

REFLECTION - '22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time' "Following the Master"

Because sin had entered into the world before the Incarnation took place, the Son of God in his human nature had to suffer the violent death of the cross at the hands of sinners. In this very suffering he became the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world, as the second-Isaiah had foretold in his "suffering servant" prophecies (Is. 53: 1-7; 42: 1-9 etc). His death, because he was God as well as man, was a sacrifice, an atonement, of infinite value, and therefore obtained forgiveness from the Father for all the sins of the human race.

In foretelling his sufferings and death, which took place some months later, Christ intended to prepare his disciples and other followers for what he knew would be for them a severe crisis of faith. He also took occasion from it to remind his disciples, and all others who would follow him, of what their attitude to suffering and death should be. He told them, and us too, that we must be ever ready to accept sufferings in this life, and even an untimely death if that should be demanded of us, rather than deny our Christian faith.

To prove their loyalty to their faith in Christ thousands of Christians in the early Church, and thousands more during persecutions in later centuries, gladly took him at his word and went joyfully to their martyrdom. It is to be hoped that, aided by God's grace, we would all be ready to imitate their example, if called on to prove our fidelity to Christ and our Christian faith. But at the moment what Christ expects and asks of us is that we should bear the sufferings and hardships of daily life cheerfully and gladly for his sake.

This daily carrying of our Christian cross can be, and is for many, a prolonged martyrdom. Poverty, ill-health, cruelty and hardheartedness met with in the home and in one's neighbours, are heavy crosses which only a truly Christian shoulder can bear. But, if we were offered health, happiness, peace, wealth and power for the next fifty or seventy years on this earth, in exchange for an eternal heaven after death, what rational one among us would accept that offer?

Christians know that this life is a period of training, which makes us ready hereafter to receive the eternal reward which Christ has won for us. Every trainee knows that one must endure certain hardships and sufferings in order to merit graduation into one's chosen profession or trade. On our Christian graduation day we shall, please God, hear the welcome words: "Well done good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater, come and join in your Master's happiness" (Mt. 25: 21). May God grant that every one of us will hear these words of welcome.



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Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:
May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

Confessions: May be made after Masses or by appointment.

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

To Hire the Parish Hall: 'phone Lesley Salter on 01908 567404



**St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
with All Saints, Calverton**

THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
3rd September AD 2017

We must follow Jesus Christ **daily**.
Not occasionally,
not frequently,
not regularly,
but **daily**.

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)

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 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 every £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.

At St Mary & St Giles this week:

Sidesmen	Team 1
Serving Team:	Team 2
Offertory bearers:	Parish Singers
Church Gardeners:	Team 3
Church Cleaners	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 136

Weekday Worshipping Numbers W/E 26/8 - 16

Prayer Thought:

In today's gospel Jesus declares that in pursuing the goal of his life he is going to meet opposition. There will be suffering before he reaches final joy. He tells his disciples that it is necessary to lose one's life in order to find it at a deeper level. Like Peter, we find it painful to lose, and all too easily we can find ourselves resisting paying the price of our principles.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 Jeremiah 20:7-9

Reader at SMSG: Doreen Brooks
Reader at All Saints: Sister Janet

(Old Testament Page 651 in the Bibles) tells how a prophet came to understand, from experience, the difficulties of his vocation. Yet, his call remained a great driving-force in his life.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 145)

**R/. For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. ©

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ©

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,

spirit of God,) 'do thy works in meekness, and thou shalt be beloved above the glory of men,' Ecclus. iii. 19.

Consider 3rdly, what we must do that we may effectually learn to be meek, and may obtain a complete victory over anger and passion, and all that train of evils, which are the usual attendants, or consequences, of anger and passion. First, We must watch. 2ndly, We must pray. 3rdly, We must fight. We must watch over our own hearts, that we may not be surprised by the sudden motions of anger, and hurried away before we are aware; we must forecast the occasions, in which we may meet with temptations or provocations, that we may be prepared for them and armed against them. We must upon all occasions pray, with all the fervour of our souls, for the divine assistance against so dangerous an evil as passion, as being a capital enemy of charity, the queen of virtues; we must often lament our misery in this kind, at the feet of the Lamb of God, and sue for redress, by the intercession of the blessed virgin, and of all the saints; we must for this purpose frequent the sacraments, the sources of heavenly grace. We must fight, by diligently suppressing the first motions of wrath: we must be convinced that no man upon earth, nor all the men upon earth, nor all the devils in hell, with all their malice, can do us half so much harm as we do ourselves by venting our passions, and seeking revenge; and therefore we must resolve to fight till death, with the best arms we are able, against this wicked passion, as an enemy which is continually seeking to betray our souls to Satan. Conclude to spare no pains that thou mayest effectually learn of Jesus Christ to be meek and humble of heart. There is no other way to peace here, nor to heaven hereafter.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: Our Parish

