

REFLECTION - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you."

The **Gospel** is from St. John 14:15-21. In this discourse at the Last Supper, which was His last will and testament, our divine Lord promised His Church, through the Apostles, that the Holy Spirit would be with it until the end of time. The Spirit of truth will be directing it and effectively aiding it to preserve the faith, the doctrine, and the morals which Christ taught His Apostles.

Looking back now over almost 2,000 years of the Church's history we can see how this promise has been fulfilled. There were heretics and schismatics who threatened the very continuance of the Church as God's faithful people on earth. There were crises and near catastrophes caused by the human weaknesses of its heads and its members, yet the Church survived and spread and continued to send saints to heaven because of the direct and active aid of the Holy Spirit.

During those two thousand years great empires have risen and fallen. They had large armies and vast wealth and earthly resources at their disposal, yet they disintegrated like all things human. The names of one-time mighty men who ruled over millions are now nothing more than a nuisance for children in their history classes. The large tracts of our globe which they ruled are now divided and known by other names. This was, is, and will be the lot of all merely human enterprises. Today's despots, where they rule with iron hand, will share the same fate.

In the midst of all these upheavals the Church of Christ has continued to flourish because it was directed and sustained by the Holy Spirit, who abides within it. How can we ever show enough gratitude to the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity who planned so lovingly and so efficaciously for our safe journey to heaven? The Father sent His Son as man among us so that we could become His brothers and sisters, and adopted sons and daughters of the Father. The Son suffered hardships, insults and misunderstandings during His temporary stay on earth, and ended like a crucified malefactor because of the sins of mankind. But He rose triumphantly from the dead and set up the Church as a society which would bring to all races and ages the salvation and exaltation of mankind, which His life and death had won for us.

Knowing only too well the weaknesses and waywardness of human nature, He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to remain with His Church as its infallible guide until the last man has entered heaven.

This is a very brief summary of what the Blessed Trinity has done, and is continuing to do for us, through the Church. We, the people of God, the chosen race of the New Testament are God's Church on earth. It is for us that the Holy Spirit is at work this very day. While we are faithful members of the Church, and of Christ's mystical body, while we remain live branches safely attached to the vine who is Christ, we have nothing to fear; we are on the sure road to heaven, to enjoy eternal happiness with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit whom we shall thank and glorify forever.



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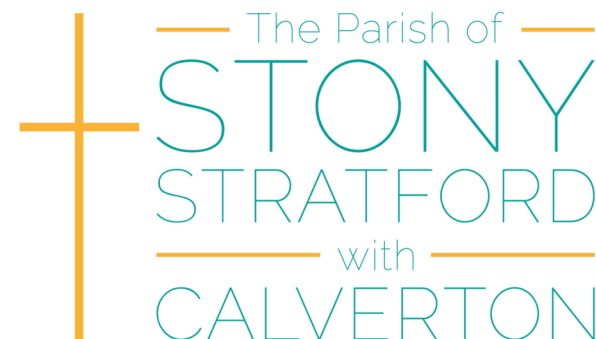


Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:
May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st May 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)

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 3
Serving Team:	Team 1
Offertory bearers:	Anna & Rosie Page
Church Gardeners:	Team 3
Church Cleaners	Team 3

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 125

Weekday Worshipping Numbers w/e 13th May 21

Prayer Thought:

Fellowship with our risen Lord can be daunting, but there is no need for anxiety for we are Resurrection People. As we listen to the word of the Lord today we are filled with hope. The Spirit is with us and it is He who helps us to understand that this Eucharist is the presence of the glorified Christ coming in word and sacrament to strengthen us.

The Collect

O God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8,14-17

Reader at SMSG: Isa Thomas
Reader at All Saints: Sister Janet

(New Testament Page 106 in the Bibles) tells us that Philip worked miracles like those of Christ. His miracles led many to accept the Gospel. Peter and John sanctioned Philip's work and invoked the Spirit on his converts.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 66)

R/. Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous
your deeds!' ®

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. ®

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.

the School, especially as it seeks new teaching staff at a time when there are more vacancies than teachers looking for jobs.



Fr Ross informed the PCC that Sister Janet had, last year, been invited by the Bishop to be part of a Retreat with women from the Church in Sweden. They were part of a religious movement for lay people who lived ordinary lives in parishes, but wanted to also live a life of prayer according to a Rule of Life. She had since been part of a small group with the Bishop's wife, considering how this might be developed amongst the Bishop's parishes. This year Sister Janet had been invited to go to Sweden, and Fr Ross had been invited to join with others in this opportunity. The visit will take place later this year.

The PCC was pleased to hear that the Rector was definitely going to take his overdue sabbatical in 2018.

