

blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. And the Word was made flesh;
R/. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R/. **That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to pour thy grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus
Christ by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ Cross and
Passion, we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrec-
tion. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional: 'We bless thee, Jesus Christ our Lord' - J S Bach

*Please remain seated until the Recessional Music has ceased.
This is integral to the liturgy of the Organ Mass and therefore
applause is not appropriate. Once concluded, leave the Par-
ish Church of St Mary & St Giles via the Parish Hall; and at All
Saints via the West (Tower) door. The Priest will be outside in
the churchyard.*

Reflection after Mass: *Lord Jesus, you come to us in this
Blessed Sacrament that sustains us for eternal life. To give us
this heavenly food you not only instructed us and left us an
example, but you died for us as a sacrificial offering, leaving
us your body and blood as a sacrificial meal, a holy commun-
ion with you and one another. We thank you for this gift, and
conscious of our unworthiness we ask you to say but the word
and we shall be healed in body, mind and spirit. Amen.*

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY

TODAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday
PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: The Parish

Tuesday 10:30am **Feria**
Mass *at All Saints*
Lent Course 'Come & See' via Zoom
Intention: Our Local Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Assts.

Wednesday 6:00pm **St Patrick, Bishop**
Stations of the Cross
6:30pm **Mass** *at St Mary & St Giles*
*Intention: All Public Health Officials and those engaged in
the COVID Vaccination Process*

Friday 12:00noon **St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Angelus & Mass *at St Mary & St Giles*
Intention: The Mission of the Church in the South-West

Next Sunday: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
Intention: The Parish

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Communication: As from Saturday 1st May I shall be
closing the Parish WhatsApp Group and have set up a Par-
ish Group on a highly recommended, secure App called
'Signal.' it can be downloaded to any smartphone free. I can
send you a link once you have downloaded the App to your
'phone.

Lent IV (Laetere Sunday) - Mothering Sunday: Daffodils
have been kindly provided by Willis' Florist. Please take a
FEW bunches to leave on the doorsteps of neighbours you
know to be mothers. Thank you.

Omnia Christus est nobis!

To us Christ is all!



**St Mary & St Giles with All Saints,
Parish of Stony Stratford with Calverton**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

14th March AD 2021



'The Brazen Serpent' Mosaic - Keble College, Oxford

*Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the exam-
ple of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the
"apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of
bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)*

Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was
moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his
companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to
have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to
death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no
mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem.
What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully
to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he him-
self was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had
been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save
the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word,
"believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal
life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of
his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading
Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of
him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more
so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a
follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus
had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was
closed and barred by his fear of what his own class - the lead-
ers - would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in
order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.
What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, isn't it the case that
we often find ourselves acting just like Nicodemus, when it
comes to willingly and openly confessing our faith and our fol-
lowing of Christ?

INFORMATION



Safeguarding: Our Parish Churches have adopted and follow the Diocese of Oxford's recommended policies for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Details of these policies and of our Safeguarding Officers are available on the noticeboards inside each Parish Church. Should you have any safeguarding concerns then please see one of them.

Restrictions During the Current Pandemic:

Unfortunately, we are required to observe the following restrictions:

- ◆ **FACE MASKS: MUST BE WORN** by all attending worship as required by Law, apart from the Priest and any Lay Ministers assisting him. **N.B. IF YOU CANNOT WEAR A MASK FOR MEDICAL REASONS YOU MUST WEAR A FACE SHIELD.**
- ◆ Only 3 or 4 **Church Bells** are permitted to be rung, because ringing chambers are not large enough for distancing requirements when a full team is present. The Tower Captain and Assistant must keep a record of who is present to ring on what dates and ensure that distancing is maintained on the staircase. Bell ringing practice is not permitted.
- ◆ **Entry and exit** to our Parish Churches - entry via the West (Tower) Door and exit via the Parish Hall at St Mary & St Giles - entry via the South Porch and exit via the West (Tower) Door at All Saints
- ◆ There cannot be an **social gathering** in either of our Parish Churches before or after Mass - social intercourse may take place in the churchyards before or after Mass.
- ◆ 'Shared' **Mass cards** are not permitted. Please do not take a copy for someone else - either retain it for your devotions at home, or place it in the bin provided at the exit points in both churches.
- ◆ Until further notice all **communal singing**, singing rehearsals and concerts are prohibited in all places of worship. It is now possible to have a small choir and Organ Music played.
- ◆ **Collections:** Cash donations and envelopes must be placed either in the large plinth donations box at St Mary & St Giles, or in the bowl by the south porch door at All Saints. We are not allowed to pass a collection plate/bag to one another.
- ◆ **'The Peace'** may not be shared physically. We may however join our own hands and bow to each other at The Peace.
- ◆ **When going forward to receive Holy Communion** - at St Mary & St Giles please approach centre of the altar rail in single file via the main aisle, observing a two metre distance, and return to your place via the side aisle. At All Saints: again single file two metres apart but keeping to the south porch side of the main aisle on approaching the altar rail and returning to your place on the vestry side. N.B. in both churches Holy Communion must be received whilst standing and please extend your arms as far as you are able. Textile kneelers and cushions have had to be removed.
- ◆ **'Receiving Holy Communion'** is in one kind, i.e. The Host. This must be received in the palms of our hands - not on the tongue.
- ◆ **PLEASE MAINTAIN A TWO METRE DISTANCE** from each other on approaching the altar rails and on leaving our churches after Mass.
- ◆ **Lavatory Facilities.** Strict hand-hygiene must be observed and hand-dryers only used. In the lavatory at each church there is a spray sanitiser and single use sanitising wipes for each user to wipe the seat, flush-handle, water taps, sink and door handle. Used wipes should be placed in the waste baskets provided.