Monday: St Cuthbert, St Birinus

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall
8:00pm Bellringing Practice
Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: St Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin, Rel.

Pipe Organ being tuned at St Mary & St Giles
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenes'
Pray for: The Poor and Destitute

Wednesday: Feria

7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: Rough Sleepers

Thursday: Feria

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray for: Parish Priests

Friday: Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Organ Festival Weekend Begins Today*
8:00am Mass at SMSG School (North)
12.30pm Lunchtime Festival Opening Recital with Jacob Collins
7.30 pm Gala Organ Concert by Simon Lindley (Leeds City Organist)
Pray for: For all women with child

Saturday: Feria

3.00 pm Teddy Bears' Picnic Family Concert
7.30 pm Silent Movie Buster Keaton's Sherlock Junior, with Donald MacKenzie at the organ
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
3.00 pm Get to know our Willis!
4.30 pm Audience Requests played by Jonathan Kingston
Intention: Our Parish

Readings next Sunday:

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9
Psalm: 95 (part)
2nd Reading: Romans 13: 8-10
Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

*Please see the Programme for all events.

Praying for our Parish: On Thursday of last week I received an email from the Chaplain (Fr Peter Hudson) of the English Chapel at Christ the King, Gordon Square, London to say that all Society Parishes are prayed for at the 12:30pm Mass; during the course of the year, and that our parish will be remembered by name in the intercessions on: Monday 4th September. The Parish will also be prayed for in the English Chapel at Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday of this week at 12:00noon. If you are in London and have time to go to Mass Gordon Square is easy to find. Come out of Euston Station and cross the Euston Road by the 'Pelican Crossing' and carry on straight ahead into Gordon Street. Christ the King is on the right hand side at the end of the road—about a five minute walk from Euston—the Mass is offered there at 12:30pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays, the latter half of Holy Week, and from the Monday before Christmas Eve until the end of the year.

Bishop Challoner - ON MEEKNESS

Consider first, that after poverty of spirit, in the next place meekness is recommended to us, as the true road to everlasting happiness: 'Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.' These two virtues of poverty of spirit and meekness are nearly allied to each other, they go hand-in-hand. Our Lord joins them both together, and expects we should learn them both from him, Matt. xi., when he calls upon us all 'to take his yoke upon us, and to learn of him, because he is meek and humble of heart.' But what will he give us, do you think, if we learn to imitate his meekness? O! he assures us, that we shall find in the exercise of this virtue refreshment, rest, and peace for our souls here, and shall inherit the land of the living hereafter. Happy portion of meek souls, even the possession of the Lord of life himself, in the land of the living! Christians, who

would not embrace this lovely virtue, which brings with it a calm serenity and tranquillity of soul even during our pilgrimage through the region of the dying, and secures to us, in our true country, the eternal repose and life of the saints?

Consider 2ndly, what this meekness is which is entitled to this beatitude. Meekness is a virtue which restrains all anger and passion; which suppresses the swellings of the heart, under real or imaginary provocations or injuries; which stills and tumults of the soul on all these occasions; keeps in all heat or violence of words; and allows no thoughts to the soul of any other than that truly Christian revenge of overcoming evil with good. Such was the practice of the Lamb of God, both in life and death; of whom it was written, Isaia xlii. and Matt. xii., 'He shall not contend nor cry out, neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets; the bruised reed he shall not break, and smoking flax he shall not extinguish,' &c. 'He shall not be sad nor troublesome.' and 1 Pet. ii. 23, 'When he was reviled, he did not revile; when he suffered, he threatened not; but delivered himself to him that judged him unjustly.' Now 'tis this meekness, this sweet, mild, gentle behaviour, this evenness of soul, joined with courtesy in words, and affability to the little and to the poor, as much as to the great and to the rich, when joined with true humility of heart, makes up the proper and distinctive livery of the true servants and followers of Jesus Christ; which if we do not all endeavour to put on, he will not own us for his. It was this made up the amiable character of the primitive Christians. The sweet odour of these truly Christian virtues attracted thousands in those days to the faith of Jesus Christ; and will be found at all times more effectual, in order to the conversion of souls, than the strongest arguments or even miracles, if not recommended by meekness and humility. O let us embrace these lovely virtues! 'My son,' (says the

