

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Today's Gospel is the famous story of the prodigal son. Not only the son is prodigal, however. 'Prodigal' means 'wasteful' or 'lavish, spendthrift,' and when we think about it, we can see that it is also the Father who is prodigal, lavishing his love on us no matter what we do. This theme of God's loving mercy runs through all of today's readings.

The Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Exodus 32:7-11,13-14
MSG Reader: David Scrutton Old Testament Page 64
All Saints Reader: Jonathan Dunn

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 51)

R/. I will leave this place and go to my Father.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. ®

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. ®

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. ®

Second Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Reader: Shirley Scrutton New Testament Page 176

Gospel Acclamation (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia!

The Gospel Luke 15:1-32
New Testament Pages 66

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: Fr Ross)

Priest:
In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us
pray to the Father.

Intercessor:
O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for people in every kind of need; make your ways known on earth, your saving health among all nations.

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

We pray for the good estate of the catholic Church.....; guide and govern us by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

We commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or estate..Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Henry Blake, Steve Cooper, Eileen Cox, Margaret Hooton, William Leese, Terry Mason, Pete, Tony Oakley, Shirley Scrutton, Dee Stobie, Wendy, Marian Wright.....; comfort and relieve them in their need, give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out of all their afflictions.

We remember those who have gone before us in the peace of Christ.....Rebecca Flatley, Steve Gardner, Paul Hudson, Anita Stallard.....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week....**11th** Jessie Millar, Alma Crompton; **12th** May Card, Bernard May, Frank Pugh; **14th** Roy Goodman, Stanley Longhurst, Christine Rose, Derek Savage; **15th** James Marchant; **16th** Samuel Edwards, Alan Haycock, Edna Haysman, Graham Sanders (Priest); **17th** Reginald Humphreys., and we give you praise for all your faithful ones, with whom we rejoice in the communion of saints.

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

Priest:
God our Father, these are the prayers of your children who are beloved to you in your Son. We present them to you in full joy and confidence through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of man and Son of God, we adore you; we praise you; we glorify you in your great mercy. It is in this mercy that the glory of your Father shines through. Let all our voices join with Mary's in singing about your holy name, for it is because of your name, Son of God, and because of the name of the Father that you show such great mercy to all of us. Lord, make us grateful and merciful. (B. Harring, *The Beatitudes*, p.51)



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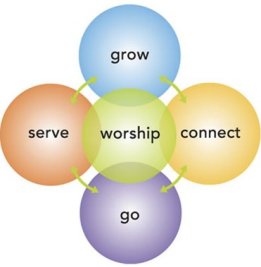
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*Welcome to the Parish Church where,
after the example of the early church,
we celebrate the Eucharist:
the "apostles teaching and fellowship,
the breaking of bread"*

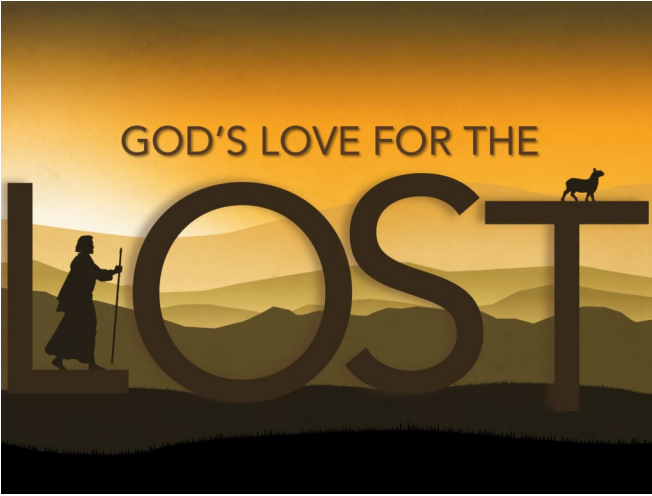
God does not need us to make his existence happy. He is all-powerful, all-perfect, all-happy in himself. Because He is a God of love, a God of infinite generosity, He wants to give us a share in His happiness. At times one must wonder how anyone who knows of God's generosity and of what that generosity has led Him to do for us, could ever think of abandoning that loving God, or get lost in futile earthly folly. Yet that does happen when we sin grievously.

