

9th August 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

19th of Year A

Please keep silence from 9.25 to prepare for Mass.

THEME : In today's readings we hear of God's power over the forces of nature, yet despite all that power and mastery, God is powerless if our hearts and minds remain closed by fear. The power of God's love and forgiveness awaits the openness of faith. The readings present us with a challenge to face and overcome the true enemy of faith, fear.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Forgive us, Lord, for our fear - the fear that closes us off to God's presence and love. Lord have mercy. **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Forgive us, Lord, for the fear that closes us off from each other.

Christ have mercy. **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Forgive us, Lord, when we feel neglected and depressed and our trust in your goodness seems to fail. Lord have mercy. **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Gloria

OPENING PRAYER : Let us pray in the spirit that we may grow in the love of God. Almighty and ever living God, your spirit made us your children, confident call you Father. Increase your spirit within us and bring us to our promised inheritance. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - 1 Kings 19 v. 9, 11-13. The forces of nature, wind, earthquake and fire, demonstrate God's power. Yet God can also speak with a tiny whisper. God is a God of gentleness who calls us from the caves of our own hearts to meet and speak with him.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

® **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace:
His help is near for those that fear Him and his glory will dwell in our land. ®

® **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. ®

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. ®

Second Reading - Romans 9 v. 1-5. The second reading testifies to Paul's faith, a faith that gives him courage to follow his conscience and proclaim the truth of Jesus the Lord.

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens. Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 14 v. 22-33. The Gospel reading shows the power of Jesus over nature. But more importantly, it shows the power of faith in Jesus to overcome fear. It is fear that makes us sink into despair. It is faith that allows us to walk through life's storms.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Creed Nicene

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant : As God called Elijah out of the cave, God calls out of ourselves to be aware of and serve the needs of others. Let us pray now for one another.

Reader: Let us pray that all God's people may learn to see his actions at work in the little and ordinary, and learn from them.

Let us pray for those who would like to believe but do not know how.

Let us pray to the Lord for all who live in fear; for those who have no freedom; for those whose lives are dominated by war.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world, that in the storms that assail the Christian Community, our faith may not fail. May we always remember Christ's presence among us. We pray especially for Forward in Faith.

Let us pray for Thomas & Emma soon to be married, that the Lord may keep them faithful and true to each other.

Let us pray for our Patronal Festival and all who will visit our church next weekend, that its peace and tranquility may help us learn to face the storms of life.

Let us pray for the sick and suffering, for all prayed for at Shrine prayers and Nichola Berry; Michael Denny; Billy Carter; Jessica Mercer; Joan Hill; Mick Pugh; Jean Tierney; John Downie and Bill Foster that they may know Christ's healing and wholeness and we give thanks for the improvement in health of Clarice Bentley.

Let us pray for those who have died, especially Sylvia Knock; Gladys Bartrum; Hilda Farrow; John Walker; Brenda Welsh; Frank Birch; John Downes and Jillian Shadbolt whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Calling to mind the obedience and faith of Blessed Mary, let us ask for her prayers.

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.

SILENCE

All: Heavenly Father, the hand of your loving kindness gently yet powerfully guides us all the moments of our lives. Strengthen our little faith, so that we may walk with confidence over the waves of danger towards your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sanctus
Lord's Prayer**

Agnus Dei

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 3

Mon. St. Laurence. Deacon & Martyr (Feast)

9.30am Mass (II Cor 9 v 6-10; John 12 v 24-26) Int: Persecuted Christians

Tues. St. Clare

9.30am Mass Int: All seeking forgiveness
(Ezek 2 v 8 - 3v4; Matt 18 v 1-5,10,12-14)

Wed. 8.00am Requiem Mass (Ezek 9 v 1-7,10,18-22; Matt 18 v 15-20)
Int: The dead - August Anniversaries

Thurs. 9.30am Mass Intention: Those we find it hard to forgive.
(Ezek 12 v 1-12; Matt 18 v 21-19 v1)

Fri St Maximilian Kolbe

9.30am Mass (Ezek 16 v59-63; Matt 19 v 3-12) Int: All in Prison

Sat. Eve of Assumption of Our Lady

5.00pm Mass Int; Society of Mary
(1 Chron 15 v3-4,15-16, 16 v1-2; II Cor 15 v 54-57; Luke 11 v 27-28)

NEXT SUNDAY: ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

9.30am Parish Mass and Address and Adult Baptism
(Rev 11 v 19, 12 v 1-6 & 10; 1 Cor 15 v 20-26; Luke 1 v 39-56)

Please bring a picnic lunch to eat in the South churchyard.

NOTICES:-

1. PCC meets Sunday 23rd August after Mass
2. Please bring a picnic lunch next week so we can socially distance in the South churchyard.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Feeling Afraid I Trust Him (FAITH)