my mouth shall praise you with joy. ®

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. ®

The Second Reading Romans 12:1-2
Reader at SMSG: Pat Done

(New Testament Page 134 in the Bibles)
we Christians are reminded that the most pleasing sacrifice we offer to God is the sacrifice of our own selves, in obedient service to him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

(New Testament Page 15 in the Bibles)
Jesus makes it clear to us that, as he suffered for our sake, so he expects us to take a stand against our selfishness. He wants us not to seek only our own comfort, but to follow his way.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: Matthew Lucas)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, God our Father wants all mankind to be saved and calls us to the knowledge of the truth. Let us pray to him with all our hearts.

Intercessor: Let us pray for the holy Church of God:.....that the Lord would guide and protect it.

V/. Lord, hear us.

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

Let us pray for all the peoples of the world:..... That the Lord would unite them in peace and harmony.

Let us pray for all our brothers and sisters in need:.... Fiddy Abraham, Polly Barclay, Shirley Brown, Lesley, Steve Cooper, Baby Ferguson, Peter Fulcher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Miranda,

Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Gum and Eva Newnham, Pete, Alan Shaw, Stacey, Lionel Stobie, Susan, Eric, Wendy...that the Lord may assist them.

Let us pray for those who have died... Cormac Murphy O'Connor (*Bishop*), William Gregory; *and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week, amongst them...* **3rd** Leo Andrews, Lucy Roe, **4th** Iain Russell; **5th** George Bates, Edna Cowley, Barbara Willett, Gerald Redgrave; **6th** John Roberts, Laura Smith; **7th** Ann Shirley, Daphne Manistre; **8th** Diana Smith; **9th** Mary Rogers, Ernest Berrill... that they may dwell for ever "in the shelter of the Most High".

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Let us pray for ourselves and our community:..... that we may offer an acceptable sacrifice.

In silence we pray for our needs and concerns

Priest: God of love our refuge and our strength, hear the prayers of your church, and grant us today what we ask of you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection: (by Blessed John Henry Newman)

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of you. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my spirit. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, as to be a light for others; the light of Jesus will be all from you; none of it will be mine; it will be you shining on others through me. Let me thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on others around me. Let me preach you without preaching by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you. Amen.

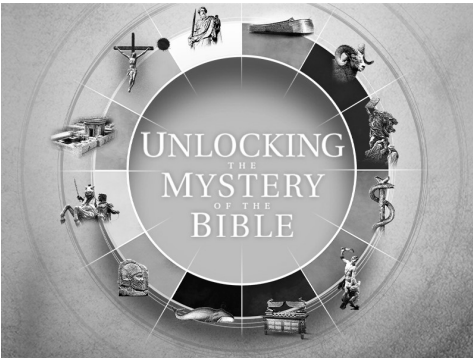
PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

THANK YOU: to everyone who helped prepare for, and assisted during, All Saints Church Fete last Sunday afternoon. Thank you also to all those who donated items and/or made things for sale, along with cakes and prizes. A great team effort resulted in a splendid afternoon. The results are as follows:

Donations.	£78.00
Tower.	£284.12
Treasure Hunt.	£67.00
Bric-a-Brac.	£144.00
Craft.	£109.50
Raffle.	£250.00
Cake Stall.	£72.95
Sweets in Jar.	£22.50
Bookstall.	£44.05
Face Painting.	£9.00
Ducks.	£25.50
Skittles.	£103.54
Coconut Shy.	£93.00
Teas.	£390.74

Total: £1,693.90

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: For many of us the Scriptures can seem a mystery, and the 'Cover to Cover' edition of the Scriptures can help us make more sense of its historical timeline. Of course, even aids like this can lead to further questions and even a thirst for greater knowledge. Therefore, to encourage us all in our reading of Holy Scripture the PCC has agreed to an excellent DVD based Course on the Scriptures begin-



ning this month. The 8 Week Course is called 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' and I have posted a trailer for the Course on the Parish Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member then simply send a request to join our group: 'Parish of Stony Stratford with Calverton.'