God does not cast us out forever as sinners unworthy of His gifts. Instead, He foresees such folly on our part, and has left us lessons of encouragement, as in today's parables, and set up in the Church ways and means to carry on His work of mercy for weak, mortal people. During His life on earth, Christ dealt mostly with sinners - he said he came to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He told the Pharisees that it was the sick who needed a doctor, not those who were well. The Pharisees in their pride thought they were not sick but they were, and He was ready to heal them if only they would let Him.

He spent his days then among sinners, the tax-gatherers, the robbers, the adulterers, the usurers. The twelve men He chose from amongst His followers had more than their share of human failings. We are all sinners to a greater or lesser degree. With this knowledge and conviction, which any true Christian must have, of the infinite mercy of God, no sinner need ever, and should never, despair. No sinner was ever lost and no sinner will ever be lost, because of his sins. Sinners are lost only because they will not trust and believe in God's mercy and turn to Him to ask for pardon.

Our merciful Father calls to us His erring children to return to his household. Today, one of those calls is in the very words of the parables we hear.

There may be another call for the sinners amongst us. There may not. Heed this one and the other call will not be necessary. Turn to God today with a truly contrite heart. God will do the rest.



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 11th September AD 2016

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

+ Blessing for John & Hazel Wallis on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

A series of events regarding our Organ at SMSG throughout lunchtime and the afternoon culminating in a Masterworks Concert at 7:30pm - see the Flyer for full details
Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: Feria

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall

12:30pm School Merger Meeting

8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

Tuesday: St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor

10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenesens'

4:30pm Deanery Visitation at All Saints

7:00pm All Saints Fete Review Meeting

Pray for: The unity of all Christians

Wednesday: THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS (Holy Cross Day)

6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School

7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles

Pray that: we may take up our cross and follow Jesus

Thursday: Our Lady of Sorrows

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles

7:30pm Parochial Church Council at All Saints

Pray for: the recently bereaved

Friday: Ss Cornelius & Cyprian, Martyrs

8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Pray for: those facing martyrdom today

Saturday: Feria

Ebbsfleet Year of Mercy Celebration

at Oxford Cathedral & Pusey House

11:00am Mass in the Cathedral

Lunchbreak in central Oxford

2:00pm Bible Study at Pusey House

7:30pm Cello & Violin Concert at SMSG

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches,

NEXT SUNDAY: 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles

11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints

Pray for: Our Parish

Sidesmen	Team 2	Altar Servers	Team 2
Offertory		Older Young Christians	
Cleaning	Team 2	Gardening	Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 116

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 3rd Sept): ?

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.



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 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 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

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.

Tuesday 13th

Year 3 from SMSG School visit the Parish Church

Thursday 15th September

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert
7:30pm Parochial Church Council

Saturday 17th September

11:00am Year of Mercy Celebration at Oxford Cathedral.
7:30pm Cello & Violin Recital in SMSG

Tuesday 20th September

11:30am Year 4 from SMSG School to visit All Saints
7:30pm Join Governing Body at SMSG School

Wednesday 21st September

We are invited to join St Matthew's Church in Northampton for their Feast of Title at 7:30pm

Friday 23rd September

9:30am School Harvest
Thanksgiving Mass in St Mary & St Giles Church

Saturday 24th September

The Feast of
Our Lady of Walsingham
08:00 Mass

Sunday 25th September

Harvest Thanksgiving
9:30am Parish Mass at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm Evensong at All Saints followed by a Bring & Share Supper

Tuesday 27th September

Rector meets with the Area Dean re Mission Post

Saturday 1st October

7:30pm Small String Orchestra Concert at SMSG

Tuesday 4th October

11:30am All Saints Fabric Committee Meeting in church

Thursday 6th October

7:00pm Greater Access Project Group meeting

Saturday 8th October

10am Coffee Morning at SMSG

'The Year of Mercy' - a Celebration in Oxford Cathedral: 17th September. Mass at 11:am in the Cathedral (enter by Tom Gate), lunchbreak in central Oxford and followed by a Bible Study in Pusey House at 2:00pm. The day to end by 3:30pm.

