

Saints via the south door, *WHERE WE SING:*

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Reflection after Mass: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We are the people of your flock. We praise and thank you for laying down your life for us. Help us to listen to your voice. Guide and protect us on our earthly pilgrimage, that we may see you face to face in glory.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY

TODAY: 9:30am 11:15am N.B. Intention:	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER PARISH MASS at <i>St Mary & St Giles</i> * Family Mass at <i>All Saints</i> * * Vestry Meetings to Elect Churchwardens follow The Parish
Tuesday 10:30am 7:00pm Intention:	Feria Mass at <i>All Saints</i> Annual Parochial Church Meeting - at All Saints All those who voluntarily serve the Parish
Wednesday 6:30pm Intention:	Feria Mass at <i>St Mary & St Giles</i> Those preparing for Holy Matrimony
Friday 12:00noon Intention:	Feria The Regina Caeli & Mass at <i>St Mary & St Giles</i> Those engaged in scientific & medical research
Next Sunday: 9:30am 11:15am Intention:	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER PARISH MASS at <i>St Mary & St Giles</i> Family Mass at <i>All Saints</i> * The Parish

PARISH NOTICES

Works to the Sacristy and Parish Office: from Monday 26th April a six week programme of works will commence to repair roofs, stonework, rainwater goods and windows to the Sacristy and Parish Office. I am delighted to be able to report that following my application to the *Francis Coales Charitable Foundation*, it has subject to a Trustees visit, awarded us a grant of £3000. This means that through the four applications I have made on the parish's behalf a total of £42,500 in grants has been made to the PCC for this project. With a very kind and generous offer of an interest free bridging loan over two years plus the almost £7000 unrestricted monies in the Fabric Fund, we can now ensure that these works are completed earlier than we had anticipated.

N.B. it would be really helpful to have half a dozen fit people to help move the altar frontal chest from the Parish Office after Mass this morning.

Parish Communication: As from Saturday 1st May I shall be closing the Parish WhatsApp Group and have set up a Parish Group on a highly recommended, secure App called 'Signal,' which is available free of charge to any smartphone

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 EASTER**

25th April AD 2021



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)

The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him as carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love which touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of people, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about those who, because God gave us a limited intellect, think they know all things and need no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself, is no more foolish than those who think they can do without God's revelation and God's Church.

Indeed we all act like sheep on many occasions, when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a Shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold?

There are many who are not so fortunate to know the one true God and his Son Jesus Christ, who either through no fault of their own or through their own fault do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us. He died on the cross to save the world. He wills everyone to profit by his death, and his statement "them also I must bring" is a direct appeal to us to cooperate with him in this work. Every Christian is a missionary. The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of others, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders. It influences for good the lax Christian and the non-Christian. It makes them stop and think and look into their consciences. This is generally the first step on the road back to God.

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 - brief 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 - a recessional hymn may be sung within in the churchyard.
- ◆ **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, whilst saying the customary greeting.
- ◆ **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: We celebrate Jesus the Good Shepherd who is our guide and the gate to salvation. As shepherd, the Lord calls us by name, cares for us and lays down his life for us. As a community of believers in Jesus, we open ourselves to love that embraces sacrifice and to fidelity in the face of opposition.

(STAND) THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Organ Introit: 'This joyful Eastertide' - Traditional

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

The loving kindness of the Lord hath filled the earth, alleluia; by the word of God the heavens were made firm, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Ps. Exult ye just in the Lord * for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

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, 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.

am known of mine, alleluia, alleluia.

1. The Lord is my shepherd *
I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie in green pastures *
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul *
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Organ Voluntary during the Distribution of Holy Communion: 'The Strife is O'er' - arr. Henry Ley

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.

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives ad reigns for ever and ever. **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.

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, and the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ., alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

THE REGINA CAELI

Traditionally in the morning, at noon, and in the evening in memory of the Resurrection of the Son of God, the faithful say the following prayers, during Eastertide:

**Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear. Alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!**

V/. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R/. For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, didst vouchsafe to bring joy to the whole world. Grant that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional: 'Fugue in G Minor' - Marcel Dupré

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 Parish Church of St Mary & St Giles via the Parish Hall; and at All

**Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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: Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

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.

I am the Good Shepherd, alleluia; and know my sheep and

**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 said:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he 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 4: 8-12

(New Testament Page 102 in the Bibles) Peter declares to the Jews that the cripple had been cured by the power of Jesus whom they had rejected. This Jesus is the only source of salvation for all men.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 118)

**R/. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.**

1 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,

for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. ®

2 I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. ®

3 Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. ®

The Second Reading

1 John 3: 1-2

(New Testament Page 202 in the Bibles) tells us that through the gracious gift of the Father we have become children of God. But we can look forward to a still greater share in God's glory after death.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own, and my own know me. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel

John 10: 11-18

(New Testament Page 88 in the Bibles) Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who freely laid down his life for his flock. But he was able to take up his life again at the resurrection.

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, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Let us pray to the Father, mindful of the selfless love of his beloved Son.

Intercessor: That the Bishops may continue to be shepherds

after the example of the Christ leading us into all righteousness. For the unity of all Christians, that there may be one flock and one shepherd. For all gathered here at this altar, that we may know the love the Father has lavished upon us as his children...

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

That the leaders of Governments, industry and commerce will work together in the cause of peace and justice....

For our Parish and for the strengthening of our common life that, with Easter joy and hope, we may share the love of Christ, particularly at this time with those who are alone...

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 those who have died, that they may see God as he really is, particularly we are asked to pray for the repose of the souls of...*all those who have died recently...* and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time...**25th** George Henson, Avril Hopcraft; **26th** Joseph Wallis, George Goodger, Anne Ryan; **27th** Roy Quick, Mabel Poppleton, Barry Pickthall, Laura Roberts; **28th** Edith Taylor, Kenneth Lucas; **29th** Keziah Neal, Alfred Varney; **30th** John Black, Audrey Lambert; **1st May** Florence Brown, Michael Turtill... and all the faithful departed...

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant: Most loving Father, our help and our salvation, accept the prayers of your children who are beloved to you in your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and 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 God * thou art my God to thee from the first light I turn;
and in thy name do I lift up my hands, alleluia.

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:

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. 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.**