

now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R/. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord,
to pour thy grace into our hearts;
that as we have known
the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ
by the message of an angel,
so by his ✠ Cross and Passion,
we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Recessional: 'Libera me, domine' - Gabriel Fauré

Please remain seated until the Recessional Music has ceased. This is integral to the liturgy of the Organ Mass and therefore applause is not appropriate. Once concluded, leave the Parish Church of St Mary & St Giles via the Parish Hall; and at All Saints via the West (Tower) door. The Priest will be outside in the churchyard.

Reflection after Mass:

Lord Jesus, you had the courage to take up a whip of cords and to make of the Temple of Jerusalem a place that would be holy and spotless for your Father. As you come in to the humble temple of our hearts, cleanse us of our hidden faults and impure motives. Make of us a temple somehow a little less unworthy to welcome you. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY

TODAY: THE THIRDD SUNDAY OF LENT
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: The Parish

Tuesday Feria
10:30am Mass at All Saints
7:00pm Lent Course 'Come & See' via Zoom
Intention: Our Local Doctors, Nurses and Health Care Assts.

Wednesday Feria
6:00pm Stations of the Cross
6:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: All Public Health Officials and those engaged in the COVID Vaccination Process

Friday Feria
12:00noon Angelus & Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: The Mission of the Church in the South-West

Next Sunday: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: The Parish

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Communication: As from Saturday 1st May I shall be closing the Parish WhatsApp Group due to its owners planned changes to its privacy settings. There are those that may claim that it can still be trusted, but when members of the Intelligence Service tell me that they are changing their own messenger provider, then it seems to me that I owe it to you all to keep you as safe as possible online. I shall be setting up a Parish Group on a highly recommended, secure App called 'Signal.' it can be downloaded to any smartphone free, and I have already set up the new parish group to which I can send you a link once you have downloaded the App to your 'phone.

Lent IV (Laetere Sunday) - Mothering Sunday: Daffodils have been ordered from Willis' Florist. It is hoped that we will have volunteers to distribute them after Mass on this day. Thank you.

Omnia Christus est nobis!

To us Christ is all!



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

**THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT**

7th March AD 2021



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 reasons for spiritual blindness of so many of the neo-pagans of today from accepting and living the Christian faith, like the priests and Pharisees of Jerusalem in the year 28, are because they so immersed in the affairs of this world that they can give no thought to their own future. Their eyes are so fixed on the earthly objectives that they have set themselves, that they can see nothing else. The priests and Pharisees wanted more than political freedom from Rome. They had hopes that their Messiah would give them a great world empire, and with it wealth and power without limit. Our contemporaries' aims may not go so far, but worldly aims are important enough in their eyes to make them exclude from their minds the thought of anything higher. Yet, they have more than enough reminders whichever way they turn to recall their minds to the historical facts of Christianity. It is now well over 2000 years since the birth of Christ. Who was he, why was he born, why does the world divide its history into before he came, B.C., and after he came, A.D.? In every town and village of our once Christian western world there is a church or two with steeples pointing to the sky. Why? What do churches mean to people? Near every town there are cemeteries or "sleeping places," according to the meaning of that Greek word. Are those buried there only sleeping and waiting to be called, if not already called, or are they finished forever just like the ox or the unthinking cow that may be buried in the next field. The agnostics and free-thinkers of our day should start to think about the real facts of life—the central ones of which are that Christ, who was the Son of God, took our human nature and lived on this earth, so that he would raise us up to sonship with God. He suffered crucifixion, because the world was full of sin when he came. But his death made atonement to the heavenly Father for all the sins of the world. His resurrection from the dead was the prelude and the guarantee that we shall all rise to a life of glory in heaven, if only we put our faith and trust in his only-Begotten Son Jesus Christ.

INFORMATION



Safeguarding: Our Parish Churches have adopted and follow the Diocese of Oxford's recommended policies for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Details of these policies and of our Safeguarding Officers are available on the noticeboards inside each Parish Church. Should you have any safeguarding concerns then please see one of them.

