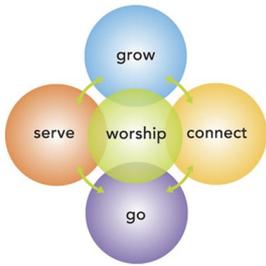


The Parish of  
**STONY STRATFORD**  
 with  
**CALVERTON**



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 23rd 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)*



Today's parable is Christ's answer to the question so frequently asked: "Why does God permit evil to triumph so often in this world, why are the wicked allowed to prosper?" The triumph of the wicked is short-lived, the reward of the Christian who suffers from their wickedness is everlasting. The very wickedness and injustices of evil-doers are one of the ways that God uses to perfect his elect. It is only on a battlefield that a true soldier can be proved.

In the parable, the weed does not destroy the wheat. It only makes it more difficult for the wheat to grow to maturity. So it is with the Christian. No one can take his faith from him, but living up to it is made more difficult by the evil influence and bad example of sinners. If some succumb to this evil influence and give up the practice of their faith, the fault is theirs. God can force no man to serve him.

The patience of the farmer in letting the weed grow on until harvest time, exemplifies the infinite mercy of God toward sinners. The weed could not change its nature, but the sinner can change his ways and God gives him every chance and every help to do this, up to his last moment of life. No sinner will be excluded from heaven because of the sins he committed but because he did not repent of these sins while he had the opportunity.

We must learn a double lesson of patience from this parable. First, to be patient with those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us—they are actually helping us to be better Christians if we bear with patience the injuries they inflict on us. Second, we must try to imitate the patience God shows in his dealings with sinners. While we must not approve of their evil deeds, or their sins, we must still look on them as our brothers and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven. We can do this by good example, and by fervent prayer for their conversion. This is not easy for human nature, but we can be certain that God will give us the necessary grace and strength to subdue our natural weakness and aversion, if we try to act with charity and true brotherly interest toward our erring fellowmen.

By acting thus, we will not only be helping a weak brother on the rugged road to heaven, we will also be making doubly sure of our own arrival there, for God will never be outdone in generosity.

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**TODAY: 16th 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**  
 Pray for: *Our Parish*

**Monday: Feria**  
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall  
*Organ Service and Tuning at St Mary & St Giles*  
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice  
 Pray for: *the Sick, Housebound and Disabled*

**Tuesday: St James, Apostle**  
 10:30am **Mass at All Saints** + 'Elevenses'  
 Pray for: *Fr Gary & all at Hanslope, St James*

**Wednesday: St Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM**  
 9:30am Calverton Apprenticing Charity  
 11:00am Perceval Almshouses Charity  
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School  
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School  
 7:30pm **Mass for Healing at SMSG**  
 Pray for: *Grandparents*

**Thursday: Feria**  
 9:45am Whalley's Apprenticing Charity  
 10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
 12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG  
 Pray for: *Local Charities*

**Friday: Feria**  
 12:00noon **Mass at St Mary & St Giles Church**  
 Pray for:

**Saturday: St Martha**  
 1:00pm Marriage Rite at St Mary & St Giles:  
 Swonnell & Roberts  
 3:00pm Marriage Rite at All Saints:  
 Holmes & Eales  
 Pray for: *Visitors to our Parish Churches*

**Next Sunday: 17th 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**  
 2:00pm Holy Baptism: Jessica Munday  
 Pray for: *Our Parish*

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19  
 Psalm: 86 (part)  
 2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27  
 Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

<i>Sidesmen</i>	<i>Team 4</i>	<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Team 4</i>
<i>Offertory</i>		<i>Bellringers</i>	
<i>Cleaning</i>	<i>Team 4</i>	<i>Gardening</i>	<i>Team 1</i>

*Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?*  
*Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 15th July): ?*

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*The night before Christ died, there was so much that he wanted to tell his disciples. So the first thing he did was to get down to work washing feet; only after that did he talk to them about loving one another. Jesus preached by example not only on that night, but in his care for the poor, the weak, and the sick, in every moment of his life and in every aspect of his death. In this we are like Jesus, for every action of ours speaks loudly to those around us, as we well know. We pray during this Mass that the message our actions proclaim be closer to the gospel we believe in.*

## The Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Wisdom 12: 13,16-19

SMSG Reader: Shirley Scrutton Old Testament Page 530

All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 86)

**R/. O Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice. ®

All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God. ®

But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me. ®

### Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

Reader: Lydia Jones

New Testament Page 131

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

### **Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Matthew 13:34-43

New Testament Page 12

### The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Clergy)

*Priest:* In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*Intercessor:* O God, the creator and preserver of all, we  
pray for people in every kind of need; make your ways

known on earth, your saving health among all nations.

V/. Lord, in your mercy

### **R/. Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the good estate of the catholic Church.....;  
guide and govern us by your good Spirit, that all who pro-  
fess and call themselves Christians may be led into the  
way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the  
bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

We commend to your fatherly goodness all those who  
are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or es-  
tate....*Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley  
C, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Hol-  
man, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Rosalie Osbourne, Pete, Su-  
san, Eric, Wendy,* comfort and relieve them in their need,  
give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out  
of all their afflictions.

We remember those who have gone before us in the  
peace of Christ... *Ted Atkinson, David Barker;* and for those  
whose anniversaries of death occur during this week,  
amongst them...**23rd** *Mollie Coombs;* **24th** *Sister Cecilia;*  
**25th** *Zillah Full, Mary Bodley, Iris Mathers;* **26th** *Fanny  
Downing, Charles Perceval (priest), Clara Read, Michael  
Viard;* **27th** *Karen Dare;* **28th** *Edward Worley, Alan Rose...*  
and we give you praise for all your faithful ones, with  
whom we rejoice in the communion of saints.

✕ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

### **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Priest:* God our Father, these are the prayers of your chil-  
dren who are beloved to you in your Son. We present  
them to you in full joy and confidence through the same  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Communion Reflection:

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me.

Christ be on all tongues telling of me.

Christ be the vision in eyes that see me.

In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

(James Quinn, based on Patrick's Breastplate)

## NOTICES

**Friday Mass during the School Holidays:** will normally be cele-  
brated at 12:00noon, except when there is a Soup Lunch and  
Organ Recital on the first Friday when it will be at 11:15am

**Mass for Healing:** at 7:30pm on Wednesday this week the Mass  
will be offered for the Sick and will include the Laying on of  
Hands for those who are sick, or any we wish pray for.

**Next Soup Lunch and Organ Recital:** will be held at 12:00noon  
on Friday 4th August in St Mary & St Giles. The Mass will be at  
11:15am on that day.

**Art Exhibition:** will be held in St Mary & St Giles on Saturday 5th  
August. If you would like to know more or join Rita's Art Group,  
then please contact her on: MK 564702 or 07484772612

**Calverton Fete:** Is held this year on the 27th August from 2:00pm  
to 4:00pm. If you can help with setting up and clearing away, or  
with running stalls, or with donating home-made cakes and  
offers of books and/or bric-a-brac do please see Jill Barby, Jon-  
athan Dunn or Eric & Diane West. Many thanks.

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**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Loveday SSC

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**Parish Hall Booking Secretary:** Lesley Salter: 01908 567404