

Please keep silence from 9.25am to prepare for Mass.

27th September 2020

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**  
**26th of year A**

**THEME:** We can never stand self-satisfied before God. Our lives are a history of repentance and conversion. The first son in today's Gospel shows us that it is never too late to turn to God.

**PENITENTIAL RITE** (based on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

**Celebrant:** 'There must be no competition among you, no conceit'.  
Forgive us, Lord, our conceit and insincerity. Lord have Mercy.

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

**Celebrant:** 'Always consider the other person to be better than yourself'.  
Forgive us, Lord, our Phariseeism - thinking we are superior to others. Christ have mercy.

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

**Celebrant:** 'No one must think of his own interests first'. Forgive us Lord for our selfishness and self seeking. Lord have mercy.

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

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness.

**Gloria.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Let us pray for God's forgiveness and for the happiness it brings. Father, you show your almighty power in your mercy and forgiveness. Continue to fill us with your gifts of love. Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**1st Reading:** Ezekiel 18 v. 25-28. The contrast between the consequences of sin and of repentance is spelt out sharply by Ezekiel. 'To die' and 'to live' refer not so much to physical realities as to the quality of life that stems from the decision made.

*The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 24

® **Remember your mercy, Lord.**

Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. ®

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. ®

® **Remember your mercy, Lord.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path; He teaches his way to the poor. ®

**2nd Reading:** Philippians 2 v. 1-11. St. Paul spells out what it means to follow Christ; to have his mind in us. We are to die with him so that we may rejoice with him.

*If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we shall come to him. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 21 v. 28-32. Two clear examples of how to behave and how not to behave if we wish to enter the kingdom. The choice and the decision are ours.

*Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'*

**CREED** (page 7 – Nicene Creed.)

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**Celebrant:** God's ways are just, but we do not mirror his justice. Let us place the world's problems in his hands.

**Reader:** Let us pray for the people who work with us each day. May we not be critical, but find patience with one another as God has been patient with us.

Let us pray that the as followers of Christ we may never become complacent, but always be open to change and conversion.

Let us pray for all who are victims of broken promises and who have been badly hurt.

We pray for the children of this community. May they find words of encouragement from their teachers and parents, and not mere criticisms of mistakes.

We pray for all who are not humble or courageous enough to realise that we may at times be wrong. May the Lord touch our hearts

Let us pray for peace and harmony in the world, that peoples of all races may co-operate in bringing about equality and justice.

Let us pray for the sick, especially those who are dear to us, that they may be comforted by the Lord who accepted death on the cross. We pray especially for Michael Denny; Ralph Lambert; Fr. Timothy; Nichola Berry and Daphne Elliott

Let us pray for the dead; those who have died in the faith of Christ and all the dead whose faith is known to God alone. We pray for Police Sgt Matiu Ratana and Bishop Richard Lewis, recently departed (pause while candles are lit) and Christopher Allen; Muriel Coxworthy; Anthony Giraud-Saunders; Helen Hendry; William Stobart; John Spencer; Pat Sawyer, Thelma Sawyer John Kitchen, Doris Clements, William Walker, Charles Ward; William Mason, and Frances Spalding whose anniversaries of death occur this week.

Let us call on Mary to pray with us. **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, it is so easy to love those who love us and hard to love those we find unattractive. Help us to remember how much you love us and to imitate you in complete self-giving. We ask this through Jesus, your Son. Amen.**

**Offertory Prayers**

**Mystery of Faith No 1.**

**Agnus Dei.**

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus

PCC meets after Mass

**This week - Divine Office - Week 2**

**Mon. St. Wenceslaus**

9.30am Mass (Job 1 v6-22; Luke 9 v46-50)  
Int: H.M. Queen Elizabeth & Government

**Tues. S.S. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael (Feast)**

9.30am Mass (Dan 7 v9-10,13-14; or Apoc 12 v7-12; John 1 v 47-51)  
Int. The Dying

**Wed. St. Jerome**

8.00am Mass. (Job 9 v1-12,14-16; Luke 9 v57-62)  
Int: Bible Study Groups

**Thurs. St. Theresa of Lisieux**

9.30am Mass Int: The Mission of the church  
(Job 19 v21-27; Luke 10 v1-12)

**Fri. Holy Guardian Angels**

9.30am Mass (Ex 23 v 20-23; Matt 18 v1-5,10)  
Int: Greater awareness of Communion of Saints)

**Sat.**

3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday (Readings as tomorrow)  
Int: St. Martin's Housing Trust

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 27<sup>th</sup> of Year A. (Is. 5 v. 1-7; Phil. 4 v 6-9; Matt. 21 v. 33-43.)

9.30am Mass and Address & Blessing of Blankets Clothes 7 toiletries for the homeless in Norwich.

Notices

1. Magazine for October available.
2. Please bring toiletries, blankets etc for homeless to be blessed next Sunday.
3. List on table for November Candles for dead. £6 each
4. Harvest will be 10/11th Oct.
5. The Ride and Stride sponsorship for Anne totalled a wonderful £1,000. Thank you to all who gave so generously.
5. Please see +Norman's talk on Evengelism at: <https://www.facebook.com/carverstreet1855/> and click on 'Videos' at the left. (You don't have to subscribe to Facebook to watch it.)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Create for me a pure heart, O Lord, and renew your spirit within me.

