

REFLECTION - '26th Sunday in Ordinary Time'

More about our call to the Vineyard

This morning's parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defence can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realise how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? The utter futility of these excuses will then be apparent in all their nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while we are the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven, He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervour and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, let us look into our conscience and see how much of our past life we have given to God and how much we have kept for ourselves. If we were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in our favour? Is our corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt *"Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it."*



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



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

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st October AD 2017

PARABLES OF JESUS

Two Lost Sons

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 1
Serving Team:	Team 2
Offertory bearers:	David & Jenny Williams
Church Gardeners:	Team 3
Church Cleaners	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 173

Weekday Worshipping Numbers W/E 23/9 - 496

Prayer Thought:

Where the Master walked humbly, the servant should tread contritely. God be merciful to me a sinner. Touch my heart with a sincere determination to serve you. Grant me to follow Christ's example, that I may be obedient and trustful.

The Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Ezekiel 18:25-28

Reader at SMSG: Lesley Salter
Reader at All Saints: Jonathan Dunn

(Old Testament Page 707 in the Bibles) speaks of repentance. If a man repents of his sin God will forgive him and give him eternal life.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

R/. Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. ®

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. ®

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. ®

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

Reader at SMSG: Sister Janet

(New Testament Page 165 in the Bibles)

vice. Bishop Jonathan appeared to ignore this whilst leading our worship, until right at the end of the service when he was dismissing us all to go, whereupon he looked directly at this small child and gave a little wave back – acknowledging her contribution to our worship. +Jonathan was also willing to answer questions from the children in the classrooms, everything from “How do you become a bishop?” to “How old are you?” Nothing phased him and he seemed equally at home with the 3½ year olds in nursery as with the Year 6 children. It was a joyous occasion and many staff commented to me afterwards about how good it was to be able to meet the bishop, and what a delightful person he was. However for me one member of staff's comment was most noteworthy, “I really enjoyed the service and it makes me stop and think. He made me think and I it is all very interesting, this faith, well people who have faith. I am interested in it all.”



Our school has been blessed in many ways, but I am pleased that it has been publicly blessed by the Bishop. If anyone wants a copy of Bishop Jonathan's address then do let me know.

Kieran Salter – Headteacher

Readings next Sunday:

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm:	80 (part)
2nd Reading:	Philippians 4: 6-9
Gospel:	Matthew 21: 33-43

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(The Holy Guardian Angels)

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 Bellingring Practice
Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: St Thomas of Herford, Bishop

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
3:00pm Rector meets with our Architect regarding the Bells at All Saints
7:30pm Walsingham Cell Group Meets at The Rectory
7:30pm Walsingham DVD in Parish Hall
Pray for: those facing Martyrdom today

Wednesday: St Francis of Assisi

6:30pm Handbell Ringing at SMSG School
7:15pm The Band Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm Mass for Healing at SMSG
Pray for: all Parish Priests

Thursday: Feria

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
1:30pm Year 5 visit SMSG - Symbols
2:00pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
7:00pm Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
Both sessions at the Rectory
Pray for: the Church in Hungary

Friday: St Bruno, Priest

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles Sch
11:45am Soup Lunch & Recital at SMSG
2:00pm Old Stratford School visit SMSG
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal
Pray for: Angelic Assistance

Saturday: Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
10:00am Coffee Morning for SMSG Rest. Fund
Pray for: *Biblical Scholars & Visitors to our Parish Churches*

Next Sunday: 27th 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

of names, as there is insufficient space, and in previous year's the Rector has struggled to decipher names written over. *Thank you.*

Lights' Switch-On Day - Christmas Fayre: is only 9 weeks away! Posters are available from today, and the list for offers of help is also posted on the free-standing noticeboard at St Mary & St Giles. Offers of small or sliceable cakes as well as mince pies etc. would be most appreciated. Suitable unwanted books would also be appreciated. On the Friday afternoon prior to the day after the lunchtime concert, Fr Ross will, as usual, be leading the working party that moves the seating around in church and lays out the tables for the stalls etc. Offers of help would be much appreciated, as would offers of help on the Saturday at 5pm to set the church ready for worship the next day. *Thank you.*

Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints: following this year's very good Fete at All Saints, it has been decided to hold a Christmas Tree Festival from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th December. We have already had commitments to having a tree in the church - and that is even before launching a publicity drive, which will take place within the next week. During the Festival refreshments will be served and opportunities taken to promote the Christian Faith. Please pray for the success of this new venture and for all those involved. If you can help in any way please see Jill Barby.

