

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 102-105 Prayer of the Church, 3

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
YEAR OF ST MATTHEW
JULY 12TH, 2020

Languages develop and, over time, words change their meanings. 'Idol' is used nowadays to refer to someone who is admired inordinately or who has become an object of infatuation. When it appears in



the bible it refers only to the image of a god which, by implication, is a false or pretended god since the God of Israel cannot be represented by any form perceptible to the material senses. To worship what is not God is the ultimate rebellion of mankind; idolatry became a metonym for sin itself. The Psalmist says of idols that, "They have mouths but they cannot speak, eyes but they cannot see..." (Psalm 135:17) They are worthless. By contrast we believe that God of Israel can and does reveal himself to us; using metaphor we say he 'speaks', and we believe his 'words' are creative, they give worth to all things. But Jesus reminds us, in today's gospel, that there are people who hear this Word of God and there are people who do not. This

is because, he says, remembering the prophet Isaiah, "The heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are hard of hearing and they have closed their eyes." This was true of Israel when Jesus could be heard speaking in parables and it is true of the modern world. As sound transmitted as radio waves can only be heard using equipment tuned to the correct frequency, so we must be attuned to the Word of God to receive it. What Isaiah calls 'coarseness of heart' plays havoc with reception and various kinds of this are described in Jesus' explanation of his parable of the sower. Not all the seed which the sower sows goes on to bear fruit. Some is eaten by birds, some fails to root, some chokes is by weeds. The Word of God can be carelessly heard, misunderstood and perverted; the change it requires in the one who hears it may prove too difficult so that it is rejected; distraction by cares or comforts can render it inaudible so that it is forgotten. Through the prophet Isaiah God says, "The word that goes forth from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." For this to happen the one who hears it must be the 'rich soil' it needs. If he is to become this rich soil the hearer of the Word must worship only the one true God. Anything else is his creature, but we must be careful: some are so wonderful they can turn into idols.

...from CHRISTUS VIVIT

"What do you do for a living?" is a constant topic of conversation because work is a major part of their lives. For young adults, this experience is highly fluid because they move from job to job and even from career to career. Work can dictate their use of time and can determine what they can afford to do or buy. It can also determine the quality and quantity of leisure time. Work defines and influences a young adult's identity and self-concept and is a prime place where friendships and other relationships develop because generally it is not done alone. Young men and women speak of work as fulfilling a function and providing meaning. Work allows young adults to meet their practical needs but even more importantly to seek meaning and fulfilment of their dreams and visions." (268)

Pray for those just now leaving full time education to seek employment at this difficult time.

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

"...some thirty, some sixty, some a hundredfold."



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.

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| Sunday: | Isaiah 55:10-11 | Psalm 64; | Romans 8:18-23; | Matthew 13:1-23 |
| Monday: | Isaiah 1:10-17 | Psalm 49; | | Matthew 10:34-11:1 |
| Tuesday: | Isaiah 7:1-9; | Psalm 47; | | Matthew 11:20-24 |
| Wednesday: | Isaiah:10:5-16; | Psalm 93; | | Matthew 11:25-27 |
| Thursday: | Isaiah: 26:7-19; | Psalm 101; | | Matthew 11:28-30 |
| Friday: | Isaiah: 38:1-22; | Isaiah 10-12, 16; | | Matthew 12:1-8 |
| Saturday: | Micah 2:1-5 ; | Psalm 9B; | | Matthew 12:14-21 |

SEA SUNDAY

Today (Sunday July 12th) is Sea Sunday. Normally there would be a collection for the Apostleship of the Sea, which celebrates its centenary this year. Because of the disruption caused by covid 19 this has been postponed until later in the year. We can, however, remember them and support them by our prayers. They exist simply, "...to care for the shipping industry's most important asset: its people." By their work, from which we all benefit, these people are kept away from their families for periods of many months. In all the main ports in Great Britain there are chaplains and volunteer ship visitors who care for thousands of seafarers each year, meeting their needs through the provision of help, support and advice.

OPENING OF CHURCHES

As you will have heard on the news, the Government has now decided that church buildings may be open not only for individual prayer but also, from July 4th, for public services. We may celebrate the Eucharist together but must proceed carefully; there are many regulations to be observed (See *Distanced but Together*). We are in a period of transition and things will probably change from time to time. For this week the timetable will be as follows.:

- Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham: Sunday 10.30 Mass
Tuesday 9.30 Mass
Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer
- 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

There will be Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Wells, at 6.00 pm on Saturday July 12th and at Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham, at 10.30 and at St Peter's, Blakeney, at 11.00, on Sunday, July 12th. **Sunday Mass will be available at St Henry's From Sunday July 19th.** 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.

NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST BIKE RIDE

We have supported this event by designating some churches as stations of the route. Circumstances are strange this year but we have received a letter saying: "The Bike Ride committee is planning to go ahead with this year's event on Saturday 12th September. We hope that the Bike Ride will be an great opportunity to raise some much needed funds for churches and the Norfolk Churches Trust, and we would like to make this a record year for all of us...." We need volunteers to man the station at Blakeney church. If you are able to help please contact Maureen Schofield (01263 740582). For more information see:

<https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride/taking-part/>

**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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