

6<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> of Year A**

**THEME:** The Mass today emphasizes the authority of the Church vested in each one of us. We all share responsibility for the quality of life in the Church. We cannot ignore our brothers' welfare, as St. Paul reminds us: "You must love your neighbour as yourself". We ask God's forgiveness for sometimes avoiding our responsibilities; when we have seen injustice and been silent; when we have judged our neighbour harshly.

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times we have ignored the needs of others and shrugged them off with words like "it's his business". Lord have mercy.

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

**Celebrant:** Forgive us when we do not open our hearts to those we have injured or those who have injured us. Christ have mercy.

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

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times we refuse to forget the past and trust you. Lord have mercy.

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

**Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness**

**Gloria.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Let us pray that we may realise the freedom God has given us in making us his sons and daughters. God our Father, you redeem us and make us your children in Christ. Look upon us, give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading – Ezekiel 33 v. 7 - 9:** Ezekiel is commanded by the Lord to call Israel to repentance. It is important that we accept our responsibility to guide people in the ways of God. Others may, or may not, listen and act upon what we say. The main thing is that we try.

*The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'*

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94**

**® O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. ®

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. ®

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work. ®

**Second Reading – Romans 13 v. 8 – 10:** If we want to sum up the way of life we must follow as Christians, we need use only one word: love. Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

**Gospel - Matthew 18 v. 15-20:** The Gospel reading takes up the theme of Ezekiel. We are urged to be concerned about our brothers and sisters and not to be afraid to point out that which is wrong.

*Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.*

*'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'*

**Creed.** - Nicene

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant :** In the Gospel Jesus told us, "If two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my heavenly Father". Encouraged by his promise - let us pray.

**Reader:** Let us ask God for discernment to know when to speak and when to keep silent about sin in other people's lives.

Let us pray for all who find it hard to love, that we may find in Jesus an inspiration and guide.

Let us pray for all who desire to receive God's forgiveness but cannot find the courage to come and say sorry.

Let us pray that we may always be faithful to God's commandments so that the Church may be a living example of Christ.

Let us pray that Church leaders may, like Ezekiel, be fearless in denouncing evil, yet compassionate in correcting the wayward.

Let us pray for all who fear they are rejected because of sin. May they always find in the followers of Christ the compassion and understanding that we should show them.

Let us pray for Shane, Paula and Graham: confirmed last Sunday. May they know Christ better and make him better known.

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

Let us pray for those who are sick. We give thanks for Joan Hill's recovery from an operation and we pray for Nichola Berry, Michael Denny, Billy Carter, Jessica Mercer, Janet Woolston and Ralph Lambert for their healing and wholeness.

May God forgive the sins of those who have died, and through that forgiveness welcome them into everlasting life, Gladys Mills; Gordon Deverell; Eileen Juby; Lilian Doyle; Percy Blythe-Brook; Millicent Taylor; Louis Giraud Dorothy Parsons; William Hendry; Pamela van Carrapiett; Sylvia Scott; whose anniversaries are at this time.

The love of a mother for her children remains true whatever may happen. In confidence we turn to Mary and pray - **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: Father, make us a community of genuine love and forgiveness. Keep us sensitive to one another's needs, caring for one another's weaknesses and encouraging one another's virtues, as we live our lives together in Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.**

**Sanctus. Agnus Dei.**  
Post Communion Prayer  
Angelus at Our Lady's Shrine

This Week: Divine office - Psalter Week 3

Mon: 9.30am Mass (1 Cor 5v.1-8. Luke 6v.6-11)  
Int: All Mothers

Tues: BIRTHDAY OF OUR LADY (Feast)  
9.30am Mass Int: Society of Our Lady of Walsingham  
(Micah 5v.1-4. Matt.1v.1-16, 18-23)

Wed: 8.00am Mass. (1Cor. 7v25-31; Luke 6 v. 20-26.)  
Int. All with mental health concerns

Thurs: 9.30am Mass. (1 Cor 8 v1-7, 11-13; Luke 6 v27-38)  
Int. The Samaritans

Fri: 9.30am Mass .(1 Cor 9 v16-19,22-27; Luke 6 v 39-42)  
Int. September anniversaries

Sat: 9.30am Mass (1 Cor.10v.14-22. Luke 6v.43-49)

Next Sunday: 24 of Year A  
9.30am Parish Mass and Address  
(Eccles 27v.30-28v.7. Romans 14v.7-9. Matt 18v.21-35)

#### Notices:

1. The red boxes are in church for donations to Stowmarket Food Bank
2. Please note the Requiem for September is on Friday and not Saturday as in the magazine.
3. Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride Sat 12th Sept, 9.00-5.00 pm.

Anne is planning to cycle about 25 miles and visit 14 churches. So far, sponsors have kindly promised £220. 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. You can be sponsored for cycling, walking or signing in visitors. Half goes to St Mary's church for the building and the other half to SHCT.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

**Hatred does more damage to the person in which it is stored than to the person on whom it is poured.**