

REFLECTION - '21st Sunday in Ordinary Time'

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The Gospel is from St. Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus, the true Son of God, became man in order to make all men His brothers and co-heirs with Him, to the divine, eternal kingdom. To carry on His divine mission on earth (after He had ascended into heaven), He founded the Church on the twelve Apostles. This Church was to be God's new Chosen People (hence perhaps the twelve Apostles take the place of the heads of the twelve tribes of the Chosen People of old). It was to be made up of all races from all parts of the world. As its mission was to bring the message of salvation to all people, it was to go on until the end of time. For this Church, this divinely instituted society of human beings, to carry out its mission of helping all people to reach their eternal kingdom, it was necessary to be sure of the road and the aids offered to its members. In other words, the Church should be certain that what it told people to believe and to practice was what God wanted them to believe and to practice.

Today's reading from St. Matthew tells us how Christ provided for this necessity. In making Peter the head of the Apostolic College, the foundation-stone of his Church, the guarantor of its stability in the symbol of the keys and the promise that all his decisions would be ratified in heaven, Christ gave him the power of freedom from error when officially teaching the universal Church.

In other words, Peter received the primacy in the Church and the gift of infallibility in his official teaching on matters of faith and morals. As the Church was to continue long after Peter had died, it was rightly understood from the beginning that the privileges given to him and which were necessary for the successful mission of the Church, the Bishop of Rome's position was held to be first. Unfortunately since 1054, there have been many, many scandalous divisions in the Body of Christ the Church.

Rather than bolster truth, it has led to claim and counter-claim, but the original intent was that the position of the Bishop of Rome was to guard the faith and unity of the Church in truth. Today the various denominations struggle with matters of doctrine, each behaving as if they alone can decide such matters. The practice of the early Church was that the bishops of the whole Church would gather in Council with the Bishop of Rome to decide such matters.

These were marvellous gifts of Christ to his Church; and we have not repaid him well. On this day as we contemplate St Peter being given authority let us pray for the unity of the Church and its witness to the truth; and that our sad divisions would soon cease.



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 TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 4
Serving Team:	Team 1
Offertory bearers:	Daniel & Louise Mullins
Church Gardeners:	Team 2
Church Cleaners	Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?

Weekday Worshipping Numbers W/E 20/8: ?

Prayer Thought:

It is a long, long way from Caesarea Philippi to Rome. At Caesarea, Peter is given authority in the Christian community; he is hailed as the rock and is given the power of the keys. Years later in Rome, all this will have much greater implications for him and for the infant Church. A day to pray for the unity of all Christians with the successor of Peter.

The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Isaiah 22:19-23

Reader at SMSG: David Scrutton

Reader at All Saints:

(Old Testament Page 596 in the Bibles) tells of God's dismissal of an unworthy Servant and of his appointment of one who will be faithful. Our Lord will be the faithful servant holding the key of the house of David.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

R/. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. ®

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. ®

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

also be working one day a week in our Church School as part of his wider work in music tuition. Please pray for him as he prepares to join us.

Bishop Philip North (Bishop of Burnley): some of us may recall Bishop Philip coming to preach for us as 'Fr' Philip when he was still the Priest Administrator at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. He has been much in press of late, firstly with regard to the deeply sad way in which certain elements treated him regarding the See of Sheffield. More recently however, he has received a considerable degree of coverage over a courageous address he gave at a Christian Conference this summer. We may have seen snippets in the Newspapers, but the whole address is very much worth reading. To that end there are copies available at the back of each of our Parish Churches.

A point to ponder:

An MP dies goes up to heaven St. Peter said, "We have a different system now the first 24 hours you spend with the devil." So the MP goes down to see the devil. He is greeted by old MPs playing golf, free drinks, lovely young girls and free meals. At the end of his 24 hours he goes back to heaven. St. Peter said, "Your next 24 hours is here." He opens the doors in front of him, and sees angels floating by with harps on fluffy clouds. After 24 hours St. Peter said, "It's your choice." The MP said, Well, I think I will go down there." So off he goes and opens the doors, and to his surprise it was a barren desert. He said to his friends, "Where has everything gone?" "Oh," replied his friends, "we were canvassing then."



