

REFLECTION - '23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time' "Fraternal Correction"

Unfortunately, there are far too many Christians today who pay no heed to the serious obligation of encouraging an erring brother to give up his sinful ways. They shrug it off by saying: "I have more than enough to do to keep myself from sin" or "am I my brother's keeper"? The answer is in this lesson we hear this morning. We are our brothers' keepers, and even if we have many temptations and inclinations to sin we shall not overcome them if we have no time to think of our neighbours' need.

There are, alas, millions of lapsed or lukewarm Christians who could and would have been active members of Christ's mystical body if their neighbours had fulfilled this grave obligation which Christ has imposed on us all. They are now a source of scandal to the weaker and youthful members of the Church, and an impediment to the possible acceptance of the faith by non-Christians. Let us see our present-day obligations and what we are doing to help our neighbours retain their Christian faith and practice. How much of the indifference to religion which the youth of today seems to be showing is due to lack of parental control and example? How many children of Christian families grow up as practical pagans because their Christian faith meant little or nothing to their parents? It is in the home that the religion of the next generation is firmly established or lost. When parents are loyal to their faith in their daily lives, their children will have been given a loyal and true example; but, where parents are careless and lax their children will be more likely to be more careless and more lax.

Parents! the first neighbours and fellow Christians whom you must kindly and charitably correct are your own children. Their future salvation and your own too will depend on how well you fulfil this obligation. Parents who are obedient to Christ in this will find time and many opportunities to have a charitable word of help for an erring neighbour outside their household. On the other hand, the lax parents, who give little or no thought to getting to heaven or to their children getting there in God's good time, will hardly bother with their neighbour's salvation. Thus this cancer of infidelity and irreligion grows and spreads.

Let each one of us look into his past conduct in relation to this law of charity. Have we really tried to help others on the road to heaven? Have we given them the good example of a truly Christian way of living? Have we offered advice and encouragement when it was needed, and correction in private where that was possible? If so "we have gained our brother." We have brought a prodigal son back to a loving Father and that loving Father will repay us a hundred-fold in this life and especially in the next.



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 Society**
under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda



The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

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

THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
10th September 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

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 3
Offertory bearers:	Older Young Christians
Church Gardeners:	Team 4
Church Cleaners	Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 126

Weekday Worshipping Numbers W/E 2/9 - 124

Prayer Thought:

Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on the depth of our Christian Discipleship, and to accept fraternal correction. This is because God desires to enkindle the fire of his love in our hearts by drawing us gently into the peace that stills our restless hearts.

The Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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 Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Reader at SMSG: Eilish Friedman
Reader at All Saints: Rita Shelley

(Old Testament Page 720 in the Bibles) points out that if a prophet -and so a pastor - fails to warn and admonish, he too is responsible for those who do wrong and go astray.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 95)

R/.

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. ®

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. ®

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' ®

adultery, deception, theft, etc. And in the case of Joseph, the son of Jacob, it must have seemed that all was lost and hopeless. His brothers sold him into slavery. His master's wife wrongfully accused him of rape. He was thrown into a dungeon. And then everything changed. He was freed from his prison and made a ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

Then, by the providence of God, he meets his brothers who had sold him into slavery. His brothers are terrified, and react in the way you might expect, "Suppose Joseph has been nursing a grudge against us and now most certainly will pay us back in full for all the wrong we did him" (Genesis 50:15). At this point, Joseph changes the tone of Genesis. He doesn't pay their evil with evil. He has pity on them, and explains why, "Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve this present end, the survival of many people" (Genesis 50:20). Joseph gets it. The evil he has experienced has shown him the value of love and forgiveness. He has placed his trust in God, knowing as St. Paul says, "that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

The Greatest Good from the Greatest Evil

We often think of the Old Testament as having the most egregious accounts of evil. And while it does certainly contain a great deal of it, it does not compare to the greatest of evils ever committed. But God knows how to draw good even from this. From the greatest moral evil ever committed, the rejection and murder of God's only Son, caused by the sins of all men—God, by his grace that 'abounded all the more,' brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. Love and forgiveness are the cure to evil.

How should we respond when someone does evil to us?

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 23rd 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
3:00 pm Get to know our Willis!
4:30 pm Audience Requests
played by Jonathan Kingston
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: The Most Holy Name of Mary.

