

THEME As we gather to praise God and give thanks in the name of Jesus we acknowledge there is still darkness within us and ask the Lord to lighten our darkness with his forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- Forgive us, Lord, when we find the way of Jesus too difficult to follow. **Lord have mercy**
- Forgive us, Lord, when we are afraid to commit ourselves too deeply. **Christ have mercy.**
- Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to be joyful Christian people. **Lord have mercy.**

GLORIA

OPENING PRAYER - *Let us pray that we may enjoy true freedom. God our Father, look upon us with love. You redeem us and make us your children in Christ. Give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Acts 6 v. 1-7 *There is. To address tension in the early Church between those of Greek and Hebrew traditions The Twelve Apostles invite the disciples to choose seven men as Deacons to deal with the conflict.*

‘About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.’ The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.’

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 32 ® **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. ®

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. ®

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. ®

Second Reading 1 Peter 2 v. 4-9. *The new Christian community is encouraged to become living stones built on Christ, the cornerstone. Together they make up a royal priesthood and consecrated nation.*

‘The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: ‘See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.’

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.’

Alleluia, alleluia! **Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’ Alleluia!**

Gospel – John 14 v. 1-12 *In his last discourse to his close followers, Jesus counsels them not to be troubled for he will return for them. He himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

‘Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’

Jesus said: ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me? ‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’”

CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: We are a royal priesthood and consecrated nation. Let us exercise our priesthood together as we pray that the work of the Father will continue to flourish in the Church and in the world.

Reader: Let us pray for ourselves, that as a priestly people we may take our full part in the life of our local church.

We pray for all who are worried or in distress and for those who once believed but have now lost faith and feel alone. May Christ's words in today's Gospel, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me," console and encourage them in their time of trial.

Let us pray for Christian Aid. For all who work among those afflicted by famine and disaster. Make us generous and ready to give our resources to share with others.

We pray for doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and all key workers that the Lord may protect them from harm.

Let us pray for all who are disabled in mind or body, for all suffering in the current pandemic; for Peter Wyatt, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Jessica Mercer, Nichola Berry, Joan Hill, Elizabeth Routledge, Kathleen Hales and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

We give thanks for 75 years peace in this country and continue to pray for peace in our troubled world. Reconcile us to one another, heal our wounds and help us grow beyond the differences that divide us.

Let us pray for all who have laid down their lives in the cause of justice and freedom, especially those from Mendlesham who died in WW2: Donald Murray, John Simmons, James Scarff, Rowland Scott, Albert Bloom, Edric Wright, George Hunt, Norman Salisbury, Bertram Shortland and the 288 Americans of the USAAF based at the Mendlesham Airfield. We also pray for Fr Daniel Gooderham and Wendi Stevens, recently departed and Eliza King, Rose Scott, Frederick Clark, Elsie Barker, Barry Warren, Massoud Ghorbanzadeh, Fr Herbert Sillitoe, Evelyn Collins, Fr Alan Rowe, William McAvilley, Mary Brown, Dorothy Mills, John Scuffins, Alice Huggins, Francis Collins and Gwendoline Stringer, whose anniversaries of death occur this week.

We pray with great confidence that Mary's prayers will not fail us, as we say - **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: **Hear our prayers, Father, as we place our hope in you. In your unfailing goodness grant that in prosperity we will not lose our zeal, and in adversity have faith and endurance. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

EASTER ANGELUS (Regina Coeli).

Joy to thee O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!

He whom thou wast meet to bear. Alleluia!

As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia!

Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

R. for the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia! +

Fr Philip's ADDRESS WILL BE AT THE END, on a separate recording.

Fr Philip Writes:

This is Christian Aid Week. Please give generously. As we are unable to have a house-to-house collection or the churn in church, please give online on the Christian Aid website or via the special JustGiving page set up for Mendlesham by Val Arnold:

www.justgiving.com/camendlesham2020

Mass Readings this week

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 1)

MONDAY: Acts 14 v 5-18; John 14 v 21-26. Intention: Christian Aid Week

TUESDAY: Acts 14 v 19-28; John 14 v 27-31. Int: Protection of unborn children

WED: Acts 15 v 1-6; John 15 v 1-8. Int: Peace of the world

THUR: ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE Acts 1 v 15-17; John 15 v 9-17.

Intention: Bishops Martin, Mike and Norman

FRI: Acts 15 v 22-31; John 15 v 12-17. Intention: all who are starving and homeless

SAT. Acts 16 v 1-10; John 15 v 18-21. Int: all who are dying.

Next Sunday: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ROGATION SUNDAY)

Acts 8 v 5-8; 14-17; 1 Peter 3 v15-18; John 14 v15-21)

Although there is no Mendlesham newsletter this month, 'Fr Philip Writes' for May is available as usual on the church website at:

<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/father-philip-writesthis-month.html>

It is good that I am now able to offer Mass and prayers in St Mary's once again and I very much look forward to the time when we can all be together.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for one another, as I do for you – and continue to contact me about any requests for prayer or pastoral need. Tel: 01449 766359