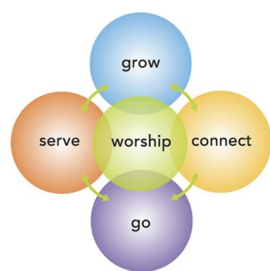


# The Parish of STONY STRATFORD with CALVERTON



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 PARISH NEWSLETTER 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 16th July AD 2017

### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

#### TODAY:

8:30am

9:30am

11:00am

Pray for:

#### Monday:

9:30am

1:45pm

8:00pm

Pray for:

#### Tuesday:

10:30am

Pray for:

#### Wednesday: St Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop & Doctor

6:30pm

7:15pm

7:30pm

Pray for:

#### Thursday:

No Mass today

12:30pm

Pray for:

#### Friday:

9:30am

Pray for:

#### Saturday:

Pray for:

#### Next Sunday: 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:30am

11:00am

Pray for:

#### READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Psalm: 86 (part)

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

N.B. a couple of other things will be happening this week:

The PAT testing of all portable appliances in both parish churches will be completed.

The final delegated decision on the expansion of the North Site of our Church School from two to three form entry will be determined.

Sidesmen

Team 3

Altar Servers

Team 3

Offerory

Shirley Archer & Alan Butler

Cleaning

Team 3

Gardening

Team 4

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 126

Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 8th July): 26

Matthew 13:1-23

## Four Soils: Four Hearts

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Christ's description of His audience, that day in Galilee, is as true today as it was then. His message of salvation has been preached to a great part of the world's population, but the proportion of those who accept it and live up to it, is about the same today as it was then. There are millions of men and women today, in what was once Christian Europe, who are like the seed sown on the unploughed path. They refuse to accept the message, they have no thought for their future; they are content to end in the grave after their few years of misery and hardship on this planet.

There are others who see the truth and the consolation of the Christian gospel, but when it comes to making sacrifices for it, they give up. The message did not sink into their hearts and minds. They are like the seed which fell on rocky ground because the faith had no deep roots in their lives. Others again, and they are legion, are like the seed that fell among the briars and thorns. They accepted the faith and it took root in them, but later on, "the cares of the world and the delight in riches chokes the word and it proves unfruitful,"—these are our Lord's own words.

The last class of Christians, are like the seed sown on good soil. They not only accept Christ and his teaching, but they live up to it, and, come what may, they are faithful to it. These will produce fruit and will earn for themselves eternal happiness.

Each one of us can look into our own conscience today and discover to which class we belong.

# MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

## Reflection prior to Mass

*Words can often be worthless and empty. The false promise, the unfeeling platitude, the insincere compliment or lethal bit of gossip can all be expressed in our speech. But God's Word is very different indeed; it is never empty or false, but rich and powerful. Scripture opens with a picture of God creating all things just by speaking his word: God's Word gets things done. So, too, in the Christian heart God's Word should find a home, take root, and produce solid fruit.*

## The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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

Isaiah 55:10-11  
MSG Reader: Sharon Sherwood Old Testament Page 623  
All Saints Reader: Eilish Friedman

### The Responsorial Psalm

(from Psalm 65)

**R/. Some seed fell into rich soil,  
and produced its crop.**

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. ®

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. ®

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. ®

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. ®

### Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23  
Reader: John Hickman New Testament Page 131

### Gospel Acclamation

(STAND)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, and the sower is Christ; all who find him will abide for ever.

**Alleluia!**

### The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23  
New Testament Page 11

### The Prayer of the Faithful

(Biddings: Sister Janet)

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, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley C, Steve Cooper, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Rosalie Osbourne, Pete, Susan, Eric, Wendy,* 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... Ted Atkinson, David Barker; *and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them...* **17th** Ann Bull, Harriet Bates, Edith Taylor, Douglas Baker; **18th** Alice Read, Mary Church; **19th** Romeo Zani; **20th** John Herbert, Michael Pittam, Lilian Poynter, Cynthia Baker, Percy Saunders; **21st** Martin Vincent, Nellie Tracey; **22nd** Eric Todd... 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, powerful Word of the Father, we thank you for the gift of your gospel. We thank you for all those who shared that gift with us: parents, teachers, priests, friends. Because they loved you and cared enough about us they planted and nurtured the seed of faith, the gift which gives joy, courage and hope. Show us, Lord, how to pass that gift on, how to enrich the lives of those we love with your gospel. Never let us be satisfied with our poor knowledge of your truth. May we know your truth better so that we might live it more. May we know you more deeply through our living of your truth. Word of the Father, be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart. Amen.*

## NOTICES

**Calverton Fete:** Is held this year on the 27th August from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. If you can help with setting up and clearing away, or with running stalls, or with donating home-made cakes and offers of books and/or bric-a-brac do please see Jill Barby, Jonathan Dunn or Eric & Diane West. Many thanks.

**Art Exhibition:** will be held in St Mary & St Giles on Saturday 5th August. If you would like to know more or join Rita's Art Group, then please contact her on: MK 564702 or 07484772612

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

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

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