

26th July 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

17th of Year A

THEME: “Your will is wonderful indeed, therefore I obey it,” says today’s Psalmist. We pray in today’s Mass that we may seek God’s will by spreading His Kingdom on earth.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have done our own will instead of yours. Lord have mercy.

People: LORD HAVE MERCY

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have put ourselves before others and failed to love. Christ have mercy.

People: CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have occupied ourselves with earthly treasures and ignored the Kingdom of Heaven. Lord have mercy.

People: LORD HAVE MERCY

Celebrant proclaims God’s forgiveness

GLORIA:

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that we will make good use of the gifts that God has given us. God our Father and Protector, without you nothing is holy, nothing has value. Guide us to everlasting life by helping us to use wisely the blessings you have given to the world. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading ~ 1 Kings 3 v. 5, 7~12 In order to govern his people according to God’s purpose, King Solomon asks for true treasure; a heart that is understanding and wise.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 118

® **Lord, how I love your law!**

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. ®

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. ®

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts; I hate false ways. ®

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your work gives light and teaches the simple. ®

Second Reading ~ Romans 8 v. 28~30 Paul reflects on the activity of God ~ how He chooses, calls, justifies, glorifies. According to this plan of salvation, Christians grow gradually in the image of the Son of God.

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel ~ Matthew 13 v. 44 ~ 46 The Kingdom of Heaven is likened to the activity of finding a treasure and selling everything in order to possess it. In the Kingdom the good exists with the bad until the time of final judgment.

Jesus said to the crowds: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.’

CREED – Apostles’ Creed.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God's ways are not our ways, and our ways are not His. As we come together to pray for the needs of His people, let us try to ask only for what glory to Him and is of real value to His people.

Reader: Let us pray that we may be open to the promptings of the Spirit, leading us to recognise His will in the daily events and ordinary circumstances of our lives.

Let us pray for all who seek meaning and purpose in life; that their seeking will lead them to discover the true treasure that is Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for the grace to seek the Kingdom before all else and to share the treasure of our faith with others by the example of our daily lives.

Let us pray for the world leaders; that like Solomon they may have the gift of wisdom. We pray for our Queen and government.

Let us pray for all who serve on Church Committees and Councils, that in all posts of responsibility we may see our relationship with God of primary importance and so be instruments of peace.

Grant Lord, that all may come to your Kingdom, especially the sick: Nichola Berry, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Billy Carter, Jessica Mercer, Joan Hill, Ralph Lambert, Mick Pugh, Jean Tierney, and John Driver. We pray too for our house communicants – Hazel Lockwood and Margaret Maundrell.

Lord, lead those who have died into your Kingdom, especially Philip Edwards; Katie Varley; John Williams; Fr. Clive Beresford; Margaret Orr and John Rowe whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

Calling to mind the wisdom of the Blessed Virgin, let us now pray with her **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: God our Father, your gift of wisdom comes through your Holy Spirit. Give us the humility to learn from the lesson of daily life what you would have us do in your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SANCTUS: Mystery of Faith

Lord's Prayer etc

AGNUS DEI:

Post Communion Prayer & Angelus

This Week ~ Divine Office ~ Psalter Week 1

Mon: 9.30am Mass (Jer. 13v.1-11; Matt. 13v.31-35)
Int: Confirmation candidates

Tues: 9.30pm Mass (Jer. 14v.17-22; Matt. 13v.36-43)
Int: All who farm the land.

Wed: St. Martha
8.00 Mass. (Jer. 15v.10, 16-21; John 11v.19-27)
Int: Guild of All Souls.

Thurs: 9.30 Mass (Jer. 18v.1-6; Matt. 13v.47-53). Int: The Bereaved

Fri: St. Ignatius of Loyola
9.30pm. Mass (Jer. 26v.1-9; Matt. 13v.54-58)
Int: Society of Holy Cross..

Sat: St. Alphonsus
9:30 Mass (Jer 26v.11-16,24; Matt 14v.1-12)
Int: Religious publishers and the Christian media

Next Sunday: ~ **18th of Year A**
9.30am Parish Mass & Address
(Is. 55v.1-3; Romans 8 v. 35, 37-39; Matt. 14v.13-21)

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: 'Christ is not valued at all unless he is valued above all' – St Augustine

NOTICES:

1. Please take copies of "Together" at back of the church.
2. Please contribute to our running costs at St. Mary's. We lag behind other churches in the deanery.
3. Easter candles for the departed which could not be lit at Easter will be lit on Sunday 2nd August and every day for the following 7 weeks. We have the record of all ordered and paid for. If you have not ordered a candle for a loved one(s) please give to Fr. Philip if Anne TODAY. They cost £9 (3 large candles). If you have already ordered any and not paid for them please do so asap.
4. P.C.C. will meet on Sunday 23rd August after Mass.
5. Paula's Baptism and her, Shane & Graham's First Communion will take place on Sunday 16th August at the Parish Mass on the Feast of the Assumption. This will be our patronal festival but of course we can't have the usual celebrations. However, it would be lovely if we could all bring a picnic and socially distance in the South churchyard.
6. Bishop Norman is coming to Confirm Graham, Shane & Paula on Sun 30th August at the 9.30 Parish Mass.