

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

Every Sunday is a remembrance of Easter, a proclamation of faith in Jesus as the Risen Lord. Today, the liturgy helps us to think more deeply about our personal sharing in the Lord's victory, the faith we proclaim when we say 'We believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.'

## The Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14  
 SMSG Reader: John Hickman Old Testament Page 835  
 All Saints Reader: Eilish Friedman

**The Responsorial Psalm** (from Psalm 34)

**R/. I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.**

Lord, hear a cause that is just,  
 pay heed to my cry.  
 Turn your ear to my prayer:  
 no deceit is on my lips. ©

I kept my feet firmly in your paths;  
 there was no faltering in my steps.  
 I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.  
 Turn your ear to me; hear my words. ©

Guard me as the apple of your eye,  
 Hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
 As for me, in my justice I shall see your face  
 and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory. ©

**Second Reading** 2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5  
 Reader: Mary Sagggers New Testament Page 174

**Gospel Acclamation** (STAND)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
 Jesus Christ is the first-born of the dead;  
 to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.  
**Alleluia!**

**The Gospel** Luke 20:27-38  
 New Testament Page 72

**The Prayer of the Faithful** (Biddings: Clergy)

**Priest:** My brothers and sisters let us pray to our gracious God who is the fountain of all wisdom.

**Intercessor:** We pray for all Christian people; for N. our Bishop, and for all who teach and guard the faith..... May the message of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, and knit us together in the bond of your love.

V/. Lord, hear us.

**R/. Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, and for those in authority under them....Give them the gift of your wisdom, and a right discernment in all things.

We pray for our Parish and the wider community in which we are set; for those who live and work here, and for those who visit this place..... Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

We pray for those who do not believe, for those who long for your love and forgiveness..... Open their ears to hear your voice, and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness...Fiddy Abraham, Andrea, Anna Archer, Henry Blake, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Jane Holman, William Leese, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Shirley Scrutton, Wendy, Marian Wright... May Christ bring comfort and healing to all those in need.

We pray for the souls of those who have died...Margaret Hooton, Melvyn Woodhouse... and for all whose anniversary of death occurs during this week...**6th** Cecily Tomkins, Mary Morgans; **7th** Winifred Wolstenholme, William Larman; **8th** Horace Smith, Jean Hollamby, Rex Mortimer, Aran Gardner; **9th** Kate Barlow, John Richards (Bishop); **10th** Martha Teagle, Sarah Read; **11th** Marjorie Adams, John Hill; .... May they may enjoy the radiant dawn of eternal life.

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

*In silence we pray for our needs and concerns*

**Priest:** Father all-powerful, we bring our needs before you, and pray confidently for your help and mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Communion Reflection:

I come to you who are my life and my all. I come to you on the thought of whom I have lived all my life long. When I shall descend into a land, desert, pathless and without water, I will fear no ill, for you are with me. I have seen you this day, face to face, and it suffices. I will live on that look of yours, till I see you again, never to part from you. Your eye shall be sunshine, comfort for my weary, longing soul; that voice of yours shall be everlasting music in my ears. Nothing can harm me, nothing shall ever discompose me. I will bear the appointed years, till the end comes, bravely and sweetly.

(Blessed John Henry Newman)



**THE PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**THE 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 6th November AD 2016**



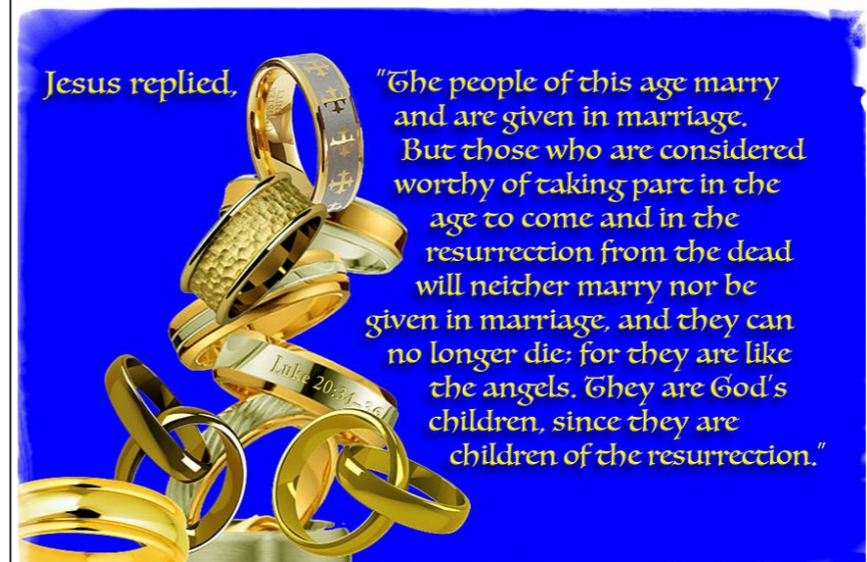
*Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread"*

Many Christians, even good, pious Christians, fear death and try to keep the very thought of it far from their minds. This is very understandable for one who believes (if there is such a one) that death is the end. To a certain degree it is understandable in the case of the believer or the Christian, whose conscience is not at peace with God.