Calverton Fete: Thank you to everyone who helped with the Open Day & Fete at All Saints last Sunday be it through donating items for sale, helping to set up or clear away, running stalls, buying merchandise or by playing music as part of the Band! The result was fantastic, not only raising £2254 for the All Saints Restoration Fund but also reaching people in the new Development within the Parish "who came to see" and from which a Baptism of a new born child is to be arranged.

In order to improve how we do things, please come to a short meeting at All Saints, on Tuesday September 13th at 7 pm and share how we could do things even better. Fr Ross.

The results of this year's Fete are as follows:

Books	£81.80
Bric a brac	£126.60
Coconut shy	£61
Cosmetics	£98.60
Hook a Duck	£79.48
Raffle	£1930
Guess the Cake Weight	£6.50
Splat the Rat	£30.40
Teas	£354
Plants	£61.60
Tombola	£198.40
Wine or lose	£151.95
Cakes	£73.80
Skittles	£93.00
Tower Tours	£188
Crafts	£173
Donations	£283.68
Total:	£2254.81

Retirement: after considerable prayer and thought our Organist, John Neal, has decided that it is time for him to retire. John has kindly given the Rector an assurance that he will serve three months notice and so his final Sunday will be on the 30th October which gives us some time to see if we can appoint a new organist and/or choirmaster. Obviously, we will want to mark John's retirement nearer the time.

The PCC is currently advertising for a new organist and your prayers for a suitable person to be appointed are requested.

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.

Fr Ross has a tentative date for the Confirmation in 2017 for the 2nd February, The Feast of Candlemass, in All Saints. This will be the first Confirmation Service in All Saints for about half a century, and will therefore, be a very special occasion and a visible sign of the growth in worshipping numbers there.

Children's Activity Morning at St Mary & St Giles: All children are most welcome to join us at 9.30am on Wednesday, 31st August for a morning of fun activities, using The Lord's Prayer as our theme. Activities will include bread making, painting, music and lunch! Please let Lesley Salter, Jenny Rowlson, Ray Rowlson, Andrea Hearne or Richard Hearne know if you would like to come. There is no charge and all food and drinks will be provided - old clothes should be worn!

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

Sidesmen: The Churchwardens ask that all sidesmen check the rota on the notice board at the back of church to see when they are on duty.

Church Library: Sidney Chambers is back! We now have two more books in the light-hearted Grantchester series, so join the clerical detective as he balances police work, matrimony and the parish with his own soul-searching. Also new to us are "In the footsteps of St Paul", by presenter Edward Stourton, which should be interesting, and "The History of Ancient Israel" by Michael Grant including modern implications. These and many more excellent books are all for borrowing from the Church Library.

Church Diaries: the 2017 diaries are now available. We were approached by a new supplier who not only produce a diary with a beautiful cover but also provided us with a much greater quantity than the previous supplier, who had been reducing the quantity it was allowing us over a number of years. These cost the church nothing and as we have such a good supply you can take them and give to friends and relations. They are obviously proving popular as about half of them have been taken already, which is a good thing.

Trees at St Mary & St Giles: the PCC has received planning consent from Milton Keynes Council to fell the six Lime Trees in the churchyard, all of which are diseased. Two will be felled each year for the next three years. The Council has also granted us permission to fell the enormous fir tree which overhangs the newsagents and the apartments behind it. The felling of this tree will bring a lot more natural light into the parish church, as well as preventing damage to the neighbouring properties. The remaining are all permitted to be 'crown-reduced' by 50% at 10% per year over five years.

