

30th August 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

22nd Year A

THEME: All of us like doing things our way; in today's readings God is saying to us 'Do it my way'. This is how we die to ourselves, and this will inevitably bring us pain; the paradox is that in 'dying' like this we shall really begin to live.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Let us think of the times when we have preferred our own way to God's. For the times when we have deliberately ignored what God has been saying to us through other people. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant: Forgive us for the occasions on which we have ignored the wishes and needs of others. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY**

Celebrant: Forgive us for the times we refused to accept other people for what they are. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY**

Bishop proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that God will increase our faith and bring to perfection the gifts he has given us. Almighty God, every good thing comes from you. Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith, and by your constant care protect the good you have given us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Jeremiah 20v 7-9

God has called Jeremiah to preach a message of destruction to the people. Jeremiah is torn within himself, part of him wants no more dealing with God, yet he can't turn away from the fire burning within his heart.

*You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.*

*I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.*

*Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'*

*The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.*

*I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'*

*Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.*

*The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 62

® For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God

O God, you are my God, for you I long, for my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. ®

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. ®

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. ®

For you have been my help, in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you, your right hand holds me fast. ®

Second Reading – Romans 12v 1-2

St Paul urges his readers to open their minds and hearts to the will of God. That is the acceptable offering.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Acclamation (all) Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 16v 21-27

Let us listen to what Peter has to say in today's Gospel. Jesus speaks to him strongly. We must not be hard on Peter for we often choose the easy way.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Rite of Confirmation

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The presence of the cross in the world is also a sign of the Kingdom of God. Let us offer our prayers for all who suffer.

Reader: Let us pray for all followers of Christ. May each one take up the cross with confidence and show the love of Christ to the world.

Let us pray for the help of the Holy Spirit to eliminate in our lives a grumbling and complaining attitude towards others.

Let us pray for Paula, Shane and Graham Confirmed today. May their strengthened faith be always a source of joy to them and a guide to their actions for the rest of their lives

Let us pray for John and Beryl Allen as they celebrate their diamond wedding today. May the life they have shared for 60 years be a sign to them and others of God's abiding love for his children

Let us pray for all those who are imprisoned and tortured for following the dictates of their conscience, that they may be strengthened and comforted.

Let us pray for an end to hostility, violence and war and a real longing for the ways of peace and love, especially in areas of crisis in our world.

Let us pray for all who are sick and for their families, that Christ may touch them with his healing power especially; Joan Hill, Nichola Berry, Michael Denny, Billy Carter, Jessica Mercer, Janet Woolston and all prayed for at Shrine prayers.

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may experience everlasting life, especially Edric Tasker, Mary Clements, Marjorie Payne, Elsie Gray; Emma Tyler; Peter Clements; Ethel Marner; Ernest Lawton; Annie Old; Pauline Potter; Geoffrey Elliott; Susannah Wilde; Ida Davis; Grimwood Death; Stanley Tyte, Doreen Stannard and Vera De'ath whose anniversaries are this week.

Mary was redeemed and glorified through suffering. Let us ask her prayers in our need. **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: Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to teach us your ways, and when this involves pain and suffering, give us the courage to follow you to the end. We ask this of you who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

SANCTUS

AGNUS DEI

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

ANGELUS AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY

Welcome to Bishop Norman and Shane, Paula and Graham Confirmed today. Please stay behind for a socially distanced brunch in S Churchyard

This Week: Divine office - Psalter Week 2

- Mon** 9:30 Mass. Int: Ministry of Healing
(1 Cor. 2 v.1-5; Luke 4 v.16-30)
- Tues:** 9.30 Mass. Int: All possessed by evil.
(1 Cor. 2 v.10-16; Luke 4 v.31-37)
- Wed:** 8.00 Mass. Int: Guild of All Souls
(1 Cor. 3 v.1-9; Luke 4v.38-44)
- Thurs:** **Feast of ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**
9.30 Mass Int: Conversion of England.
(1 Thes. 2 v.2-8; Math. 16 v.13-19)
- Fri:** 9.30 Mass. Int: All who are married
(1 Cor. 4 v.1-5; Luke 5 v.33-39)
- Sat:** 9.30 Mass. Int: Children at risk
(1 Cor.4v.6-15. Luke 6v.1-5)

Next Sunday - 23rd of Year A

- 9.30am Parish Mass and Address
(Ezekiel 33 v 7-9; Romans 13 v 8-10; Matthew 18 v 15-20)

Thought for the week.

The cross is a sign, an invitation and a revelation.

A sign of Jesus' love

An invitation to love as Jesus loved

A revelation that love entails suffering

NOTICES

1. **Stowmarket Foodbank.** The red boxes will once again be in church from Tuesday (1st September) for donations to this important work, which is needed more than ever.
2. **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Day- Sat 12th Sept, 9.00-5.00 pm.** You can be sponsored for cycling, walking or signing in visitors. Half goes to St Mary's and the other half to SHCT. Anne is planning to cycle about 25 miles and visit 14 churches. Please sponsor her if you can, either via her sponsor form or online through Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/anne-gray10>
A few more volunteers are needed to sign in cyclists in the porch. Please see Andi.
3. **September Newsletter** is available in church for those who don't have it delivered to their home.