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
 12:00n Service of Prayer & Dedication: Ian & Sharon Sherwood
 12:30pm Holy Baptism at All Saints
2:00pm Calverton Fete & Open Day
 Intention: Our Parish

Monday: St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
 9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall
 8:00pm Bellingring Practice
 Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: The Beheading of St John Baptist
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
 Pray for: Anglican Benedictines

Wednesday: Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward, Virgin, Martyrs
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: all women facing martyrdom today

Thursday: St Aidan, Bishop, & the Saints of Lindisfarne
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: The Conversion of our Hearts & Minds

Friday: St Giles, Abbott
11:00am Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
11:15am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 12:30pm Soup Lunch followed by Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: all Religious and for our Parish

Saturday: Feria
 10:00am Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall in aid of all Saints Restoration Fund
 2:00pm Beetle Drive at SMSG School (North Site)
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 22nd 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:

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Jeremiah 20: 7-9
Psalm:	63 (part)
2nd Reading:	Romans 12: 1-2
Gospel:	Matthew 16: 21-27

the back of each of our Parish Churches.

Church Diaries 2018: Once again the supplier of the Church Diaries we switched to last year has printed a large quantity of diaries for us.. As with last year we have sufficient for us to take copies away to give to family and friends. Copies are to be found in both our Parish Churches from today.

A Prayer for the Victims of the Terrorist Attack in Barcelona:

Let us pray for the servants of God, the victims of the Barcelona Massacre: O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who hast trampled down death and overthrown the Devil, and given life to Thy world, do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the souls of Thy departed servants in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away. Pardon every transgression which they have committed, whether by word or deed or thought. For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives yet does not sin, for Thou only art without sin, Thy righteousness is to all eternity, and Thy word is truth.

For Thou are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants who have fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.

Being Disciples: part of being a disciple is being a witness, and St Paul reminds us of the urgency of this task of witnessing:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?"

Romans 10: 13-15

Yet to be a witness we need the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. The Lord does not ask this of us, and leave us unaided. Indeed he is with us, as he promised. So here is a prayer to ask the Lord to renew and deepen our faith:

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what error might be proclaimed?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Organ Heritage Weekend: from Friday 8th September through to Sunday 10th September, there are a series of splendid recitals and concerts to mark our contribution to our Nation's Heritage Weekend. You can find more details on leaflets on the oak table at the rear of St Mary & St Giles.

Also, Sunday 10th September sees the arrival of **Jonathan Kingston** as our new Director of Music. Jonathan will

discard not the work of your hands. ®

The Second Reading Romans 11:33-36
Reader at SMSG: Oliver Williams

(New Testament Page 134 in the Bibles) we hear Paul's hymn of praise of the great might and mercy of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

(New Testament Page 15 in the Bibles) the Lord promises to Peter the keys of the kingdom. Peter, as the servant of Christ, will share in our Lord's authority over his Church.

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, Lesley, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Janice Houghton, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Sandra Pugh, Pete, Alan Shaw, Stacey, Lionel Stobie, 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... **28th** Morgan Morgans, Norman Toombs, John Hughes; **29th** Betty Dickinson; **30th** Elizabeth Bailey, George Syrratt; **31st** George Fountaine, William Tansley, Betty Webb, Sally Bradbury, John Cowley; **1st Sept** Thomas Poulter, Edward Eales, Doris Grieve, Joyce Plummer; **2nd** Kathleen Swann... 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.

