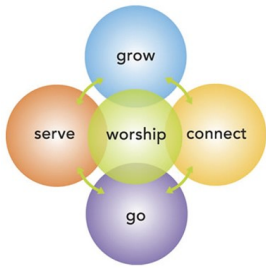


The Parish of STONY STRATFORD with CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER THE 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 31st July AD 2016



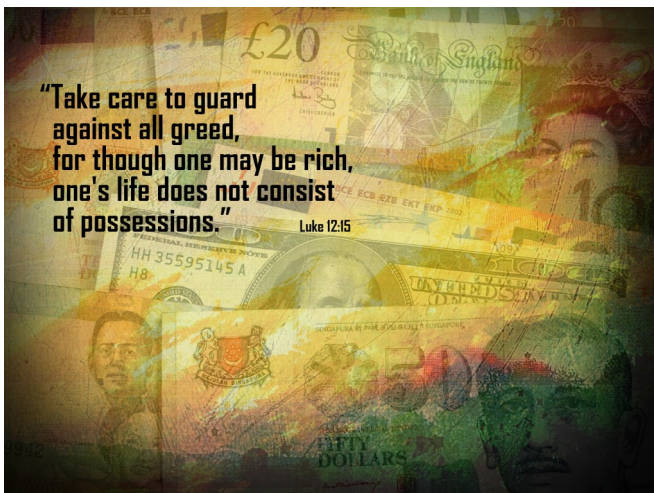
*Welcome to the Parish Church where,
after the example of the early church,
we celebrate the Eucharist:
the "apostles teaching and fellowship,
the breaking of bread
and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)*

The lesson of this morning's parable is obvious to all, and yet it is perhaps as difficult to put into practice as it is obvious. To be in this world and not of it, to collect the necessary goods of this world by honest labour and yet remain detached from them, to possess but not be possessed by worldly riches, is an ideal to which our weak human nature responds very reluctantly.

Of course a large percentage of Christians do respond to the challenge faithfully. They earn and use the goods of this world, while at the same time they keep God's laws and earn wealth for heaven. Some renounce even the right, which is theirs, to possess the necessary things of this world, by taking on themselves the vows of religion. Thus they set themselves free to devote their whole time and energy to the service of God and neighbour. Others, and they are of necessity the more numerous, have to own the world's goods in order to provide for themselves and their dependants, but, while so doing, they never let their temporal possessions come between them and their God. To do this is not easy, but God's helping grace is always available to the willing heart.

There is still a third group: those who resemble the foolish man described in the parable. Like him they are so enmeshed and ensnared in their desire to collect good things for their earthly life, that they forget that at any moment they may have to leave this earth and all they possess in it. They may not have large barns or grain-bins bursting at the seams with the fruits of their fields or their market dealings, but they have allowed their possessions, large or small, to become the prison-houses of their hearts and thoughts. We might say that although having had a glimpse of the riches of heaven they chose earthly baubles instead of God. This has been the fate of foolish men and women in the past.

No one will be excluded from heaven because they lawfully possessed some of this world's wealth. But they will exclude themselves from eternal happiness if they let this world's wealth possess them to the exclusion of God. The fate of the rich man in the parable need not, and should not, be ours. We still have time to collect some treasure for heaven.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY:

9:30am

11:00am

Pray for:

Monday:

9:30am

8:00pm

Pray for:

Tuesday:

10:30am

11:30am

12:30pm

Pray for:

Wednesday: Feria

6:30pm

7:15pm

7:30pm

Pray for:

Thursday:

10:30am

Pray for:

Friday:

12:00noon

12:15pm

Pray for:

Saturday:

8:00am

10:00am

4:00pm

4:30pm

Pray for:

Next Sunday: 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am

11:00am

Pray for:

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading: Wisdom 18: 6-9

Psalm: 33 (part)

2nd Reading: Hebrews: 11: 1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Luke 12: 32-48

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles

FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Our Parish

St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor

'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall

Bell Ringing Practice

the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Feria

Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'

All Saints Fabric Committee Meeting

Apprenticing Charity Meeting

the care of our Parish Churches

Feria

Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School

The Band - Practice at SMSG School

Mass at St Mary & St Giles

the newly Baptised and Confirmed

St John Vianney, Priest

Mass at St Mary & St Giles

All Parish Priests

Feria

Angelus & Litany of the Sacred Heart

Mass at St Mary & St Giles Church

For all world leaders, that they may

co-operate in seeking peace and the

common-good.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Coffee Morning at St Mary & St Giles

Confessions at St Mary & St Giles

Evening Prayer at St Mary & St Giles

Visitors to our Parish Churches,

Sidesmen Team 5 Altar Servers Team 4

Offertory The Fellowship

Cleaning Team 1

Gardening

Team 2

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 163

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 23rd July): 360

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 or Sideswoman 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.



