

M ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

You are welcome to any of our services.

SUNDAYS:

9.30 a.m. Parish Mass & Address

First Mass of Sunday:

Saturdays at 5.00 pm

Daily Mass: *see calendar on back page & check porch notice & bulletin.*

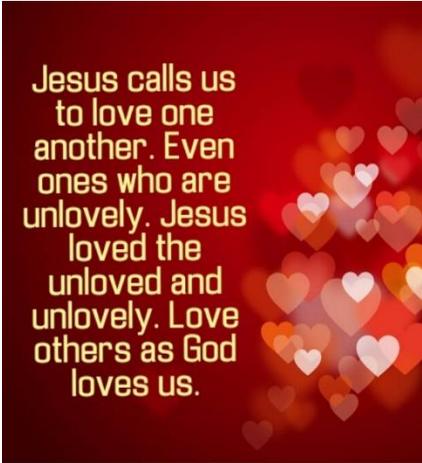
Daily Morning & Evening Prayer
see porch notice.

**Baptism (Christening), Marriage,
Anointing of the Sick & Holy
Communion from the Reserved
Sacrament - contact Fr Philip**

- *Fr Philip is always willing to visit the sick, dying and bereaved and to speak to any parishioner who has needs, concerns or questions about Christian faith and life, whether or not you regularly attend church. Just ask.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4.00 pm. *or contact Fr Philip*



Jesus calls us
to love one
another. Even
ones who are
unlovely. Jesus
loved the
unloved and
unlovely. Love
others as God
loves us.

Vicar:

**Fr Philip T Gray, B.A. S.S.C.
Mendlesham Vicarage**

01449 766359

Churchwardens:

Andrew Fleming

01449 711065

Chris Elstone

07530 769676

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Everyone is welcome at all events listed here

1st Mar	<u>LENT I</u> 9.30: Sung Mass. Electoral Roll revision continues; nominations for Churchwardens.
2nd Mar	7.15: Shared Supper & Bible Study in Old School
6th Mar	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court, followed by refreshments.
8th Mar	<u>LENT II</u> 9.30 Sung Mass. Electoral Roll revision concludes
9th Mar	6.30 pm: Mass in church. 7.15 pm: Shared Supper & Bible Study in Old School
10th Mar	9.30: Requiem Mass – March anniversaries 10.15 – 12.00: Coffee & Cake in Church
15th Mar	<u>LENT III</u> 9.30: Sung Mass and Baptism 10.30: Annual election of churchwardens ('Vestry meeting') & Friends of St Mary's AGM
16th Mar	7.15 pm: Shared supper & Bible Study in Old School
17th Mar	<u>ST PATRICK</u> 2.00– 2.30 pm: Silent prayer before Blessed Sacrament 2.30 pm: Mass, laying-on of hands & anointing for healing.
19th Mar	<u>ST JOSEPH</u> 6.30 pm Mass (said)
20th Mar	2.30 pm: Mass at Mason Court, followed by refreshments.
21st Mar	9.30 – 11.30 am: Spring cleaning of church 11.30 – 2.00 pm: Baked Spud Bash in URC (Friends of St Mary's)
22nd Mar	<u>LENT IV – MOTHERING SUNDAY</u> 9.30: Sung Mass, distribution & blessing of candles to be lit as a sign of prayer & thanksgiving for our mothers (whether alive or departed) - and Adult Baptism
24th Mar	9.30: Mass (said) 10.15 – 12.00: Coffee & cake in Church. All welcome.
25th Mar	<u>ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD (Lady Day)</u> 9.30: Mass (said) 7.30 pm: Sung Mass, Address & Confirmation (Bishop of Richborough)
28th Mar	CLOCKS GO FORWARD: ONE HOUR LESS IN BED!
29th Mar	<u>LENT V – Passiontide</u> 9.30: Sung Mass & Address, followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting ('AGM') 11.45: Benediction 12.00 noon: PCC lunch & meeting.

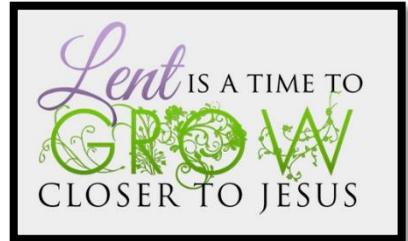
LOOKING BACK

The Friends of St Mary's Coffee Morning on 1st Feb made £295 profit.
Thank you to all who helped at and supported it.

Fr Philip Writes

"The time has come," Jesus said, "and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News."
(Mark 1 v 15)

Jesus calls us all to repent, and we think especially of this during Lent. Real repentance means that a person has come not only to be sorry for the consequences of his or her sin, but to hate the sin itself. Jesus tells us to believe the Good



News – that we take him at his word. Repentance involves getting rid of what is unclean and prevents Jesus from entering our lives, such as hatred for others, lack of forgiveness, grudges, jealousy, greed for material objects and obsession with money.

We need to open our hearts to all people and not be exclusive. Above all we need to acknowledge Jesus is the real Lord and Master of our lives.

The Kingdom of God is not something that can be seen, for God rules over people's hearts. An unknown poet wrote the words:

"How I wish there was some wonderful place called 'The Land of Beginning Again', where all our mistakes and all our headaches... could be dropped like a shaggy coat at the door and never be put on again."

There IS such a place – in God's heart, as revealed in Jesus Christ. What convinces me most that God isn't interested in what I was, but in what I can become; not in what I was, but in what I am becoming?

Alexander Pope wrote:

**Teach me to feel another's woe
To hide the fault I see;
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me."**

(The Universal Prayer)

It is a real discipline to allow yourself to be forgiven. To believe that God wants to wipe out all your guilt and give you a new heart and a new spirit is a challenge. It means you give up being in control and respond by saying: **"Yes, Lord, I need your help."**

The more you discover God's light and forgiveness, the more you discover that part of you that you keep hidden to yourself.



A patient was surprised to see a Bible on a psychiatrist's desk. He asked, **"Do you, a psychiatrist, need the Bible?"** He replied, **"I not only read it; I study it!"**

He then added: **"If people would absorb its message, a lot of us psychiatrists would close our offices and go fishing."** To clarify this point, he said that if patients plagued by guilt feelings took the heart of the prodigal son (*Luke 15 v 11-31*) they would be healed overnight. God's forgiveness is infinitely greater than any mistakes we can make. Remember the lovely quotation from St Isaac the Syrian:

*'Our sins are but a handful of dust
thrown into the ocean of God's love.'*

This Lent, please ask yourself:

"What is the one thing I find hard to forgive myself?"

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is here to help you find that peace that our Heavenly Father wishes to give.