

Please keep silence from 9.25 in preparation for Mass. 12th July, 2020
PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
15th of Year A (Sea Sunday)

Theme: God throws down the gauntlet to us when he speaks through his word. It is not just empty air, but a living, challenging word which we cannot escape – we are forced to accept or reject it.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Forgive us for the times we turn our backs on the challenge of your word.

Lord have mercy. **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Forgive us for the times when we are choked by the love of worldly things.

Christ have mercy. **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Forgive us for the times when, having let your words take root, we deliberately pull them out by ignoring them. Lord have mercy. **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

GLORIA

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that the gospel may be our rule of life. God our Father, your light of truth guides us to the way of Christ. May all who follow him reject what is contrary to the gospel.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Isaiah 55 v. 10-11: Isaiah tells how the word of God gives life and growth, just like the rain that helps the earth to yield its fruit.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 64 ® **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 v. 18-23: St. Paul speaks of the future glory that awaits us and all creation, but he reminds us that there is an interim period of suffering before our journey ends.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13 v. 1-23: the Parable of the Sower is related in the Gospel. Christ is the Sower of the Word and he asks us to listen and hear, to look and see and be converted.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The Gospel today gives us every reason to be confident. So let us ask God our Father to satisfy the needs of people everywhere.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for all who teach the faith by word and example in homes, schools and parishes. May more people be alert to God's calling so that there are more labourers for the harvest.

We are afraid of those who do not conform to our pattern of life and our fear often turns to hatred. Help us to recognise you in everyone, particularly our children.

Let us pray for all who listen, yet do not hear; when our lives are choked with worries and materialism – may we be spiritually brought to life.

Let us pray for all those who stubbornly refuse to be reached by God's word; that we may be converted and healed by the Lord.

Let us pray for all sea-farers. For all fishermen and all involved in providing food from the sea. We pray for the work of Missions to Seafarers.

We pray for all who are sick and housebound, For all around the world who **Tares:** suffering from the Covid 19 pandemic and for those who nurse and care for them. We pray for all prayed for at Shrine Prayers and Nichola Berry; Ken Davis; Maria Everett; Michael Denny; Janice Ross; Billy Carter; Jessica Mercer; Joan Hill; Ralph Lambert; Mick Pugh and Jean Tierney May they know the Lord's care through us.

Let us pray for all who work on the land; may their work be fruitful to provide food for all especially for the farmers of our parish.

Let us pray for those going through trying times; that they may not give up as did the seed that fell on rocky ground.

Let us pray for the people in the world who do not have enough to eat; for those whose conditions of life make it hard for them to see that God is good and to believe in him; for those who are working to make the world's food supply more plentiful, especially Christian Aid.

Give rest to the faithful departed – and bring them to praise you in eternity. We pray for Keith Forsdyke and Peggy Knock recently departed and for Richard Jones; Hilda Baker; Christina Clarke; Jan Price; Evelyn Hundleby; Marian Riley; Gwen Macdonald; Hector Buckle; Fr. Fred Prebble; Hilda Muskett; John Lockwood; Amy Monksfield; John Hame; and John Giffin whose anniversaries of death are at this time.

Let us ask Mary, our Mother, to add her prayers to ours. **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**

S I L E N C E

All: Father, you have called your people to follow you. Give them the strength to go on doing so, come what may. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION For those unable to receive the Sacrament.
Dear Lord, since I cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

ANGELUS

BLESSING

This week – Divine Office – Psalter week 3

Mon: 9.30am Mass (Is 35v3-6,10; Matt 7 v 24-27)Int. The dead; July anniversaries

Tues: 9.30am Mass (Is 7 v 1-9; Matt 11 v. 20-24) Int. The sick

Wed: St Bonaventure 9.30am Mass - Int: All who study the scriptures (Is 10 v 5-7, 13-16; Matt 11v.25 - 27)

Thurs: Our Lady of Mount Carmel 6.30pm Mass - Int: Shrine at Aylesford (Is 26 v 7-9,12,16-19; Matt 11 v. 28-30) 7.00pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Night Prayer.

Fri: 9.30am Mass (Is 38 v1-6,21-22,27-28; Matt 12 v. 1-8) Int: All teachers

Sat: 9.30am Mass (Mich 2 v1-5; Matt 12 v14-21) Int: All who are oppressed

Next Sunday – 16th of Year A 9.30am Parish Mass and Address. (Wisdom 12 v.13; 16-19; Romans 8 v.26-27; Matt.13 v.24-43.)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Knowing God is not so much a question of opening a book and reading about God but opening the heart and loving God.