Saints Church: at 3:00pm Milton Keynes Music Makers are kindly putting on a concert of popular music in All Saints Church. Cream Teas will be served during the interval. All proceeds are in aid of All Saints Restoration Fund.

Church Library Reading Day: we are hosting another "reading day" on Thursday 27th July at Ray and Jenny's house, and would love you to join us. Relax with a good book and like-minded friends. Come for an hour, or come for the whole day, 11.00 till 3.00, to suit yourself. See us for full details.

Bring your own book, OR borrow one from the church library in advance, OR we will have a small selection available on the day.

Places will be limited, so please see one of us as soon as possible as we will need to know how many people are coming. We are looking forward to welcoming you for a relaxing, interesting and enjoyable time. *Tricia & Jenny*

What Christ Means by Purity of Heart

Whether you live several counties or simply streets away, family BBQ's, holidays, and gatherings are times to reconnect with those you love. But we all know from experience that those happy reunions can also harbour potential for emotional eruptions.

Many have learnt through discerning patterns, that when they see or hear something on more than two or three occasions that God is at work somehow. They know to pay attention to what happens next and be in prayer about the people and circumstances around them, because they are being used by the Holy Spirit to teach me something.

So the theatrics sometimes

flanking our extended family get-togethers sent warning bells ringing in our heads as soon as the second emotional tornado hits. Baseless accusations, foaming rage, vociferous cursing, unjustifiable suspicion, and alternative realities leave us all reeling in confusion. We look at each other sideways, wondering, "What in the world is happening? Is it us? Is it them?"

The Mess We're In

Living with the chaos and anxiety of habitual sin, our own or another's, is tough. At some point we just want to get off the roller coaster of instability. Strained relationships, debt, busy schedules, insatiable children, and all other forms of dis-ease can really weigh heavily upon us. What causes this instability, this inability to find and live in lasting peace?

"A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). In the Scriptures, we're told double-mindedness causes instability. Double-minded means unreality or untruth, not necessarily in the sense of deceiving others but in the deeper sense of deceiving oneself.

So one who is two-hearted is in every sense a self-deceiver. The self-deceit causes insecurity and doubt, as he hedges his bets and gives himself first to one thing and then the other, but never fully to either.

He is a person of un-faith, and volatile: "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6). He doubts because he knows himself to be disloyal and unreliable, and he projects that unreliability on God and others.

In the Bible, this double-mindedness is called impurity.

Purity Is Whole-heartedness

Often we understand purity as cleanness, especially sexual or spiritual cleanness. But biblical purity is better described as spiritual single-mindedness, whole-heartedness. Purity is so powerful because it is focused single-mindedness. In a sense, it's a contradiction of multitasking. This whole-heartedness leads inexorably away from instability and doubt, unto rest and stability when its object is God.

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind" (James 4:8). Oddly enough, the Bible says the cure for the mess of instability and sin is the purity of an undivided commitment to God. As we draw nearer to God, our hands are further cleansed and our hearts more deeply purified.

The opposite, impurity or double-heartedness, is the same as idolatry: "Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

Double-minded literally means two-souled or two-spirited, wishy-washy, uncommitted, divided, doubting, wavering, uncertain, and especially a division of interest between the world and God.

So the double-minded man has a heart divided between the world and God, like a husband with a wife and a girlfriend. Purity of heart, on the other hand, is to will one thing, namely, full and total allegiance to God. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Matthew 22:37).

Purity Is to Will One Thing

The Danish philosopher and theologian Søren Kierkegaard wrote a book called 'Purity of Heart Is to Will One