

25th October, 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
Dedication Festival or Feast of Consecration of our Church

THEME: Today we celebrate the Feast of Consecration of our Church. When thinking of a Church we think of a physical structure, the Church building, but we should all know that the Church is all of us – the People of God. Therefore, this feast does not just celebrate bricks and mortar, but the people who make up the Church and the communion which the Church shares throughout the world.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us when we fail to make relations and be united with each other. Lord have Mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us when we are blind to the Holy Spirit working in us and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us for the times we block the work of God's Spirit in ourselves, in others, and in the community. Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness.

Gloria.

OPENING PRAYER: Father, each year we recall the dedication of this Church in your service. Let our worship always be sincere and help us to find your saving love in this Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

1st Reading: Genesis 28 v.11-18: This reading shows the value of a building as a sign of the presence and glory of God. In celebrating the feast of Dedication we must remember we form the Church, the building is but a sign.

When Jacob had reached a certain place he passed the night there, since the sun had set. Taking one of the stones to be found at that place, he made it his pillow and lay down where he was. He had a dream: a ladder was there, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and there were angels of God going up it and coming down. And the Lord was there, standing over him, saying, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. I will give to you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants shall be like the specks of dust on the ground; you shall spread to the west and the east, to the north and the south, and all the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. Be sure that I am with you; I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land, for I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised you.' Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Truly, the Lord is in this place and I never knew it!' He was afraid and said, 'How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than a house of God; this is the gate of heaven!' Rising early in the morning, Jacob took the stone he had used for his pillow, and set it up as a monument, pouring oil over the top of it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 18

® **How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord God of hosts.**

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. ®

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays here young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ®

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
they walk with ever growing strength. ®

One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the House of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. ®

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3 v. 9-13, 16-17: In the first Christian centuries there were no buildings specially designated for worship. The people, therefore, remained very conscious of the fact that they themselves, not a building, were the Church. This passage should help remind us that we too, are the Church

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ. Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Gospel Acclamation: (all)

**Alleluia, alleluia! I shall make my home above them says the Lord;
I will be their God, they shall be my people. Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 4 v. 19-24: It is a long established tradition normally to restrict public worship to specially appointed buildings. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is not the place, but the disposition of our hearts, which make worship a worship 'in spirit and truth'. This is the worship acceptable to God.

The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, 'I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come— in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

ADDRESS: CREED – Nicene Creed

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Gathered together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us call to mind God's many blessings bestowed on us in this place, and ask him for all the graces to meet the future needs of our Church and world.

Reader: Let us pray for all in authority in Christ's Church that they may always remember that the Church is the people and that they are her living stones, based on Christ himself, who is the cornerstone.

Let us pray for a greater dedication to the Church among the community – may we see the Church not merely in terms of bricks and mortar, but as the living body of Christ, which grows through the holiness of life and to which we renew our dedication.

Let us pray for our Government – particularly English Heritage – that they may continue to look on the Christian faith as an essential part of the nation's life, and so help the Church authorities to continue to provide buildings dedicated to worship and education.

Jesus cleansed the Temple of all evil – we pray that we, God's Church, may be kept free from evil.

Let us pray for Halle Moulton and Paula Benneworth baptised in our church this year; for Graham Baker, Paula Benneworth and Shane Everett who have been confirmed. For Sam and Jennifer Hall and Christopher and Louise Cowderoy who have been married here. Help them to be faithful to their promises.

We pray for the healing of the sick and all who have been anointed and administered to in our Church during the past year. For Paul Allen, Nichola Berry, Michael Denny, Lynda Brill and all included in Shrine Prayers

We pray for the dead – that they may enter through the sanctuary of Jesus Christ and come into the glory of God's presence – especially all whose funeral rites were held at our church during the past year – Marjorie Stannard, Christopher Allen, Jonathan Taylor, Anne Herron, Roger Keeble, Russell Pipe, Peggy Knock and Barbara Pyett and for William Bunn, Jenny Dean, Lillian Ruggles, Edwin Drayson, Walter Fisher, Angela Cubitt, Diana Hammond, Stanley Bartrum, Geoffrey Smith and Winifred Goodall whose anniversaries are this week.

We pray with Mary, Mother of the Church - **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: Father, we have made our prayers in the name of the Church; we ask that whatever is lacking in our faith may be made up in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Prayers and blessing of Friends of St. Mary's boxes

Sanctus. Mystery of Faith

Agnus Dei: Lord's Prayer.

Post Communion Prayer and Angelus

10:30 - A.P.C.M.

11:00 - 1st P.C.C.

This week: Divine Office – Psalter Week 2

Mon. S.S. Chad & Cedd

9:30 Mass. Int: Doctors and Nurses
(Eph.4v.32-5 v.8; Luke13 v.10-17)

Tues. 9:30 Mass. Int: Searching for faith.
(Eph 5 v.21-33; Luke 13 v.18-21)

Wed: S.S. SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES & MARTYRS

8:00 Mass. Int: Bishop Norman.
(Eph. 2 v.19-22; Luke 6 v.12-16)

Thurs.

9:30 Mass. Int: Peace of the World.
(Eph 6 v.10-20; Luke 13 v. 31-35)

Fri. 9:30 Mass. Int: Diocese of St. Eds & Ipswich
(Phil 1 v.1-11; Luke 14 v.1-6)

Sat. 1:45- 2:45 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
3:00pm 1st Mass of Sunday. Int: All who dabble in the occult
Readings as tomorrow.

NEXT SUNDAY: ALL SAINTS

9.30am Parish Mass, Address and Blessing of November candles
(Rev 7 v2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3 v.1-3; Matt. 5 v.1-12)

NOTICES:

1. Candles for November should be ordered today (List on table)
2. Any more orders for Friend's of St. Mary's Boxes? List on table.
3. All Souls Day – Mon week – Requiem at 9:30 & 6:30pm.
4. Remembrance Sunday – 7th/8th November. Roll of honour read at both services. Also – 11th November 10:30. Please sign on list on table if you intend to come to the 9:30 Requiem on Sunday 8th Nov - or email Chris Elstone at chris198@hotmail.co.uk by the end of today (Sunday 25th Oct)