N.B. TWO SESSIONS will be held on Thursdays - both at the Rectory at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, as I am well aware that not everyone is able to attend evening sessions. The Course will be begin on Thursday 21st September. The Course is eight sessions long and there will be a break of two weeks after the first four sessions. Each participant will have a high quality booklet, Bible Timeline and bookmark to aid us as we go through the Course.

The Course will be repeated twice next year, hopefully on different days, so as to allow as many of us as possible to participate.

The Programme is as follows:

Session 1	Thurs 21st Sept
<i>Introduction & The Bible Timeline Chart</i>	
Session 2	Thurs 28th Sept
<i>Early World</i>	
Session 3	Thurs 4th Oct
<i>Patriarchs</i>	
Session 4	Thurs 12th Oct
<i>Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings</i>	
Session 5	Thurs 2nd Nov
<i>Conquest and Judges, Royal Kingdom</i>	
Session 6	Thurs 9th Nov
<i>Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return</i>	
Session 7	Thurs 16th Nov
<i>Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfilment Part 1</i>	
Session 8	Thurs 23rd Nov
<i>Messianic Fulfilment Part 2, The Church</i>	

Please pray for the success of this course. A 'overview of the Course will be held in the Parish Hall before the Summer Holidays - as with the actual course on an evening and a daytime.

NEXT WEEKEND: Organ Heritage Weekend: from Friday 8th September through to Sunday 10th September, there are a series of splendid recitals and concerts to mark our contribution to our Nation's Heritage Weekend. You can find more details on leaflets on the oak table at the rear of St Mary & St Giles.

Also, NEXT SUNDAY sees the arrival of **Jonathan Kingston** as our new Director of Music. Jonathan will also be working one day a week in our Church School as part of his wider work in music tuition. Please pray for him as he prepares to join us.

All Saints Property Register

At St Mary & St Giles the Property Register was compiled by Kieran Salter some years ago. Unfortunately, this has not been completed at All Saints, and the Rector and Churchwardens would be delighted if a small group wished to take up this important project.

Again it makes for an interesting project compiling a register of all the contents of the church: its furniture and fittings, plus its ornaments, liturgical vessels and vestments. The entries are all accompanied by digital photographs, except in the case of the silverware, brassware and other valuable objects, for which there needs to be an additional set of actual printed photographs kept separately for insurance purposes.

If you have any further questions or would like to be part of this project group, then please do have a word with Fr Ross or the Churchwardens: Jill Barby and Jonathan Dunn - All Saints

Rosary (Proposed Walsingham Cell)

Group: During our Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham a number of people expressed interest in forming a Walsingham Cell Group in our Parish to pray the Mysteries of the Rosary which

incorporate themed intercessions. This proposal was made with the awareness that there were those in the Parish who, while perhaps unable to attend a Pilgrimage to Walsingham, none-the-less would like to keep their links with Our Lady of Walsingham through participation in such a Cell Group. The proposed group would meet on the last Friday of each month in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary & St Giles, and would be able to use the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham bequeathed to the Parish by the late Derek Savage as part of its devotions.

The date of the first meeting of the group has been set for 2:00pm on Friday the 29th September - the Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, which is a really appropriate date to commence this group. If you would like to know more please see Sister Janet, who will be coordinating this group.

Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham

2018: The last three year's pilgrimages have brought many blessings to those who participated in them, and each year we seem to attract a number of 'First-Time Pilgrims,' which is a wonderful thing. We are now taking bookings for next year's Pilgrimage; the dates for which are: Friday 17th - Sunday 19th August. Booking Forms are available at the back of each of our Parish Churches.

Fr Ross will be giving a DVD Presentation on Walsingham in October - a more precise date will be announced next week.

Church Diaries 2018: Once again the supplier of the Church Diaries we switched to last year has printed a large quantity of diaries for us.. As with last year we have sufficient for us to take copies away to give to family and friends. Copies are to be found in both our Parish Churches from today.