The Blessing of the South Site of our Church School: When the merger of Queen Eleanor School and St. Mary & St Giles Junior School was first mooted, and indeed when the merger went ahead, there were some who were opposed because the school on Galley Hill would become a church school. This has now happened and whilst I understand that concern, I actively believe that it is a blessing to the children who attend, and

to the town as a whole. Consequently I was very keen to see the church formally blessed by our bishop.



Bishop Jonathan came to our school last Wednesday to lead us in the Eucharist and to bless the school. All the children from the north site came up to south site so that we had all 425 children in the hall, with staff along with a handful of parents and members of the parish. Children from Year 6 read the first lesson and led the prayers of the people. +Jonathan gave a wonderful sermon about trusting in God and delighted the children with his blessing of the school hall - which was packed. Immediately after the service +Jonathan disrobed and came back into the hall to speak to the adults present, whilst we got the children out for a short break. Then it was off to the classrooms and in each room +Jonathan chatted with the children about what they were doing and what they liked about school, before inviting them to join him in a prayer for them, their families, their classroom and their school - before blessing each classroom with holy water in the name of the God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The whole morning was a delight but there were some special moments that are worthy of recount. One of our youngest children spent most of the service waving at +Jonathan whenever he looked up from the order of ser-

Paul the apostle exhorts us to true Christian unity, a unity possible only if we are humble and initiate Christ who became obedient even unto death.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel *Matthew 21:28-32*
(New Testament Page 20 in the Bibles)
Christ tells us that what God requires of us are good actions, not empty promises. God is not deceived by words.

The Prayer of the Faithful
(Intercessor at SMSG: Fiddy Abraham)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us pray to our heavenly Father for the needs of the Church and of the world.

Intercessor: For the holy Church of God that it may be faithful to God's commands..... and that all God's people may be lights to their generation, faithful to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all peoples of every race and language; for the nations they are part of and their governments..... that they may be guided to the light of Christ and come to obey his will, let us pray to the Lord:

For this parish and our worship of Christ and our sharing in his continuing mission of redemption..... that our eyes may be open to the needs of those around us and the love of Christ for them, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who are in need of compassion and love: the destitute and disadvantaged, the sick and infirm...Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley, Ray Coats, Steve Cooper, Baby Ferguson, Peter Fulcher, Felix Hailstone, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Miranda,

Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Gum and Eva Newnham, Pete, Alan Shaw, Stacey, Dee Stobie, Lionel Stobie, Susan, Eric, Wendy.... that they may be granted the wholeness and peace that comes from God alone, let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have been faithful to Christ during their earthly pilgrimage and are now at rest...Joan Brown... *and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them...1st* Mary Read, Henrietta Larman, Francis Halliwell, Christopher Brittain, Modupeh Thomas; **2nd** Margaret Hooton; **3rd** John Taylor; **4th** Francis Bates, Hilda Webb, June Sherwood; **5th** Michael Felce, Jean Adams; **6th** Edwin Chukura, May Bright; **7th** Dorothy Hanns... that they may be granted admission into the fullness of God's presence, let us pray to the Lord:

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon them.

