

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**

**21<sup>st</sup> of Year A**

Please keep silence from 9.25 to prepare for Mass.

**THEME:** We all have keys ~ door keys, car keys, etc., and keys are symbols of our authority, because by using them we can admit others to our property or keep them out. Today we hear how Peter received the keys of the kingdom of heaven, but only after he had acknowledged the authority of Christ our Lord.

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times when through cowardice or fear we have not professed that we are Christians. Lord have mercy.

**People** **LORD HAVE MERCY**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times we have usurped Christ's authority by our criticisms and judgements of others. Christ have mercy.

**People:** **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times when we have ignored our Lord's commands by ignoring others. Lord have mercy.

**People** **LORD HAVE MERCY**

**Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness**

**Gloria**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Let us pray that God will make us one in mind and heart. Father, help us to seek the values that will bring us lasting joy in this changing world. In our desire for what you promise, make us one in mind and heart.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading ~ Isaiah 22 v. 19~23** Isaiah is charged to denounce the prime minister and announce Eliakim as his replacement. The new prime minister will be given the key, symbol of his power to open and close the doors of the palace.

*Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:  
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.*

**Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 13**

® **Your love, O Lord, is eternal. Discard not the work of your hands.**

*I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. ®*

® **Your love, O Lord, is eternal. Discard not the work of your hands.**

*I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever know of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
You increased the strength of my soul. ®*

*The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
Discard not the work of your hands. ®*

**Second Reading ~ Romans 11 v. 33~36** Paul tries to come to grips with the inability of his own Jewish people to hear the Good News of the Gospel, though pagans accepted it. We try to make our own St Paul's triumphant hymn of praise to the God whose ways are not ours.

*How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!*

**Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to Himself, and He has entrusted us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!**

**Gospel ~ Matthew 16 v. 13~20** This passage from St Matthew is parallel to that from Isaiah, and Jesus prophesies the establishment of Peter in a position of authority corresponding to that of Eliakim, but in the new and eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.*

**NICENE CREED**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** With Peter we acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Let us pray in confidence to the Father in his name.

**Reader:** We pray that the Church, built on the foundation of St Peter and the

Apostles, may ever continue to renew itself so that it may be a source of inspiration and confidence to all Christian people.

Let us pray that those who exercise authority may do so justly. We pray for our Queen, the Royal Family and our government.

Let us pray for Christian unity, that Peter may be a sign which will draw all believers together. The new prime minister will be given the key, symbol of his power to open and close the doors of the palace.

Let us pray for all areas of crisis, that the Lord will unite those who disagree into a common submission to his will for justice and peace; that the miseries of conflict and suffering and bitterness may cease.

Let us pray for Paula, Graham and Shane to be confirmed next Sunday.. May they grow in Gospel ways and be living members of the church and follow in the path of Christ.

Let us pray for mothers and fathers of families. May they find in our community the support and encouragement they need in witness to Christ.

Let us pray for all who suffer from deprivation, whether of love, food, or anything else which is necessary, especially in areas of famine.

We pray for the sick especially for our parishioners in homes: For Michael Denny, Nichola Berry, Billy Carter, Jessica Mercer, Joan Hill, Bill Foster, Clarice Bentley and give thanks in the improvement of Jean Tierney.

Let us pray for those who have died, especially Fr.Gerald Child; Hilda Lockwood; Christopher Carter; Leonard Chambers; Andrea Robinson; James Pickup; Grace Brown; Rose Hammond; Annie Cutting and Mary Warren whose anniversaries are at this time. May they find a place in the heavenly Jerusalem.

May Mary, the Mother of the Church, pray for us ~ **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of they 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 be your Church, the community of faith. May we faithfully share in the task of working for the coming of your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**SANCTUS:** Mystery of Faith  
**AGNUS DEI:**

**Post Communion Prayer and Angelus at Shrine of Our Lady.**

## **PCC meets for a meeting after Mass today**

### **This Week ~ Divine Office ~ Psalter Week 1**

**Mon: ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE, MARTYR. (Feast)**  
9.30 Mass. Int: Bishop Norman. (Rev. 21v.9-14; John 1v.45-51)

**Tues: St. Louis**  
9:30 Mass. Int: Queen and Government  
(2 Thess 2v.1-3, 14-17; Matt 23v.23-26)

**Wed:** 8:00 Mass. Int: The Society and Forward in Faith.  
(2 Thess 3v.6-10,16-18; Matt 23v.27-32)

**Thurs: St. Monica**  
7:30 pm Mass Int: Guild of All Souls  
(1 Cor 1v.1-9; Matt 24v.42-51)

**Fri: St. Augustine**  
9:30am Mass Int: All teachers.  
(1 Cor 1v.17-25, Matt 25v.1-13)

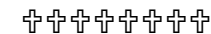
**Sat: Martydom of John Baptist**  
9:30 Mass. Int: Divided Families  
(1 Cor 1v.26-31; Mark 6v.17-29)

### **Next Sunday: ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> of Year A**

9.30am Parish Mass, Address and Confirmation of Graham, Shane and Paula.

#### NOTICES

1. Please bring a picnic brunch to eat in the South churchyard (socially distanced, as we did last Sunday) to greet the newly Confirmed and Bishop Norman.
2. Val has received an email from Christian Aid to thank those who gave to the Mendlesham online Christian Aid week appeal, raising £701.20. Thanks to Val for organising this. The total raised nationally was £4.3 million.
3. The September Mendlesham Newsletter is available in printed form once again. If you live in Mendlesham you will have yours delivered. Others are welcome to take a copy from church.



### **Thought for this week**

“ NOT TO DECIDE IS TO DECIDE” (Harvey Cox)