Restrictions During the Current Pandemic:

Unfortunately, we are required to observe the following restrictions:

- ◆ **FACE MASKS: MUST BE WORN** by all attending worship as required by Law, apart from the Priest and any Lay Ministers assisting him. **N.B. IF YOU CANNOT WEAR A MASK FOR MEDICAL REASONS YOU MUST WEAR A FACE SHIELD.**
- ◆ Only 3 or 4 **Church Bells** are permitted to be rung, because ringing chambers are not large enough for distancing requirements when a full team is present. The Tower Captain and Assistant must keep a record of who is present to ring on what dates and ensure that distancing is maintained on the staircase. Bell ringing practice is not permitted.
- ◆ **Entry and exit** to our Parish Churches - entry via the West (Tower) Door and exit via the Parish Hall at St Mary & St Giles - entry via the South Porch and exit via the West (Tower) Door at All Saints
- ◆ There cannot be an **social gathering** in either of our Parish Churches before or after Mass - social intercourse may take place in the churchyards before or after Mass.
- ◆ 'Shared' **Mass cards** are not permitted. Please do not take a copy for someone else - either retain it for your devotions at home, or place it in the bin provided at the exit points in both churches.
- ◆ Until further notice all **communal singing**, singing rehearsals and concerts are prohibited in all places of worship. It is now possible to have a small choir and Organ Music played.
- ◆ **Collections:** Cash donations and envelopes must be placed either in the large plinth donations box at St Mary & St Giles, or in the bowl by the south porch door at All Saints. We are not allowed to pass a collection plate/bag to one another.
- ◆ **'The Peace'** may not be shared physically. We may however join our own hands and bow to each other at The Peace.
- ◆ **When going forward to receive Holy Communion** - at St Mary & St Giles please approach centre of the altar rail in single file via the main aisle, observing a two metre distance, and return to your place via the side aisle. At All Saints: again single file two metres apart but keeping to the south porch side of the main aisle on approaching the altar rail and returning to your place on the vestry side. N.B. in both churches Holy Communion must be received whilst standing and please extend your arms as far as you are able. Textile kneelers and cushions have had to be removed.
- ◆ **'Receiving Holy Communion'** is in one kind, i.e. The Host. This must be received in the palms of our hands - not on the tongue.
- ◆ **Please maintain a two metre distance** from each other on approaching the altar rails and on leaving our churches after Mass.
- ◆ **Lavatory Facilities.** Strict hand-hygiene must be observed and hand-dryers only used. In the lavatory at each church there is a spray sanitiser and single use sanitising wipes for each user to wipe the seat, flush-handle, water taps, sink and door handle. Used wipes should be placed in the waste baskets provided.

All of these restrictions, whilst not what we would wish for, do not detract from the fact that we are able to receive the Lord in his Blessed Sacrament.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

Reflection before Mass:

The temple at Jerusalem is the arena in which Jesus appears before us in today's gospel. As Jesus drives out those who are trafficking in the things of the world, we are reminded that our bodies are anointed to be temples of the Spirit of God. Lent is a time for us to drive out all thoughts and desires of yielding to the impulse to do business with the world on its terms. Rather we are invited to have that mind in us which was in Christ Jesus who emptied himself and accepted death on a cross for us. We are reminded too that all who die with him will rise to new life in him.

(STAND) THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Organ Introit: 'Introit' - Gabriel Fauré

As the Sacristy Bell is rung we STAND; and the priest and ministers enter the Sanctuary the Cantor sings the **Antiphon:**

Mine eyes are ever on the Lord, for he shall pluck out of the net my feet: look thou upon me and have mercy upon me: for I am desolate, and in misery.

Ps. Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul * My God, in thee have I trusted, let me not be confounded.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost * as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

2. My heart and my flesh *
cry out for the living God.

Organ Voluntary during the Distribution of Holy Communion: 'In Paradisum' - Gabriel Fauré

It is customary to kneel throughout the distribution of Holy Communion except when going forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament and upon returning to your place.

Prayer after Communion (STAND)

Let us pray.

And all pray in silence with the Priest for a while, unless the silence has just been observed.

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All then pray:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

(STAND) THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Bow down for the blessing.

For the dismissal, the Priest faces the people and with his hands extended over the people, blesses them using this form:

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful, and in your kindness grant your servants this grace: that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour, they may fulfil the whole of your commands. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

'THE ANGELUS' The Memorial of the Incarnation

V/. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary;
R/. **And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R/. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

V/. And the Word was made flesh;
R/. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,

**and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with the priest interceding for the Church, the world, all those present at this celebration, and the Faithful Departed. At the Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer all join in the Great Amen.