All of these restrictions, whilst not what we would wish for, do not detract from the fact that we are able to receive the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

Reflection before Mass:

The enormity of the chasm between God and his people when they are separated by sin is something which we are called to ponder in these closing weeks of Lent. Hence we hear opposing terms like 'life and death', 'light and darkness', beginning to dominate our liturgical readings. Likewise we see pictures which reveal opposing actions like 'love and hate' or 'goodness and evil'. Today's liturgy calls us to reflect on this as we remember the horrors of the Babylonian captivity, the cruelty of the crucifixion and the reality of sin and death in the world. At the same time the intervention of God in all of these scenes gives us a deeper appreciation of God's infinite love which transforms all of them.

(STAND) THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Organ Introit: 'Prelude' - Richard Shephard

As the Sacristy Bell is rung we STAND; and the priest and ministers enter the Sanctuary the Cantor sings the **Antiphon:**

Rejoice ye with Jerusalem: and be glad with her all ye that do love her: rejoice with joy for her all ye that mourned deeply for her, that ye may nurse and be satisfied by the sweet milk of her consolations.

Ps. I was glad when they said unto me *
We will go into the house of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost * as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,

people are in unity among themselves: unto that place do go up the tribes, the tribes of the Lord, to give thanks unto thy great name, O Lord.

1. I was glad when they said unto me *
we will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet shall stand within thy gates *
O Jerusalem.
3. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem *
they shall prosper that love thee.
4. May peace be within thy walls *
and prosperity within thy palaces.

Organ Voluntary during the Distribution of Holy Communion: 'Priere a Notre Dame' - Boellmann

It is customary to kneel throughout the distribution of Holy Communion except when going forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament and upon returning to your place.

Prayer after Communion (STAND)

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless the silence has just been observed.

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All then pray:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

(STAND) THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow down for the blessing.

For the dismissal, the Priest faces the people and with his hands extended over the people, blesses them using this form:

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak; give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

'THE ANGELUS'

The Memorial of the Incarnation

V/. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary;
R/. **And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R/. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me.'

Priest: The mystery of faith:

**All: When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the priest interceding for the Church, the world, all those present at this celebration, and the Faithful Departed. At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer all join in the Great Amen.

Priest:for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer.

(STAND)

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Agnus Dei

(KNEEL)

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The priest shows the consecrated Host to the people, saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.

**✠ Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The **Communion Antiphon** is sung by the Cantor and the people come forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

Jerusalem * which hath been built up as a city, whose own

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

Penitential Rite

(STAND)

The priest invites the people to call to mind their sins and repent of them.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the general absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyries:

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

The Gloria in excelsis is omitted during Lent.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, 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

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

(Old Testament Page 345 in the Bibles) tells us that the anger of God was revealed in the exile of his people and that his mercy was manifested in bringing them back from the exile in Babylon.

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 137)

**R/. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!**

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. ®

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.

'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' ®

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! ®

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! ®

The Second Reading

Ephesians 2: 4-10

(New Testament Page 161 in the Bibles) reminds us that it is through God's love and mercy we are freed from our sins.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! God so loved the world that he gave his only Son; that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!**

The Gospel

John 3: 14-21

(New Testament Page 80 in the Bibles) Jesus speaks of the Father's immense love for the world. It was so great that he sent his Son to save it.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As the Gospel is announced the people respond:

✠ ✠ ✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Apostles' Creed

(STAND)

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful

(STAND)

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, when we were dead in our sins, God brought us to life in his Son, lifted up on the cross for us. Let us make our petitions to our heavenly Father through our Crucified Redeemer.

Intercessor: For the Church on her pilgrimage in this world, especially where she suffers....

V/. Lord, in your mercy
R/. **Hear our prayer.**

For mercy and justice to be shown amongst and within all

nations of the world....

For those whose deeds show that they prefer darkness to light, that the light of Christ's Gospel may bring conversion and the light of his life....

For our Parish and for the strengthening of our common life that during this holy season, we may not delay in making confession because of fear, laziness or pride....

We pray for those who are suffering at this time, especially we are asked to pray for... Malcolm, Shirley, Cecilia, Christel, Joan Carrigan, Margaret DeSousa, Richard Desousa, Ronnie DeSousa, Rene Hazlewood, Fr Joseph, Lilith, Lorna, Sr Janet, James, Peter, Rosie, Susie, Dee, Stacey, Isa, Wendy, Janet, Adam Viard, Eric, Jasmine, Davida Wiseman...and for all those whom we have come here to pray for....

For all who have passed from this life into the mercy of God, especially we are asked to pray for the souls of those who have died recently, amongst them...Jane Bull, Mary Bull, David, Fr Francis Rodriguez-Veglio, Phillip Tomlinson, Roger Whythe... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time..14th John Wright, Richard Brooks; 16th Alice Eales, William Butterworth; 17th Phoebe Battams, John Shillingford, Fergie Marks, John Eales; 18th Douglas Rose; 19th William Clark, Wilfred Cunnington; 20th Nan Bell... and all the faithful departed....

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant: Loving Father, our petitions are countless, but your mercy is eternal. Receive the petitions we have made this day united to the infinite sacrifice of Jesus Christ who was lifted up for us on the Cross, who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Gifts of Bread and Wine are placed upon the altar, as the Cantor sings the **Offertory Antiphon:**

O praise ye the Lord, because gracious is he: O sing praises unto his name, because it is lovely: all things whatever pleased him he hath done in heaven and in the earth.

Then priest says the Offertory Prayers to which the people respond: **Blessed be God for ever.**

(STAND) Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

The priest says the Prayer over the Offerings:

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The priest sings a Eucharistic Preface appropriate to the celebration, after which all join in the acclamation: (KNEEL)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**