

M ST MARY'S MENDLESHAM

www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk

You are welcome to worship at
any of our services.

SUNDAYS

9.30 a.m. Parish Mass & Address

First Mass of Sunday:

Saturdays: 3rd July: 10.00 am;

10th, 17th, 24th & 31st July: 7.30 pm

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

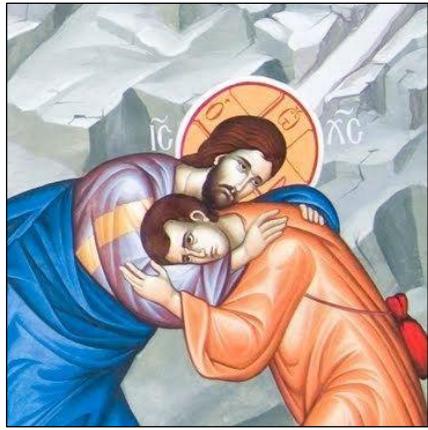
Daily Morning & Evening Prayer
see porch notice.

For Pastoral visits, Baptism
(Christening), Marriage, Anointing
of the Sick & Holy Communion
from the Reserved Sacrament,
contact Fr Philip

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays

10th, 17th, 24th & 31st July 6.30 pm -
or contact Fr Philip



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

Mass offered daily. Sunday Parish Mass is also **LIVESTREAMED**

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>

3rd July	10.00 am - First Mass of Sunday. Please note change of time
11th July	9.30 am – Parish Mass and 2 Adult Baptisms. I hope we can make this occasion a real welcome for Max and Harry
18th July	9.30 am – Parish Mass PCC meets afterwards: hopefully over a shared lunch (depending on covid restrictions)
19th July	9.30 am – Requiem Mass – July anniversaries
21st July	6.30 pm – Mass, followed by Confirmation rehearsal
22nd July	<u>7.00 pm</u> - Mass and Confirmation of George, Max and Harry by the Rt Revd Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough.
We are unable to give dates of any more events owing to the uncertainty of the lifting of covid restrictions. Please consult our website and we will post updates when we have received definite guidance on the way ahead.	

FRIDAY 13th AUGUST

Patronal Festival

**7.00pm Sung Mass,
Procession & Benediction**

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Rt Revd Norman Banks,

Bishop of Richborough

*Blessing of Mendlesham's
Best Real Ale before Mass;*

*Fireworks to music
afterwards.*

**More details in August
Newsletter**

11th September

Suffolk Historic

Churches Trust

Ride and Stride

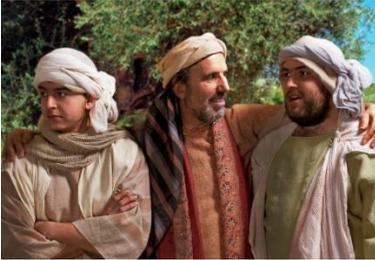
Day

**Cyclists, walkers,
horse riders and
motorists can be
sponsored for
visits to churches**

**More details in
Aug/Sept Newsletters**

Father Philip writes...

This month I am continuing last month's theme about God's forgiveness, with thoughts based on the parable of the Prodigal Son in St Luke's Gospel, Ch 15 v 11-31, which we studied during Lent.



Some religious leaders were grumbling about Jesus, saying, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them." So Jesus told them a parable:

"There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one demanded his inheritance, left home, spent all and returned broke. He was still a long way

from home when his father saw him, ran to meet him and kissed him. His father told his servants, "Put a ring n his finger and shoes on his feet.... And let us celebrate with a feast."

Kissing his son shows that the father welcomed him back totally. Putting shoes on his feet shows him that he had forgiven him totally. Shoes were a sign of a free person; bare feet the sign of a slave. Putting a ring on his son's finger shows that he restored him to full family status



The second half of Jesus' parable concerns the older son. He was angry that his father was celebrating his brother's return, even though his father begs him to do the same. Jesus ended his parable without saying what the older son eventually did. That older son stands for the religious leaders who resented

the fact that Jesus had chosen to celebrate with those who were 'lost' but had now been 'found'. Jesus constructed his parable in such a way that each religious leader must write his own ending to it. Each must decide whether or not to **'go inside and join the festivities'** or **'stay outside and sulk'**.



Jesus came for those who humbly recognise the need to change their lives. The Prodigal Son was determined to make a miserable 3-part speech as soon as he got home. He would not let his father love him or forgive him. Furthermore he decided unilaterally what his punishment should be.

The miserable speech ran like this:

1. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."
2. "I am convinced I am not worthy to be considered your son."
3. "I am determined that you should never accept me, but you should treat me as your slave."



God's forgiveness does not belittle sin as though it were a matter of small importance. How can it do so when it cost God-made-Man such intense suffering and his execution on the Cross? It is not God's will that we should leave our Father's home and become a prodigal. It is not God's will that we love him in a selfish way and become

narrow and hard towards 'prodigal sons', keeping them in a far country.

If the younger son on returning home had met his older brother before he met his father, it's highly likely he would never have reached home again at all. The older brother was cold. He spoke of his brother as "**your son**". He seemed to be one of those self-righteous types who would cheerfully kick someone down even further into the gutter by saying, "**He made his bed; let him lie on it!**"



He had a mind that jumped to conclusions. There is no mention of prostitutes until he brought up the subject. One gets the feeling that he accused his brother of things he would have liked to commit himself.

This parable reminds us that we can be brought to life again and found when we have lost our way. As the hymnwriter Fr Faber wrote:



**For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.**

I hope St Mary's is a church where all of us find a warm welcome to our Father's house