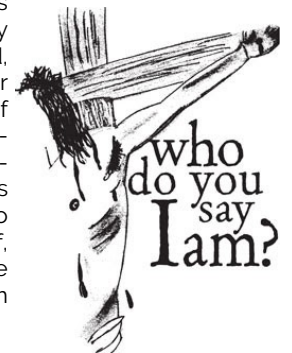
Let us pray for ourselves and our community:..... that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

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:

Caesarea Philippi, a strange place, full of unexploded bombs and mines, we can no longer traverse its hills. Gone is the glory of yesteryear, gone the temple to Caesar in gleaming white marble. Gone are the pagan shrines erected to Baal and Pan. The Jordan still flows out from the snow-capped hills. Was it here that the rugged fishermen hailed Jesus as the living Son of God? No memory of that unusual happening lingers here. One has to travel far, to Rome, to see where it all this led. Yes, in the person of that white-clad speck of a man who appears at a window high up above the crowds to bless the city and the world, *urbi et orbi*. For the Bishop of Rome is recognised by all Catholic Christians as the Successor to St Peter even if, as yet, they are separated from him.

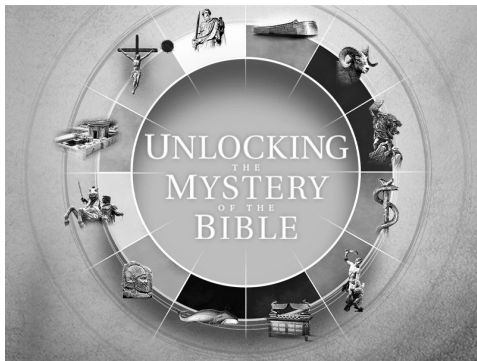


PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

TODAY - Calverton Church Fete: Once again, it is that time of year when we all gather at All Saints for an afternoon of Tea, CAKE (!), music, fun, games and, yes, Tower Tours.

The fete starts at 2:00pm - do come along with family and friends and help make the events a great success. Thank you.

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

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.

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 this project group, then please do have a word with Fr Ross or the Churchwardens:
Jill Barby and Jonathan Dunn - All Saints

Pilgrimage's to Walsingham: once gain our Young People have been to Walsingham for the Youth Pilgrimage and they will be writing about their experiences in due course.

Last weekend a group of 'grown-ups' from our Parish travelled to Walsingham (including six first time pilgrims) for a weekend Pilgrimage.

There is something about Walsingham that draws us closer to Christ. The critics might say that there is too much emphasis on Mary there, but in reality the experience of Pilgrims is that they are drawn closer to her Son, Jesus Christ. But why should this be a surprise? After all, in the Gospel of St John Mary is recorded as instructing Jesus' disciples, "Do whatever he tells you." and in all the recorded appearances of Our Lady she reiterates her Son's message of turning away from sin and back to God, of pen-

ance, prayer and charity to God and neighbour. So she is still at work today, but of course, we know this for we affirm our belief in the Communion of Saints. This is not just some vague term, or idealistic notion. No, it has huge practical implications.

The Communion of Saints shows us that those who are now in God's presence are active in their prayers for us. As the Church of England teaches in her funeral liturgy, the Church is comprised of both the 'living and departed in the Lord Jesus.' In other words when someone dies they do not cease to be a member of the Church, for to be a member of the Church is to be incorporated into the Body of Christ through Baptism. In the Lord Jesus we are forever one.

As the priest declares in the Eucharistic Prayer: "Therefore, with angels and archangels and with the whole company of heaven...."

So to be on Pilgrimage at Walsingham is to experience a renewal in faith, if we will but humble ourselves before Christ and accept those ministries that are offered there. In so doing we truly learn that all grace comes from God; and that our happiness really does lie in doing "whatever, he tells us." But we are not alone in this, for going on Pilgrimage is to go in company with other Pilgrims; and as pilgrims to Walsingham discover, they are also accompanied by our Lord's Mother who welcomes us to the copy of her home in Nazareth. We sat at our mothers' feet listening to their wisdom; why the should we not sit in the home of Mary, England's Nazareth, and listen once more to her wisdom, and be brought closer in loving obedience to her Son?

Next year's weekend Pilgrimage is already booked: Friday 17th to Sunday 19th August. Booking Forms are available at