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
7:00pm Fundraiser Meal for SMSG Organ
Pray for: The Lay Apostolate of Women.

Wednesday: St John Chrysostom, Bp & Dr

9:00am Local Clergy & Ministers Prayer Mtg
12:30pm MK Clergy Chapter
1:30pm MK New Communities Group
6:30pm Handbell Ringing at SMSG School
7:15pm The Band Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: The Greek Orthodox Church

Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Holy Cross Day)

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: The Society of the Holy Cross

Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00am Mass at SMSG School (North)
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray for: For parents of suffering children

Saturday: SS Cornelius & Cyprian, Bp & Mtrs

10:00am Coffee Morning in Parish Hall
In Aid of All Saints Restoration Fund
7:30pm 'Arco Strings' Concert at SMSG
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 24th 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:

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 27: 30 - 28: 7
Psalm: 103 (part)
2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9
Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

project also includes insulation being installed above the nave and chancel ceiling. This will have two benefits: firstly it will help keep the Parish Church warmer, and secondly, it will help prevent the dark square patterns that emerge over time on the ceiling. That pattern of squares is caused by damp getting into the plaster and lath of the ceiling.

The final part of the project will be the reseating of the Nave with the light-oak chairs previously shown to everyone, and the stripping and restraining in light oak of the front of Nave Responds, now agreed as part of the Faculty Consent. The type of Chairs chosen are increasingly seen in Cathedrals and major Parish Churches, and are designed to cope with greater use and to last for at least a century. This part of the Project is unlikely to attract grants, and so we shall need to start a special fund within the Parish Accounts for donations towards the new chairs and the proceeds of any specific fundraising efforts. To that end donations of the cost of a chair (approx. £245) or more than one in memory of a loved one will be one way in which we might be able to raise the funds - as their may be wider interest in having loved ones commemorated in this way from a wider area than the parish.

The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC would very much appreciate fundraising ideas and also to be informed of any grant-making organisations that you know of.

If God Created All Things Good, Why Does Evil Exist?

In the biblical account of creation we read how God made everything and then "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). In the case of humanity, we read that "God created man-kind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). If Adam and Eve

were "very good," and made "in the image of God," why is it that just two chapters later they disobey God, resulting in their expulsion from Paradise? If God created all things to be very good, why does evil exist at all?

Not only did God make everything good, but he loves everything that he has made, and by his will all things remain in existence. "For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for you would not fashion what you hate. How could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Ruler and Lover of souls" (Wisdom 11:24-26).

Why Create Free Creatures Capable of Evil?

God is in no way, directly or indirectly, the cause of moral evil. He permits it, however, because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it. Free will alone cannot explain the existence of evil. If free will is the cause of evil, why would God allow that? Wouldn't it be better to not create the possibility of evil? But without free will it would also be impossible to love. Man, enticed by the Evil One, abused his freedom at the very beginning of history. But ultimately humanity's freedom was meant for good. By free will, he is capable of directing himself toward his true good. He finds his perfection 'in seeking and loving what is true and good. Without free will, it would be impossible for us to love God and each other.

God Knows How to Derive Good from Evil

Genesis is bookended beautifully. At the beginning, we read of the creation and goodness of all things. Soon we find creation has become corrupted and evil has entered the world. Throughout the rest of the book, we see the fruits of this evil: murder, fratricide, genocide, rape, incest,

The Second Reading Romans 13: 8-10
Reader at SMSG: Rosie Page

(New Testament Page 135 in the Bibles) reminds us that genuine love of others will ensure that we will carry out our obligations and will never hurt others.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 18: 15-20

(New Testament Page 17 in the Bibles) our Lord reminds me that I am by brother's keeper. I may have an obligation to correct and advise one who is doing wrong.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Sister Janet)

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 profess 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 estate.. Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley, Steve Cooper, Baby Ferguson, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Miranda, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Gum and Eva Newnham, Pete, Alan Shaw, Stacey, Lionel Stobie, Susan,

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... William Gregory; and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them... 10th Jane Gent, Edie Copping; 11th Jessie Millar, Alma Crompton; 12th May Card, Bernard May, Frank Pugh; 14th Roy Goodman, Stanley Longhurst, Christine Rose, Derek Savage; 15th James Marchant; 16th Samuel Edwards, Edna Haysman, Graham Sanders (priest)... 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 children 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:

'Judge not and you will not be judged.' Lord, it is easy to forget these words of yours, so easy to condemn. Give us hearts filled with compassion, forgiving hearts, generous hearts, listening hearts, May we lift those who have fallen, calm those who are frightened, forgive those who have done wrong, welcome back those who have strayed. So may we receive from you what we give to others - mercy without judgement, and your redeeming love.