The Rector reported on his meeting with the other clergy and ministers in Stony Stratford, and the agreement they had reached concerning the need to be able to work together in mission, and to enable our communities to grow in faith, so that they might come to know the Christian Story better, and so be able to share it more confidently. To this end they had also committed themselves to exploring forming an official 'Churches Together in Stony Stratford.'

The Rector then showed the trailer to the Study Course 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' referred to in an article above. The Rector outlined his ideas for running the Course, and members agreed that encouraging knowledge of the Scriptures was essential if we are to 'Know the Story' and be able to share it more confidently. The PCC agreed to fund the purchase of the Course Materials from the Mission Fund.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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**
2:30pm Holy Baptism at All Saints
Intention: Our Parish

Monday: Feria - Rogation Day

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall
7:30pm Calverton Residents' Meeting
8:00pm Bellringing Practice
Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: Feria - Rogation Day

Survey of All Saints Tower being taken
10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints
6:30pm 'Ad Parnassum' Opera Recital
in St Mary & St Giles Church
Intention: Surveyors

Wednesday: Feria - Rogation Day

4:30pm Reception of Larry Francis' Mortal Remains into Church
6:00pm Rector in Parish Office for the arrangement of the Occasional Offices & Parish Business

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

Intention: The Faithful Departed

Thursday: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

3:30pm Funeral Rite of Larry Francis R.I.P.
10:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
Followed by a Bring & Share Supper
Intention: that we may serve Christ our King

Friday: Feria

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles (Sch)
12:00n Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Followed by SSC Clergy Lunch & Chapter Meeting
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Intention: For the Society of the Holy Cross

Saturday: St Augustine

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: THE 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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: 7th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 1: 12-14
Psalm:	27 (part)
2nd Reading:	1 Peter 4: 13-16
Gospel:	John 17: 1-11a

Kids Vouchers 2017. If you, family members or friends shop in Sainsbury's and receive any vouchers, then please pass them to Kieran or Fr Ross. We are collecting vouchers until 2nd May. Once all the vouchers are in and collated they will be used to get equipment for P.E. Thank you.

The Memorial Registers: Fr Ross is about to update the Memorial Registers in both of our Parish Churches and would be grateful if those wishing to add new entries to the registers would complete one of the forms (available at the entrances to our churches) by the end of May. Please indicate on the form which Parish Church Register you would like the entry to be entered into. *Thank you.*

Parochial Church Council News: at its meeting on Thursday evening of last week the following matters were discussed and agreed.

Following correspondence and comments it was decided that it was the policy of the PCC that Bicycles are not permitted to be brought inside either of our Parish Churches.

Our new Architect, Camilla Finlay, and members of the DAC, had visited All Saints Church on Tuesday of last week to give advice on the Faculty Application to introduce a new bell frame into the church tower, to recast/retune the existing bells and to increase the peal from 6 to 8 bells. They also gave advice with regard to the unstable flooring beneath one block of pews, and the need for ventilation in all the panelling and pew flooring. It was agreed that the Baptistry area of the church be monitored for any increasing signs of damp before a decision on what action ought to be taken.

The Rector had learnt that afternoon that Mr Ryan Birch hopes to complete the SMSG Floodlighting and lychgate renewal next week. He will also look at the low sound production issue with the multi-media system in the Par-

ish Hall.

Works to the trees at SMSG were noted, appreciation expressed, and an outline of the remaining works over the next three years was noted.


It was agreed to install shelving in the Parish Office, so that records currently held at the Rectory could be stored in the office as was the case prior to the closure of the former Parish Office. Children and Young People's catechetical resources will also be stored in the Parish Office.

Advice had been received from the Local Authority which allowed the PCC to replaced the church noticeboards with metal ones - the wooden ones being susceptible to rotting very quickly.

It was agreed to purchase a scaffold tower for use by both churches so that regular maintenance, as advised by successive architects, could be undertaken when expected, and safely.

Works to remove the moss from the lychgate roof, to deep clean the interior and to treat all the woodwork were agreed.

It was agreed to take advice from the DAC on the removal of broken memorials in SMSG Churchyard.

 The PCC was delighted to hear that the income from giving in the first five months of this year was the highest it has been for many years, and recorded its gratitude to all those who had so prayerfully considered their Christian Giving, and hoped that this would give encouragement to any who hadn't as yet had the opportunity to do so.

The PCC noted the arrangements for our young people's participation in the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, as required by our Insurers for activities off premises. The PCC also ratified its Children and Young People's Safeguarding Policy. It also received a full report from Mr Salter about our Church School, and asked everyone to pray for

Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. ®

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God
who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. ®

The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18
Reader at SMSG: Sharon Sherwood

(New Testament Page 197 in the Bibles) teaches that the Christian must be able to defend his faith and way of life. If the believer suffers for his convictions he must bear his sufferings with the patience of Christ..