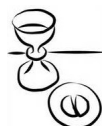
Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sides men or women who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



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 each £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.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

Saturday 6th August
The Transfiguration of the Lord
8:00am Mass
at St Mary & St Giles

Sunday 7th August
2:00pm Organ Recital
at St Mary & St Giles

Sunday 14th August
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday 17th August
The Fellowship
meets in the PARISH HALL
for Afternoon Tea

Thursday 18th August
12:30pm Lunchtime Concert
at St Mary & St Giles

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st Aug
Parish Pilgrimage to OLOW

Friday 26th August
7:30pm 'Vivant' Concert
in St Mary & St Giles Church

Monday 29th August
2:00pm Cream Teas for a Bank
Holiday afternoon at St Mary &
St Giles Church

Wednesday 31st August
9:30am Children's Activity
Morning at SMSG

Saturday 3rd September
10:00am Coffee Morning
at St Mary & St Giles Church

Sunday 4th September
2:00pm All Saints Fete
& Open Day
Please see Jane Hardy, Diane
and Eric West if you can help
in any way.

9th - 11th September
Organ Festival Weekend
at St Mary & St Giles Church
Please see the leaflets in each
church for full details of a very
good series of recitals and
activities.

Thursday 15th September
12:30pm Lunchtime Concert

Saturday 17th September
Year of Mercy Celebration at
Oxford Cathedral.
Please book your place on the coach

Tuesday 20th September
7:30pm Join Governing Body
at SMSG School



'The Year of Mercy' - a Celebration in Oxford Cathedral: As you will no doubt know, the wider church is celebrating a Year of Mercy. Bishop Jonathan has been talking with the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral and they have welcomed the possibility of a celebration to mark the Holy Year on Saturday 17 September. The basic idea will be an opportunity to celebrate the Mass at Christ Church at 11 am followed by a picnic lunch and an early afternoon session of teaching and fellowship. Jane Hardy has kindly volunteered to organise a coach. Lists are available in each church for us to sign up to book a seat.

Proposed School Merger: As you are already aware, there is a proposal from Milton Keynes Council that St. Mary & St. Giles Junior School and Queen Eleanor Primary School should merge and become one school from 1st January 2017. This proposal has the support of both Governing Bodies, so the Council conducted an informal consultation with key stakeholders. That consultation resulted in the majority of respondents agreeing with the proposal which was then put as a formal recommendation to the Lead Member for schools, Councillor Zoe Nolan. (The papers for that meeting are available on the Council Website).

On Tuesday 28th June Councillor Nolan received that recommendation from the council officers and accepted it. Her decision means that the Council will now go to formal consultation in September for a four-week period - leading towards a final delegated decision by the lead member in November. During the formal consultation views and opinions will be sought from the public at large and we would welcome your contribution to that consideration.

It is our hope that the formal consultation will result in positive feedback from the public and a delegated decision to approve the merger so that our schools can merge on 1st January 2017. Signed,

Paul Critchley - Chairman of Governors, Queen Eleanor Primary School; Liz Lockhart - Headteacher of Queen Eleanor Primary School; Fr Ross Northing - Chairman of Governors, St. Mary and St. Giles Junior School; Kieran Salter - Headteacher of St. Mary & St. Giles Junior School

Looking ahead to the autumn: Confirmation Preparation: the Rector is planning to commence Confirmation Preparation sessions in late September for adults and children. The sessions for those aged 18 and above will be held on Wednesday's in the Parish Hall adjoining St Mary & St Giles following the evening Mass. Please see Fr Ross about these sessions.

With regard to the preparation of young people aged between 10 and 17 the date and time of the sessions will be agreed with a meeting of the parents of all young people. These sessions will be held at the Rectory and parents are asked to liaise with Sister Janet.