That latter, however, has the means of removing his fears by removing his sins, and by putting himself right with God. The normal, pious Christian should see death as what it is, an end of his time of probation and the door to his eternal reward. It is not normal for a student to dread his graduation day. Death for the God-fearing, honest Christian is graduation day. Therefore, no Christian should be afraid of it.

Of course, part of the fears which death instils come from the fear of the judgment which accompanies it. If we think every now and then, that our death is around the corner, we will turn to the God of mercy, to our loving Father, and ask for His forgiveness. He never refuses pardon to those who with a sincere heart, ask for it.

Let each one of us look into our own conscience this morning. Let us ask ourselves, how we would fare if death should claim us tonight. If there are sins on my conscience, which I would not want there when facing my just Judge, I still have time to approach the merciful Father. The Christian who does this daily, or even weekly, will not worry when death calls. He can rest assured that it is the beginning of the true and everlasting life, planned for him by God before time began



## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**TODAY: 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints**

Pray for: Our Parish

**Monday: St Willibrord, Bishop**

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

8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice

Pray for: the Sick, Housebound and Disabled

**Tuesday: Feria**

**10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**

Pray for: the Homeless & Rough Sleepers

**Wednesday: St John at the Lateran Gate**

2:00pm Rector at Meeting with regard

to 'Rough Sleepers'

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 for: our Witness to Christ and His Gospel

**Thursday: St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor**

**10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles**

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at St Mary & St Giles

2:15pm Arnold's Charity Meeting

Pray for: The Conversion of England

**Friday: St Martin of Tours**

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

10:00am Meeting with potential Architect

7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal

Pray for: Fr Victor Bullock & the people of Fenny Stratford, St Martin

**Saturday: St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr**

Oxford Diocesan Synod

10:00am Choral Day at St Mary & St Giles

Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

**NEXT SUNDAY: 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints**

**3:00pm Act of Remembrance**

**at the War Memorial, Horsefair Green**

Pray for: Our Parish

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading: Malachi 4: 1-2a

Psalm: 98 (part)

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

Sidesmen Team 1 Altar Servers Team 2

Offertory May Jacques

Cleaning Team - 1 Gardening Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: ?

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 29th Oct): ?

**Rector:** Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148  
 Email: rector@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

**Church Army Officer:** Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148  
 Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com

**Parish Website:** www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

**Associate Minister:** Fr Tunji Adebiji  
 Tel: 01525 790954

**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Loveday SSC  
 Tel: 01327 351511

**Parish Hall Booking Secretary:** Nicola Crompton

# 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

### Saturday 12th November

10:00am Choral Day at SMSG Church

### Sunday 13th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9:30am Parish Mass  
11:00am Family Mass  
3:00pm Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

### Monday 14th November

12:30pm School Merger Meeting

### Wednesday 16th November

2:00pm The Fellowship  
A talk by Ray & Jenny on their holiday in Morocco with slides  
7:30pm SMSG School Governors' Meeting

### Thursday 17th November

7:30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting

### Saturday 19th November

7:30pm Parish Quiz Night at SMSG School

### Friday 25th November

1:00pm Volunteers please to set up for the Christmas Fayre

### Saturday 26th November

10:00 - 17:00 Christmas Fayre at St Mary & St Giles

### Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday

9:30am Parish Mass  
11:00am Family Mass  
6:00pm Advent Service of Light at St Mary & St Giles

### Wednesday 7th December

12:30pm School Merger Meeting

### Saturday 10th December

MK Youth Choir Concert at St Mary & St Giles

### Mon 12th - Fri 16th Dec

Nativity Plays and rehearsals at St Mary & St Giles  
*Details to be announced*

### Tuesday 13th December

Archdeacon of Bucks at All Saints for Mass and then a tour of the Parish and lunch with the Rector

### Wednesday 14th

Fellowship Christmas Lunch

### Thursday 15th December

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert

**Next Sunday - Remembrance Sunday:** Please let the Rector have the names of those who have died as a result of war that you would like included in the prayers for the departed at Masses next Sunday morning.

The Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial is at 3:00pm - not at any other time that might be erroneously printed in the local newspapers or advertised on other forms of the media.

**Light's Switch On Day:** is less than three weeks away. As usual we shall be holding our annual Christmas Fayre. Please do consider helping to set up and/or clear away on the Friday or Saturday. A list of stalls etc needing help is posted on the free-standing noticeboard in St Mary & St Giles and even if you can only spare one hour that help would be very much appreciated for every hour offered by each of us will soon add up to a marvellous effort.

This year we are holding a 'Grand Raffle' with a major first prize and four other good prizes. We need your help to sell as many tickets as possible. This raffle if we sold all the tickets could make over £4000 for EACH Restoration Fund at St Mary & St Giles & at All Saints. Our Treasurer may have already launched this during the Rector's autumn break, but as many as can help the better. Would you be willing to sell tickets from a stall outside the church in the High Street on a Saturday morning? If you are able to help please have a word with David Williams, Hazel Wallis or Sister Janet who are organising this between our churches. *Thank you.*

**Vacancy for a Hall Caretaker/Booking Secretary:** After four years of dedicated work Nicola Crompton has decided that it is time to hand over this role to another person. The Rector and Churchwardens are very grateful to her for all her hard work over this period and to Chris, who has been roped into assist regularly.

The Churchwardens, Louise and Kieran, are keen to appoint a successor and would be grateful if any who are interested in the position would see them as soon as possible. This post comes with a modest remuneration.

**All Saints Heating:** The PCC has taken a step of faith in committing itself to this project's completion and in seeking additional donations/fundraising to achieve a greater amount in All Saints' Restoration Fund. Prior to the PCC meeting offers of generous donations had already been received and since the PCC Meeting there has been an offer of a monthly donation towards the new system's running costs. If anyone wishes to make a donation or run a fundraising event to benefit All Saints Restoration Fund the PCC would be very grateful.

**Advent Calendars:** the Meaningful Chocolate Company has again produced a Christian Advent Calendar, using Fair Trade chocolate. It also includes a 28 page activity book all about Christmas. They can be ordered on the signup sheets in both churches - but orders need to be in no later than Sunday, 16th October. If you would normally give a chocolate Advent Calendar, please consider buying these! For more information please ask Lesley Salter or go to <http://www.realadvent.co.uk/>

### The Works of Mercy...

We continue a series of brief articles considering these Corporal Works of Mercy Let us pray that we may be a merciful people.

(1) Feed the hungry. (2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked. (4) Shelter the homeless. (5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick. (7) Bury the dead.

### 7. Bury the Dead

In one sense, this is a work of mercy we perform without thinking: when someone we know dies, we want to pay our respects by visiting the funeral parlour or attending the deceased's funeral. We even go to funerals of people we do not know well if they happen to be close to people who are dear to us. This is a gracious gesture and offers great consolation to the family of the bereaved. If the person is known to us, the funeral is a time to express our own sorrow and share memories with oth-

# PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

ers. Such actions are a part of every culture and religious tradition.

But this work of mercy also challenges us to reflect on the Christian understanding of death, and thus how we bury the dead. In the Creed we profess that we believe in the resurrection of the body, and that fundamental truth shapes our rich Christian tradition of funeral rites. The Church has always taught that the bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is therefore a corporal work of mercy; it honours the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.

The fact that we see this to be a "corporal" work of mercy flies in the face of the culture around us. Our modern society seems schizophrenic when it comes to the body. On the one hand, we are fitness-conscious and we spend much energy and money on being in shape and looking young and healthy. But then, at death, the body becomes at best an inconvenience and at worst an embarrassment, something to be discreetly gotten out of the way. The funeral then becomes simply an occasion to remember the deceased, and with introduction of Civil Celebrations there is no prayer offered for the dead not any rite of commendation or committal to the Lord - rather one is left with just an empty void.

How powerful and consoling, by contrast, are the Church's funeral rites! They speak eloquently of the pain of loss, faith in the Resurrection, the hope of eternal life mingled with prayers to assist the departed on their final journey, and the sacramental life which plunges us, body and soul, into the death and resurrection of Christ.

One problem is that we do not know much about these rites unless we experience them first-hand at the death of a loved one. At such a time of strong emotions, the Church's ritual touches us on a very deep level, but we may not be aware of what is going on. One simple suggestion for carrying out this work of mercy is to take a little time to read over the Church's funeral liturgy and meditate on the beauty of the truth of our faith enshrined there.