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

THIS WEEKEND: 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.

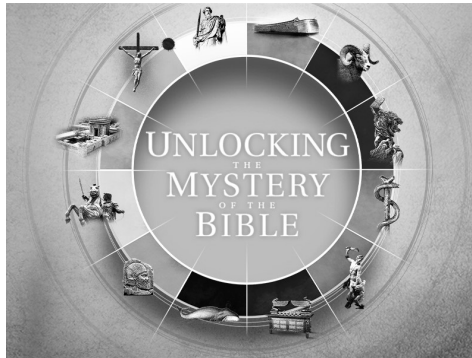
Also, TODAY sees the arrival of **Jonathan Kingston** as our new Director of Music. Jonathan will also be working one day a week in our Church School as part of his wider work in music tuition. Please pray for him at the start of his ministry amongst us.

This Saturday - Coffee Morning: to be held in the Parish Hall from 10:00am - 12:00 noon, in aid of All Saints Restoration Fund. All donations of help, cakes and scones would be very much appreciated. Thank you. *Jill Barby*

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 the PCC has agreed to an excellent DVD based Course on the Scriptures beginning this month. 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.'

N.B. TWO SESSIONS will be held on Thursdays - both at the Rectory at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, as I am well aware that not everyone is able to attend evening sessions. The Course will be begin on Thursday 21st September. The

Course is eight sessions long and there will be a break of two weeks after the first four sessions. Each participant will have a high quality booklet, Bible Timeline and bookmark to aid us as we go through the Course.



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

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.

Rosary (Proposed Walsingham Cell) Group: During our Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham a number of people expressed interest in forming a Walsingham Cell Group in our Parish to pray the Mysteries of the Rosary which incorporate themed intercessions. This proposal was made with the awareness that there were those in the Parish who, while perhaps unable to attend a Pilgrimage to Walsingham, none-the-less would like to keep their links with Our Lady of Walsingham through participation in such a Cell Group. The proposed group would meet on the last Friday of each month in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary & St Giles, and would be able to use the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham bequeathed to the Parish by the late Derek Savage as part of its devotions.

The date of the first meeting of the group has been set for 2:00pm on Friday the 29th September - the Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, which is a really appropriate date to commence this group. If you would like to know more please see Sister Janet, who will be coordinating this group.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2018: The last three year's pilgrimages have brought many blessings to those who participated in them, and each year we seem to attract a number of 'First-Time Pilgrims,' which is a wonderful thing. We are now taking bookings for next year's Pilgrimage; the dates for which are: Friday 17th - Sunday 19th August. Booking Forms are available at the back of each of our Parish Churches.

Fr Ross will be giving a DVD Presentation on Walsingham in October - a more precise date will be announced next week.

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.

Greater Access Project at St Mary & St Giles: As previously reported the Chancellor granted the Faculty for the Disabled access, Gallery Extension, redecoration and new seating Project. While we were not at the stage of being able to commission the work, we needed the Faculty in order to be able to apply for grants, as most grant-making bodies will not give grants unless projects have all the necessary approval.

Now that the Pipe Organ Refurbishment is complete we shall be to trun our efforts towards the much anticipated first phase of this project: the Disabled Access and Gallery Extension. The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC will be looking to submit grant application during the autumn, but, of course, continue to appreciate the fundraising efforts of everyone in our Parish Church. Now that the organ works are complete and paid for, while building up the Organ Fund, a proportion of monies raised at concerts will also be placed within the Restoration Fund.

The most expensive part of the whole project will be the redecoration of the Church - likely to cost over £100,000. This is due in part to the need to 'birdcage' scaffold the whole of the interior of the church and the sheer volume of paint required (five coats). The colour scheme chosen will make the church much brighter than it already is and will highlight certain architectural features of the interior.

This, redecoration, part of the