For ourselves in the week ahead..... That we may be faithful to Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: Father, you know our needs before we ask. Fulfil now, O Lord the desires and petitions of your servants as may be most expedient for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Thank you Lord, for once again bringing us together in faith and giving us the food of eternal life in this Eucharist. Thank you Lord for making the Father known to us. Thank you for the blessings we have received, the life we enjoy, the friends who gladden us, the neighbours who welcome us. Send us your spirit to shape our attitudes and enable us to grow into sensitive and sympathetic persons. We live in changing times. Gives us the grace to use our time well and to spread your peace and serenity.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Pedantry: is, it is said, an honourable calling. However, that is not the case when it is done behind someone's back in an arrogant, contemptuous or supercilious manner. It is a sad reflection on someone's character, and indeed their spiritual state, when they resort to a sense of superiority over simple mistakes in written or verbal forms of communication, or when they resort to criticism rather than offering a word of friendly support and encouragement.

Harvest Thanksgiving: This year we are extending this observance with the School holding its annual Harvest Thanksgiving Mass in church last Friday on the Feast of the Archangels: Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael. This Sunday, while Sunday's in Ordinary Time, take precedence the 1st of October is the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. Harvest Thanksgiving is always observed on the last Sunday of September because of the link between the Harvest and the Scriptures foretelling the Angels involvement in the ingathering (*the harvest*) of souls at the end of time. To reflect this we shall be singing some of those wonderful hymns which relate the Church's teaching on the Angels and how they serve God and us.

Given this extended Harvest period, we have an opportunity to collect more tinned and packet foods for the MK Foodbank, which will be our Harvest Thanksgiving cause this year. Gifts may be brought to either of our Parish Churches.

Evening Rosary Group: Following a successful launch of the monthly Friday afternoon Rosary Group led by Sister Janet on Friday in St Mary & St Giles., a monthly evening group commences this Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Rectory. All welcome. We are well on the way to

being able to start a Walsingham Cell Group in the Parish. Please see Sister Janet for more details.

2018 Fundraising & Diary Planning Meeting: On Tuesday 31st October at 7:00pm there will be a planning meeting at the Rectory. It is very important that all Parish Groups (even the more social ones) send a representative to this meeting, in order that all dates can be recorded in the Parish Diary managed by Lesley Salter. This helps avoid double-booking. Last year only two people attended this meeting which was unfortunate. Please would all Parish Groups confirm with Fr Ross and Lesley Salter who they are sending as their representatives to this very important meeting. Thank you.

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 the Parish Hall at 8:00pm on Tuesday 3rd October. If you have never been to Walsingham or simply want to enjoy a reminder of your own Pilgrimages then this is very much for you.

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.

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 turning our efforts towards the much anticipated first phase of this project: the Disabled Access and Gallery Extension. Whilst we still need to raise monies towards the total cost (which is between £90,000 and £100,000) the PCC hopes, provided monies become available, to be able to commission this work next year.

The most expensive part of the whole project will be the redecoration of the Church - likely to cost over £100,000. —this includes insulation above the nave and chancel ceiling, which will help make the building warmer and improve the longevity of the redecoration of the ceiling. You may have noticed the square patterned effect that emerges over time on the ceiling (much more pronounced in the chancel - this is caused by local conditions; namely the high water table resulting in greater levels of damp. This damp penetrates the areas between the fretwork frame to which the plaster and lathe is affixed to leading to the darker square patches. The insulation should help prevent this occurring for a much greater period.

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 restaining in light oak of the front of Nave Responds, now agreed as part of the Faculty Consent. The type of Chairs cho-

sen 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.

All Saints & All Souls: All Saints Day will be observed at All Saints Church at 7:30pm on Wednesday 1st November with a Sung Mass.

All Souls Day (Thursday 2nd November) will, as is customary have three celebrations of Mass:

9:30am Low Mass at St Mary & St Giles

11:00am Low Mass at All Saints

7:30pm Sung Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Pious Lists are now posted in each church. For the Low Masses these lists are blank and those intending to participate in these Celebrations are asked to append the names of loved ones to these lists. The list for the 7:30pm Mass already has many names - please check to see that the names of your loved ones are included and place a tick to the right of their names. If there are additional names to be included please append these (IN CAPITALS) to the extra blank sheet. Please do not add any additional names to the printed list