There are practical ways of carrying out this particular work. Many parishes provide meals after the funeral service, grief counselling, and other services that provide opportunities for us to help bury the dead. Funerals can be very expensive (although they need not be), and our communities could possibly set up funds to help those who cannot meet those expenses with their own resources. We can ask the parish priest to offer a Requiem Mass for the repose of the souls of those who have died, and if our schedule permits occasionally attend funerals in our parish even when the person is not known to us.

Let us just consider for a moment the burial of Jesus himself and let us recall Joseph of Arimathea who buried Him in a new tomb hewn out of the rock. St. John tells us that Nicodemus also came "bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds" (John 19:39). In addition, they took His body "and bound it with burial cloths along with spices, according to the Jewish burial custom" (John 19:40). The women followed behind "and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils" (Luke 23:55-56).

From the very beginning, cemeteries have been considered holy places, places of prayer, places to bring flowers and make visitations. That tradition continues in our own day. The final act of kindness extended to Our Saviour was a decent burial; and on the first Easter Morning Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome visited the tomb to pay their respects - this, too, can be an occasion when what we do for others, we do for him.

**Jesus is both God and Man:** It is sometimes claimed that the earliest Christians thought that Jesus was simply a prophet or a great moral teacher - and that it was not until much later that they started to claim that he was God incarnate.

This is simply and incontrovertibly not the case. In fact, so wildly remote is it from the case, that there is strong evi-

dence to suggest that some of the earliest Christians struggled not with the idea that Jesus was really God, but that he was, in addition, a man. We find traces of this in the New Testament (e.g., John 20:27-8; 1 John 1.1-3). Clear confirmation comes, however, from the writings of St Ignatius of Antioch, whose Feast it is today.

Ignatius was the bishop of Antioch in modern-day Syria from circa AD 67 until his martyrdom in Rome, probably around AD 108. He was, according to tradition, a disciple of St John the Evangelist. His seven surviving letters were all written while *en route* to Rome to be martyred. Most of these were to the local churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) situated nearby. He also wrote one to the Christians in Rome, and a personal letter to the bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp (who would himself be martyred about 50 years later).

Among other things, Ignatius was the first person to describe the Church as 'Catholic' (in the sense of 'universal'). He is also a key witness to the apostolicity of the threefold ministry of 'bishop, priest, and deacon'.

A key theme in his letters is the danger of something he calls docetism - this is a word derived from the Greek word *dokeo*, meaning 'to appear or 'seem'. As we learn from Ignatius, these docetists had no trouble believing that Jesus was *God* (obviously he must have been to have done all that he did!), What they couldn't or wouldn't accept, though, was that he was a real human being.

They didn't think that a *real* God could really eat and drink, go fishing with his friends, weep, or get himself murdered. According to the docetists, then, Jesus just 'appeared' to be a human being - but couldn't really have been. Instead, he was a just a kind of 'God in disguise.' Furthermore, he 'only seemed to suffer' (Trallians 10), but couldn't really have done so, on the Cross.

Ignatius was horrified by this thought. He writes that the docetist "blasphemes my Lord, [by] not confessing that He was truly possessed of a body"(Smyrneans 5). It also appears that, since the docetists didn't believe Christ was really of flesh and blood, then they didn't believe that Eucharist was his body and blood either:

*They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they confess not the Eucharist to be the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins, and which the Father, of His goodness, raised up again. (Smyrneans 7)*

Against them, Ignatius insists that Christ was both *fully God* and *fully man*:

*Jesus Christ... was truly born, and ate and drank. He was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate; He was truly crucified, and [truly] died... He was also truly raised from the dead. (Trallians 9)*

Why, though, does Ignatius (like St John before him, and the Council of Chalcedon after him) think it is so very important that Christ must be *both* God *and* man?

Remember that Ignatius is on his way to Rome to be martyred. More than that, he is very much looking forward to it, and begs the Christians in Rome not to use whatever influence they might have to get him off on a lighter sentence:

*I shall willingly die for God.. Allow me to become food for the wild beasts, through whose instrumentality it will be granted me to attain to God. I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ. (Romans 4)*

As far as Ignatius is concerned, it is Christ's own death and resurrection that sets the pattern here. Christ's own resurrection is the promise of the future resurrection into the glory of eternal life of his followers (cf. 1 Corinthians 15.12-34).

If Christ was not human, then he did not really die, and therefore was not really resurrected. And if Christ was not really resurrected, then what hope was there that the martyred Ignatius would be?

A Syrian Christian, on the way to be publicly savaged to death by wild beasts, yet trusting in his Lord's promise of salvation. Truly, a man worth remembering - and begging the intercession of - today.