The Annual Buckinghamshire Ride & Stride takes place on Saturday 10th September this year. With the weather warming up and the sun finally making an appearance, it isn't so hard to believe that a walk or cycle in the Buckinghamshire countryside in September might be a pleasant experience. We are looking forward to this year's event and already have plans in the pipeline to make 2016 a special year. Last year the sun shone and walkers and cyclists raised over £30,000 which will be used to help maintain the fabric of Buckinghamshire's historic churches. This year there are lots of different ways of taking part in the event, which has been running (or walking or riding) since its birth in Suffolk in 1982. We are hoping record numbers of people across Buckinghamshire will take part to make 2016 our most successful year ever.

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

Preparations for Ride & Stride 2016 are well under way. Since its inception it has been, and still remains, the principal fundraiser for the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. Over recent years there has been a gradual decline in participation and in funds raised. Although the sums are still impressive, we hope that in coming years we will be able to improve upon them. The number of churches in Buckinghamshire is truly awe inspiring, as are some of the efforts that have been made over the years to raise funds. We want to build on those successes, so this year – as well as continuing with the tried and tested formula – we will be testing a number of different ideas, and we are already working towards some more radical ideas in time for the 2017 event.

We are aware that other churches across Buckinghamshire take part in the Heritage Open Days scheme. HOD even has an icon in its literature to show that participating churches are also supporting Ride & Stride. So with a little planning it is very possible for both events to run happily alongside one another.

Mavis Wright has very kindly agreed to be our Parish Organiser this year. If you are willing to participate as a walker or cyclist please do have a word with her. Further details will be posted as they become available.

Reflection on the Lord's Prayer as recorded in St Matthew's Gospel (6: 9-13)

Central to the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ was the 'Our Father', and it is on this universal prayer that we will focus in the coming weeks in a series of articles.

"Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

***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.***

As we can see St. Matthew records the Lord introducing the Lord's Prayer with a few warnings against false forms of prayer. Firstly it must not be an occasion for showing off before others. Rather prayer must have a discretion that is essential to the nature of love. We must be aware of God's personal love for each of us, but also realise that there is a community aspect to prayer. This is the very reason why the Lord's Prayer uses the plural "we" or "us" throughout. The second false form of prayer is the verbosity that can so easily smother the spirit.

Our relationship with God should not be momentary asking or thanksgiving, but should be present as the bedrock of our souls. Prayer really is being in silent inward communion with God. In a very real sense everything that happens in our lives should be related to the permanent presence of God with us.

The Our Father is always a prayer of Jesus, and communion with him is what opens up this prayer for us. We pray to our Father in heaven whom we know through his Son. And that means that Jesus is always in the background during the petitions, as we will see more clearly as we go through the petitions in the weeks ahead.

2nd phrase: "Hallowed be thy Name"

Having addressed God as "Our Father" we then pray the first of the petitions of the 'The Lord's Prayer' asking that the name of our God be hallowed, revered, held in awe by all who see him as our Creator and loving Father - this is the meaning of 'the fear of the Lord' that is one of the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. 'Fear' in the scriptural sense has nothing to do with being afraid, but of honour, respect and wonder. The background to God's name is can be seen in the encounter Moses had with God in the burning bush. When Moses asked "Who are you" he was reflecting the concern of the Jews that their God should have a name, as had the false gods of the surrounding pagan tribes. God's answer to Moses was "I am who I am".

In answering in this way, God was declining to be named like the pagan gods all around his people. At the same time he was not refusing to give any name, but his answer made it clear to Moses and the people that he was the all powerful God, the only God, and incomparable to the false gods of their neighbours. This is the origin of the great reverence the Jews had for the name of God, and in fact they never uttered the name "I am who I am".