As part of these agreed works the large bough protruding from the side of the huge redwood outside the west door will also be removed, so as to balance the tree. This tree is a cause for concern as it ought never to have been planted so close to the church tower and is still relatively quite young and could potentially double in height. To gain some perspective on the height redwoods can reach it is worth looking at the one in All Saints Churchyard which is almost at its full height. It ought also to be noted that such specimens are essentially a softwood and in high winds at All Saints the tree can be seen acting rather like a whip as the tree bends in the wind and then springs back as far in the opposite direction (and then back and forth) when there is a lull in the wind. So the specimen in St Mary & St Giles churchyard will need to be monitored, especially with regard to its effect on the church tower given that the prevailing wind is westerly.

The PCC now has to obtain Faculty Consent from the Chancellor of the Diocese, and that application has been submitted. It is hoped that a decision will be reached by late autumn, so that works can commence this year and the felling be complete by 2018 and the entire works complete by 2020.

Four Prayers by Dr Edward Bouverie Pusey: Dr Pusey was a very great theologian and Biblical scholar. Yet a lot of what he wrote and preached is characterised by simplicity and depth, revealing so much about him as a person, as a Christian and as a spiritual guide. He Celebrated Mass and Preached at All Saints in the 1830's and 1840's as the Tractarian Movement began.

GROWING IN HIS LOVE

Good Jesu,

fountain of love:

fill me with thy love,

absorb me into thy love,

compass me with thy love,

that I may see all things in the light of thy love,

receive all things as tokens of thy love,

speak of all things

in words breathing of thy love,

win through thy love others to thy love;

be kindled, day by day,
with a new glow of thy love,
until I be fitted
to enter into thine everlasting love,
to adore thy love and love to adore thee,
my God and my all.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEARY

Let me not seek out of thee
what I can find only in thee, O Lord:
peace and rest and joy and bliss,
which abide only in thine abiding joy.
Lift up my soul above the weary round of harassing thoughts
to thy eternal Presence.
Lift up my soul
to the pure, bright, serene, radiant atmosphere of thy Presence,
that there I may breathe freely,
there repose in thy love,
there be at rest from myself,
and from all things that weary me;
and thence return,
arrayed with thy peace,
to do and bear what shall please thee. Amen.

LEAD US, LORD

Teach us, O Father,
how to ask thee each moment silently for thy help.
If we fail,
teach us at once to ask thee to forgive us.
If we are disquieted,
enable us, by thy grace, quickly to turn to thee.
May nothing come between us and thee.
May we will, do, and say,
just what thou, our loving and tender Father,
wiliest us to will, do, and say.
Work thy holy will in us, and through us, this day.
Protect us, guide us, bless us within and without,
that we may do something this day for love of thee ;
something which shall please thee ;
and that we may this evening be nearer to thee,
though we see it not nor know it.
Lead us, Lord, in a strait way unto thyself,
and keep us in thy grace unto the end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SOARING INTO GOD

O God, my God,
give me a heart to thank thee;
lift up my heart above myself,
to thee and thine eternal throne;
let it not linger here
among the toils and turmoils of this lower world;
let it not be oppressed by any earth-born clouds
of care or anxiety or fear or suspicion;
but bind it wholly to thee and to thy love;
give me eyes to see thy love in all things,
and thy grace in all around me;
make me to thank thee for thy love and thy grace
to all and in all;
give me wings of love,
that I may soar up to thee,
and cling to thee, and adore thee,
and praise thee more and more,
until I be fitted to enter into the joys of thine everlasting love,
everlastingly to love thee and thy grace,
whereby thou didst make me such as thou couldst love,
such as could love thee,
O God, my God. Amen.