Priest:for ever and ever.
All: Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The priest introduces the Lord's Prayer. (STAND)

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Agnus Dei (KNEEL)

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The priest shows the consecrated Host to the people, saying:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.

**✠ Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Communion Antiphon is sung by the Cantor and the people come forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

The sparrow hath found herself a home, and the swallow her nest, where she may lay her young ones - even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my true God. Blessed are they who dwell in this house of thine - unto all eternity they will praise thee.

1. How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts *
my soul longeth; even fainteth for thy courts.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And also with you.

Penitential Rite (STAND)

The priest invites the people to call to mind their sins and repent of them.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The priest pronounces the general absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyries:

Kyrie, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.

Christe, eleison.
Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.

The Gloria in excelsis is omitted during Lent.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 20: 1-17

(Old Testament Page 54 in the Bibles) narrates the giving of the ten commandments to Israel. In the commandments God's wisdom was partially revealed to his people.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 19)

R/. You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

- 1 The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. ®
- 2 The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. ®
- 3 The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. ®

4 They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. ®

R/. You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

(New Testament Page 138 in the Bibles) There was nothing glorious about Christ's death on the cross. Humanly speaking it looked like a defeat. But through God's power it was the salvation of the world. The apostle Paul reminds us of this great truth in this second reading.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son;
that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

The Gospel

John 2: 13-25

(New Testament Page 79 in the Bibles) we hear Jesus proclaim that he, the risen Saviour, is the new temple where man will find the presence of God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As the Gospel is announced the people respond:

✠ ✠ ✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

The Apostles' Creed

(STAND)

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful

(STAND)

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters, the commands of the Lord are clear, and his mercy is great. Let us pray to our heavenly Father, trusting in his wisdom.

Intercessor: That the Church may guide her children in the paths of goodness, and bring them closer to God's love....

V/. Lord, in your mercy

R/. **Hear our prayer.**

That with all the people of the world we may learn to turn away from sin with all our hearts, and become obedient to God's commands....

That those who do not believe may yet hear the Word of God, and be brought to eternal salvation....

For our Parish and for the strengthening of our common life that during this holy season, we may recognise the crucified Christ as the 'power and wisdom of God'....

We pray for those who are suffering at this time, especially we are asked to pray for... Malcolm, Shirley, Cecilia, Christel, Joan Carrigan, Margaret DeSousa, Richard Desousa, Ronnie DeSousa, Rene Hazlewood, Fr Joseph, Lilith, Lorna, Sr Janet, James, Peter, Rosie, Susie, Dee, Stacey, Isa, Wendy, Janet, Adam Viard, Eric, Jasmine, Davida Wiseman...and for all those whom we have come here to pray for....

That the faithful departed may enjoy eternal life through the crucified and risen Lord, especially we are asked to pray for the souls of those who have died recently, amongst them...Jane Bull, Mary Bull, David, Fr Francis Rodriguez-Veglio, Phillip Tomlinson... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time...**7th** Edna Shillingford, Celia Meakins, Vera Timmins, **8th** Roger Webb; **9th** Sarah Godfrey, Sunil Kumar; **10th** Sarah Bull; **11th** Audrey Bayard, Malcolm Swann; **12th** Sarah Henson, Nellie Tomkins, Roy Price, Joan Blow; **13th** Arthur Barker, Shirley Rofe, Jane Holman... and all) the faithful departed....

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant: Almighty Father, in wisdom you have revealed your law, and in mercy you grant us grace to fulfil it. Hear the petitions of the people gathered in the name of your Son, who lives and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Gifts of Bread and Wine are placed upon the altar, as the Cantor sings the **Offertory Antiphon:***

The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart - and far sweeter than honey and the honeycomb, moreover thy servant is taught well by them.

*Then priest says the Offertory Prayers to which the people respond: **Blessed be God for ever.***

(STAND) Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

The priest says the Prayer over the Offerings:

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The priest sings a Eucharistic Preface appropriate to the celebration, after which all join in the acclamation: (KNEEL)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the command of Jesus Christ, 'Do this in memory of me.'

Priest: The mystery of faith:

All: When we eat this Bread