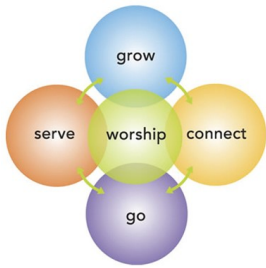


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 20th August 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)

A Mother's Faith

Matthew 15:21-28

Do we pray with the fervour and perseverance which prove that we have "great faith"? That faith is the proof which Christ needs before He grants our requests. The Canaanite woman of whom we have just heard is for us an example of that deep-seated faith and trust in Christ's power and Christ's goodness. Even though He ignored her she continued to beseech Him, and when He answered with what seemed a direct refusal, her faith and trust did not waver. She answered His reason for refusal with another statement which showed that the granting of her petition would not in any way interfere with or impede His primary task, His mission to His father's chosen people. This was the proof of great faith which He required. He granted her request.

We should imitate and learn from this pagan mother. Her love for her child made her ready to undergo every hardship or suffering for the restoration to health of her loved one. When we turn to Christ in our needs is our faith in Him as sincere and unwavering as was this woman's? No doubt it often is, and yet we do not get the desired answer. As Christians we know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of the person for whom we are praying. In that case, the good God will not grant what would be to our eternal disadvantage. But if our prayer is sincere and persevering, we shall always get an answer, and one which is better than what we asked for.

How often do we wonder at or perhaps doubt God's mercy when we see, for example, the young father of a family being taken from his loved and helpless ones, notwithstanding the prayers and tears of his wife and children. Where is God's mercy here? Where is His answer to these sincere prayers? But who are we to question God's mercy? The answer is there and often clear enough: that death brings out in his relatives and neighbours virtues which they would otherwise never have had occasion to practice - virtues that will earn for them eternal life.

It is only when we get to heaven - and getting to heaven is our purpose in life - that we shall see how our prayers, sincere and persevering, were answered by God.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- TODAY: 20th 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: St Pius X, Pope**
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled;
- Tuesday: Our Lady, Queen & Mother**
 10:30am **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'**
 Pray for: Devotion to Our Lady
- Wednesday: St Rose of Lima, Virgin**
 6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School
 7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: the Church and People of Peru
- Thursday: St Bartholomew, Apostle**
 10:30am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: Bishop Jonathan
- Friday: Feria**
 12:00noon **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: for the recently Departed
- Saturday: Feria**
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches
- Next Sunday: 21st 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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:
 1st Reading: Isaiah 22: 19-23
 Psalm: 138 (part)
 2nd Reading: Romans 11: 33-36
 Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

Children's Activity Morning followed by Beetle Drive: on Saturday 2nd September in St Mary & St Giles School (North Site). The Children's activities will begin at 9:30am and the Beetle Drive will commence at 2:00pm

2017 Organ Festival Weekend: Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September. Details of events to follow

Sidesmen	Team 3	Altar Servers	Team 4
Offertory	Hazel Wallis		
Cleaning	Team 3	Gardening	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 12/8): ?

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass:

Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and people in our daily lives so that God can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living. .

The Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

SMSG Reader: Dai Evans

All Saints Reader: Eilish Friedman

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

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The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 67)

**R/. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all he peoples praise you.**

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. ®

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. ®

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. ®

Second Reading

Reader: Matthew Lucas

Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

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Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom
and healing every infirmity among the people.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Matthew 15: 21-28

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The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: John Hickman)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us call on the Holy Spirit to help us live in accord with the gospel.

Intercessor: Let us ask for the grace to recognise our spiritual gifts and to use them wisely.

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the spiritual strength to accept God's gracious will that we may heal from our losses and rise from our grief.

Let us ask that God's grace be with all those who are searching for lasting truths.

Let us remember persons struggling to rise from self-destructive behaviours, particularly all who are in periods of recovery from addictions.

Let us uphold in prayer the seriously ill....and.... Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley C, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Sheila Redgrave, Pete, Alan Shaw, Lionel Stobie, Susan, Eric, Wendy... especially infants and children, and their families, doctors, and nurses.

Let us pray to be free from envy and jealousy and to rejoice in God's love.

Let us remember those who have died... *Ted Atkinson, David Barker;* and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them...**20th** Ernest Barrett; **21st** Stanley Richardson; **22nd** William Morgan; **23rd** Hilda Martinez, Leslie Braggins, Godson Ononeme; ... particularly those who leave this world without immediate family or friends.

✕ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: O God, your ways are life-giving and holy. Receive our prayers and sustain us by your Spirit of love that we may walk before you in righteousness all our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

I Beseech Thee, most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, that Thy Passion may be to me power by which I may be strengthened, protected and defended. May Thy wounds be to me food and drink by which I may be nourished, inebriated, and delighted. May the sprinkling of Thy Blood be to me an ablution for all my sins. May Thy death prove for me unfailing life, and may Thy Cross be to me eternal glory. In these be my refreshment, joy, health, and delight of my heart: Thou who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

NOTICES

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

NEXT SUNDAY - Calverton Fete: 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, Jonathan Dunn or Eric & Diane West. Many thanks.

St Mary & St Giles School: is looking to appoint a handyman/woman from September. Please contact Kieran Salter for further details.

Växjö Cathedral: With reference to Fr Ross' comments about his visit to Sweden, and our links there, we have in the Church Library a beautiful book of photographs of Växjö Cathedral, and its lovely sculptures, stained glass and other inspiring artworks. Many are modern, and all are well lit, stunningly photographed and well printed. (The text is in Swedish, but the pictures stand on their own!). There is also a small accompanying brochure in English. Do look and borrow them from the library table. Jenny Rowlson

Next Coffee Morning: On Saturday 2nd September at 10:00am in aid of SMSG Restoration Fund. Offers of help and cakes etc to Hazel Wallis - Thank you.

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