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel John 14:15-21
(New Testament Page 95 in the Bibles) tells us that we must prove our love for Christ by keeping his commandments. Now that Jesus no longer lives on earth he sends us his Spirit to enable us to live the Christian life.

The Prayer of the Faithful
(Intercessor at SMSG: Fr Ross)

Priest: My brothers and sisters let us pray in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus who is risen from the dead.

Intercessor: For the community of believers in Jesus' resurrection, that it will remain strong in love and faithful to the gospel of salvation.....

V/. Let us pray to the Lord....
R/. **God of love, hear us.**

For newly baptised adults, that they will continue to draw on the life of the risen Christ who abides among us in word and sacrament.....

For those who doubt the good news of

salvation, that the Spirit will guide them into the truth of faith.....

For those who continue to suffer for the faith, especially in areas hostile to Christianity, that they will be guarded with God's saving power.....

For those who are sick and confined by fear... *Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Gerry Bonner, Doreen Brooks, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Peggy Fisher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Matton, Gum & Eva Newnham, Rosalie Osbourne, Pete, Ron Smart, Tony Oakley, Wendy...*, that God's freeing love will lead them to the peace of the risen Christ.....

For those who have believed in Christ's resurrection and have died, that they will be counted among the blessed in the reign of glory, particularly... *Terry Crook, Larry Francis, June Jeffery...* and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**21st** Janet Padwicke; **22nd** Patrick King; **24th** Edie Daniels, Daisy Ambrose; **25th** Charles Colegate, Michael McKechnie; **26th** David Samuel; **27th** Jim Lambert...

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: O God, in your abounding mercy, sustain in your Church the gifts of faith, hope, and love which give us new life in Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

The difference between
life and death,
the present and eternity
heaven and earth
come to an end in Christ.
God becomes physical,
man becomes divine.
The opportunity is given man
not just spiritually
but fully physical
to become irradiated,
as a person
to be absorbed in the Light.
(Tito Colliander)

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

Ascension Day - Thursday 25th May

As is our custom the Parish Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation will be celebrated at 7:30pm followed by a Bring & Share Supper.



Christian Aid Week: Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard this past week to raise funds for this important international charity.

Funeral of Larry Francis R.I.P.: Larry died peacefully in his sleep at Caton House on the 2nd May. His mortal remains will be received into St Mary & St Giles at 4:30pm on Wednesday 24th May, and the evening Mass that day will be Celebrated as a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul. His Funeral Rite will be held at 3:30pm in St Mary & St Giles on Ascension Day (Thursday 25th May) followed by the Committal in the Oak Chapel at Crownhill Crematorium. *Jesu, mercy.*

Mary, pray.

All Saints Coffee Morning: Thank you to everyone who organised, helped or supported the Coffee Morning held for All Saints Restoration Fund yesterday..

Thy Kingdom Come: included with the Newsletter today is a Novena Prayer Leaflet and a bookmark for your Bibles so that we can all participate in the Archbishops of Canterbury & York's global prayer movement, 'Thy Kingdom Come.'



This initiative invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day (25th May) and Pentecost Sunday (4th June) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new

confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this...he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer...

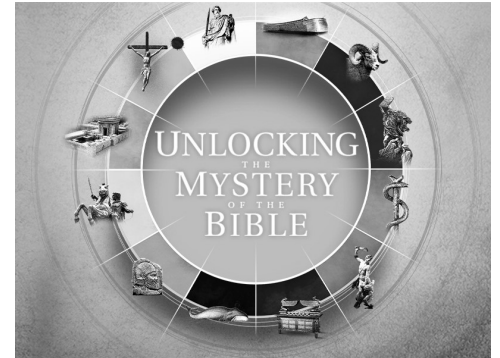
When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added." Acts 1,2

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

'Chronological' Bibles: After two deliveries 30 people have bought copies of these Bibles, which is very good and shows an interest in the Scriptures amongst us. Following the most recent delivery a number of people have said that they forgot to order a copy. I am now taking orders for a third delivery. Each copy costs £14.99 - a saving of £10 on the publishers price. I would be grateful if requests for a copy to be included in the next order could be placed with me by 31st May. *Thank you, Fr Ross*

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.'



I am planning to run a daytime Course as well as an evening Course, 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.

Further details of the Course will be announced shortly.

Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 2017:

Thank you to all those who have booked places so far. Please could all completed booking forms along with deposits of £30 per person be given to Fr Ross as soon as possible. N.B. All bookings to be made before May 15th. If you have not been to Walsingham before this is an ideal introduction to the wonderful ministry of the Shrine. Fr Ross or any previous pilgrims will be only too pleased to tell you more.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers: It's that time of year again when our Church School is collecting Sainsbury's Active