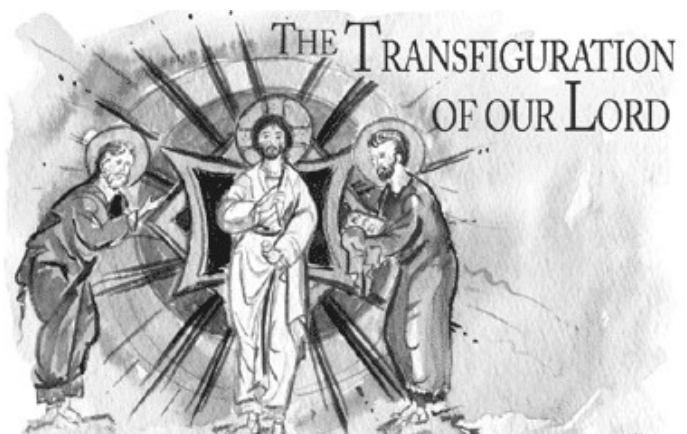
The Church understands God as giving a name – I am who I am – because a name establishes a relationship with another person. God's response was a statement of his infinite love for his people and his desire to care for them and protect them. So when we pray that his name will be hallowed we are recognising his presence with us and his eternal love for us, and asking that this relationship will grow stronger.

Perhaps we might also question our own attitude to the name of God, whether according to the Second Commandment we refrain from ever taking that name in vain. We ought also to consider whether our reverence for God's name includes Jesus Christ his Son, the Second Person of the Trinity - for far, far to often the Holy Name is uttered as an expletive in our age. Is our lack of respect for the name of Jesus a startling contradiction of our prayer "Hallowed be thy name"?

When we pray the Our Father, we must therefore pause and reflect on the deep historical reasons why we so respect the name of God, and examine the ways in which we abuse that name thoughtlessly so often.

To be continued next week...

(N.B. I have included the introduction once more this week, but the reflection on the first phrase "Our Father who art in heaven" can be accessed on the parish website.)



**The Transfiguration of the Lord
Saturday 6th August
Mass at 8:00am at St Mary & St Giles**

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Jesus' emptied himself when he became man, not merely accepting our lowly human status but embracing a life of poverty and self-sacrifice culminating in a cruel death. Truly even God could do no more. May this example inspire us to imitate him, despising the allurements of this world and embracing his love which alone has value.

The Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

SMSG Reader: Anna Page

All Saints Reader: Rita Oakley

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Old Testament Page 511

The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 138)

**R/. O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. ®

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. ®

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. ®

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. ®

Second Reading

Reader: Oliver Williams

Colossians 3: 1-5,9-11

New Testament Page 169

Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

New Testament Pages 63

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Dai Evans)

Priest: Gathered together in Christ as brothers and sisters,
let us call to mind God's many blessings and ask him to

hear the prayers which he himself inspires us to ask.

Intercessor: For our Bishop N, all the Church's ministers
and the people they have been called to lead and
serve..... Let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who serve us in public office and for all those
entrusted with the common good..... Let us pray to the
Lord:

For all travellers, by land, air, or sea; for prisoners; and for
those unjustly deprived of freedom..... Let us pray to the
Lord:

For all sick and suffering people, both those in hospital
and those ill at home, and for those who care for them...
Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Jill Barby, Eileen Cox, Mar-
garet Hooton, Paul Hudson, Rebecca, Terry Mason, Pete,
Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Marian Wright... Let us pray to
the Lord:

For those who have died, those who have shared with us
in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known to
God alone...Ian Brooks (*priest*), Steve Gardner...and for
those whose anniversaries of death occur during this
week...**1st** Alice Cowan, **3rd** Ronald Andrews, Fred Wright,
Kathleen Andrews; **4th** Elsie Reynolds, Nancy Colborne;
5th William Smith; **6th** Ethel Braggins, John Haycock... Let
us pray to the Lord:

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

For all of us gathered in this holy place in faith, reverence,
and love of God..... Let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: Father, hear the prayers of your Church and, in your
love, make up for what is lacking in our faith. We ask this
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

*Ah, woe is me for pleasure that is vain,
Ah, woe is me for glory that is past:
Pleasure that bringeth sorrow at the last,
Glory that at the last bringeth no gain!
So saith the sinking heart; and so again
It shall say till the mighty angel-blast
Is blown, making the sun and moon aghast
And showering down the stars like sudden rain.
And evermore men shall go fearfully
Bending beneath their weight of heaviness;
And ancient men shall lie down wearily,
And strong men shall rise up in weariness;
Yea, even the young shall answer sighingly
Saying one to another: How vain it is!*

Christina Rossetti

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Tel: 01525 790954

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Tel: 01327 351511

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