

Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✦ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✦ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✦ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 120-122 Prayer of the Church, 1

21st SUNDAY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

AUGUST 23rd 2020

What has come to be known as Peter's confession marks a turning point in the gospel narrative. Caesarea Philippi is as far north as Matthew shows



Jesus' ministry to have extended and from now on he moves south, towards Jerusalem. Perhaps more importantly it marks a new stage in the disciples' awareness of who their friend Jesus really is. "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks them. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," answers Simon. So far this is just as the event is recorded by Mark and Luke. But in Matthew's gospel there is more. Jesus calls Simon 'Blessed' and reminds him, and us, that this understanding has come to him, and to mankind, only by divine revelation. He then has something more to say to Simon. "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." The device of changing a name to indicate a change of role or purpose is used in the OT, eg. when Abram is changed to Abraham. (Gen.17:5)

The new names have meaning and 'πετρος' which was not used as a name at that time, means 'rock'. Simon is identified as the rock, or foundation, on which Christ's Church is to be founded. (Cf. Matt 7:24) The word used for 'Church' is 'εκκλησια' which means a gathering of people. During its long history the word 'Church' has acquired a meaning, distinctive nuances, of its own. We should be careful of reading these back into Matthew's time. *Lumen Gentium*, the Constitution on the Church produced at Vatican II, emphasises that, more than anything else, the Church is the 'People of God'. Jesus is saying to Peter that around him will be gathered that People; the community of those who accept Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. He is also given authority to act in Jesus' name: "Whose sins you shall forgive..." It is important that we, who belong to God's People, can answer for ourselves Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" It seems to me strange that what follows in the gospel text is deferred until next week. Jesus tells his disciples that he, their Messiah, must be made to suffer and be killed. Peter's recognition of him cannot cope with that apparent contradiction. He does not yet realise the cost of discipleship. There is still a long way to go before he and the other disciples understand that. We, however, have already read the gospel to the very last page.

....from CHRISTUS VIVIT

"Listening calls for three distinct and complementary kinds of sensitivity.

The first kind of sensitivity is directed to the individual. It is a matter of listening to someone who is sharing his very self in what he says...The second kind of sensitivity is marked by discernment. It tries to grasp exactly where grace or temptation is present, for sometimes the things that flit across our minds are mere temptations that can distract us from our true path. I need to ask myself what is it that the other person is trying to tell me, what they want me to realize is happening in their lives. Asking such questions helps me appreciate their thinking and the effects it has on their emotions. This kind of listening seeks to discern the salutary promptings of the good Spirit who proposes to us the Lord's truth, but also the traps laid by the evil spirit – his empty works and promises. It takes courage, warmth and tact to help others distinguish the truth from illusions or excuses. (291-3)

PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

Now, once again, we are able to celebrate the Eucharist. This is a real cause for rejoicing but we must still be careful to take every precaution against Covid 19. We are not obliged to put ourselves at risk in order to take part in the Mass. There are many online liturgies.

You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:

www.walsingham.org.uk

"Who do you say that I am?"

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Befriending the Scriptures cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Isaiah 22:19-23	Psalm 137	Romans 11:33-36	Matthew 16:13-20
Monday:		St Bartholomew, Apostle		
Tuesday:	Apocalypse 21:9-14	Psalm 144		John 1:45-51
Wednesday:	2 Thessalonians 2:1-17	Psalm 95		Matthew 23:23-26
Thursday:	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18	Psalm 127		Matthew 23: 27-32
Friday:	1 Corinthians 1:1-19	Psalm 144		Matthew 24:42-51
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 1:17-25	Psalm 32		Matthew 25:11-13
	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Psalm 32		Mark 6:17-29

CHURCH OPENING THIS WEEK

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham:	Sunday 10.30 Mass Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 9.30 Mass (followed by exposition on Monday) Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer Confessions after 1030 Mass on Saturday
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea:	Saturday 6.00 pm Mass Thursday 9.30 Mass
St Peter's, Blakeney:	Sunday 11.00 Mass Wednesday 9.30 Mass
St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:	Friday 9.30 Mass Sunday 9.30 Mass Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

Please hand on this information to people you know who are unable to receive this newsletter via the Web site.

Who'd be a steward? Please do as they ask you without question.

Hand sanitiser will be available at each church but you should provide your own mask. 'Social distancing' must be observed. There will be clear indication in each church where you may sit.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

I rejoice that, once again, we are able to share, even if under serious constraints, in the fundamental Christian act: the Eucharist. Under the present circumstances, however, be assured there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays. If you are isolating, sheltering or in any way nervous about public gatherings, just take your time.

FR KEITH

Fr Keith is now recovering quietly at home. He would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts, prayers and good wishes. For the moment, Fr Tom and Fr Des will be answering the telephone.

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Prisca Hastings, who died on 6th August. Her daughter writes: The Requiem Mass for Prisca Hastings will be offered on Monday 24th August at 11:30am at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Prisca's family are very sad that due to Covid, numbers are so restricted for Mass in the church and that we are not able to sing together but if you wish to come and pay your respects, the doors will be wide open during the Mass - please feel free to bring a flower which the family will gather to place on Prisca's grave in Surrey later the same week where she will be buried with her beloved husband Bernard. The family would like to give thanks for the parish community that has provided a loving home for mum over the last 8 years.

OFFER AND FOR SALE

1. Fr Michael Rear has a set of the Oxford History of England (12 vols). If anyone would like to be given them please give him a ring (01328 821180).
2. Ford Focus Zetec climate pack 2005. Goes well, looks tatty. £350 or near offer. Ring 01328 713044.

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,
Steven Leeder (Deacon)

Contact Parish Priest: 07538 130655; 01328 713044

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