

Lo! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia!
though returning to his throne, Alleluia!
still he calls mankind his own. Alleluia!

See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
blessings on his Church below. Alleluia!

Still for us he intercedes, Alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, Alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, Alleluia!
he the first fruits of our race. Alleluia!

Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!
far above the starry height, Alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!

There we shall with thee remain, Alleluia!
partners of thy eternal reign, Alleluia!
there thy face forever see, Alleluia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluia! .

Reflection after Mass:

Troparion: O Christ God, you have ascended in Glory, Granting joy to your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion: When you did fulfil the dispensation for our sake, and unite earth to Heaven: you did ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love you, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you.
(from the Orthodox Liturgy)

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY

TODAY:	THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
9:30am	PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles *
11:15am	Family Mass at All Saints *
<i>Intention:</i>	<i>The Parish</i>
Tuesday	Feria
10:30am	Mass at All Saints
<i>Intention:</i>	<i>For Local Hospitality Venues</i>
Wednesday	St Dunstan, Bishop
6:00pm	Mass at St Mary & St Giles
6:45pm	Rector available in the Parish Hall for the arrangement of the Occasional Offices and other Parish Business
<i>Intention:</i>	<i>The Dioceses of Worcester, London & Canterbury</i>
Friday	Feria
12:00noon	The Regina Caeli & Mass at St Mary & St Giles
<i>Intention:</i>	<i>Those preparing for Holy Matrimony</i>
Next Sunday:	THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
9:30am	PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:15am	Family Mass at All Saints *
<i>Intention:</i>	<i>The Parish</i>

PARISH NOTICES

The Sick List & Anniversaries of Death: I would be grateful if I could have an update on the condition of all those we are praying for on the Sick List, so that I am able to keep it as accurate as possible.

I shall be updating the Memorial Registers in both churches at the end of this month. If you desire that names be added, so that loved ones can be prayed for on the Anniversary of their Deaths do please let me know their full name and the date of their deaths. Thank you. *Fr Ross*

During the Current Works at St Mary & St Giles: On Wednesday evenings at 6:45pm the Rector is available for Parish Business in the Parish Hall. The PCC, when funds permit, wishes to complete the desk work to the east wall of the Parish Office; comprising two taller units for the parish photocopier - with paper kept above it - and the handbells trolley to be stored. The Parish Office will then gradually become the office from which Parish Administration takes place.

Lent Boxes: If you haven't returned yours yet please do so by the end of this month. 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 ASCENSION
OF THE LORD**

16th May AD 2021



Andrea Mantegna, The Ascension of Christ, 1464. Uffizi Gallery, Florence



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: In today's feast we celebrate our hope that one day we will be with Jesus at the Father's right hand. In the meantime he has promised to be with us in our struggle to live as his followers and to spread his message. From his presence we draw strength and take courage.

(STAND) THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Organ Introit: 'Fidelis' - Percy Whitlock

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

Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? Alleluia; in like manner as ye have seen him going up into heaven, so shall he come again, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Ps. O clap your hands together all ye people *
O sing unto God with the voice of rejoicing.

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.

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.

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. 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.

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: The Organist improvises a recessional voluntary and the congregation IMMEDIATELY leaves the Parish Church to sing the final hymn in the church yard.

However, should the weather be inclement, 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 Saints via the south door.

**Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; Alleluia!
take the King of glory in! Alleluia!**

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.

These are the signs: * from whom ever believeth in me, these signs follow: the demons are cast out: on the sick they lay hands, and they shall recover. Alleluia.

Organ Voluntary during the Distribution of Holy Communion: 'Let the bright seraphim' - Handel

Seeing we have a Great High Priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, and make our confession to our heavenly Father.

**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:

**Gloria 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.

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(SIT)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11

(New Testament Page 100 in the Bibles) tells of the final parting of Jesus from his disciples and of his raising to heaven from where he will send the Spirit.

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 47)

**R/. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. ®

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. ®

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. ®

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1: 17-23

(New Testament Page 161 in the Bibles) tells of the ascended Christ taking his proper place in heaven as Lord of creation and head of the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel

Mark 16: 15-20

(New Testament Page 46 in the Bibles) Christ's commission to his disciples before he leaves them.

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 our risen Saviour ascended into heaven, angels reminded his disciples that he would return. Until he comes, let us pray for all peoples and their needs.

Intercessor: That the Church in earth will ever keep to its evangelical mission of making disciples of all nations...

V/. Lord, in your mercy

R/. **Hear our prayer.**

That the leaders of the nations come to understand that they will have to give an account of their work to the Lord, when he returns as our judge.....

For our Parish and for the strengthening of our common life that, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not hold of things eternal...

That the risen and ascended Lord may strengthen those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit... 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....

That the faithful departed may ascend to glory with Christ our Priest and King, particularly we are asked to pray for the repose of the souls of...*all those who have died recently, amongst them...*Margaret Barker, Freda Douglas... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time...**16th** Patricia Bonham, Laurie Pell; **17th** Lawrence Clarkson; **18th** Gladys Goodger, Stanley Jacques; **19th** Sarah Bennett, Maura Gurney; **20th** Mary Barry; **21st** Janet Padwicke; **22nd** Patrick King, Alan Shaw... *and all* the faithful departed....

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

Celebrant: God our Father in heaven we beseech you to receive this prayers through your Son who is now seated at your right hand in eternal glory, 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:**

God is gone * up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trump, 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:

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. 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.**

The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling