

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 105-108 Prayer of the Church, 4

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
YEAR OF ST MATTHEW
JULY 19TH, 2020

“The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to...”
In the gospel today Jesus is teaching us about the Kingdom of Heaven or, as it is called more usually in the other gospels, the Kingdom of God. There are



kingdoms in this world which are defined by the boundaries of their territory. When we listen to what Jesus says about this Kingdom, which he calls his own (John 18:36), it is clearly something quite different. Which of history’s kingdoms can be compared to a man sowing wheat in a field and allowing weeds to grow along with the wheat? Surely, kings have attempted to defend their lands and dynasties less tolerantly than this. When the elders of Israel ask Samuel for a king God tells him to warn them that they are asking for trouble (1 Samuel 8); a king like other nations’ kings will exploit them. The People of Israel are the People of God and require no other ‘king’. Their guidance is the law of God who, as the book of Wisdom reminds us, ‘cares

for everything’ and ‘is lenient to all.’ (12:13) Jesus never defines the Kingdom of Heaven but when he speaks of it in parables he seems to be describing the re-creation of the ‘People of God’. Humanity has become alienated from what its creator intends it to be and the saving work of Jesus is to bring people back to God. This process will continue no matter what may oppose it. At the beginning of the gospel Jesus invites people to repent, to change their ways. The way in which we must change is indicated in his proclamation that, “The Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.” (Matthew 4:17) This Kingdom is a way of life. Just as, last week, Jesus explained the parable of the sower to his disciples so, this week, he explains the parable of the wheat and the weeds. The good seed, he says today, represents the subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven; last week the good earth which received it was those who hear the Word of God and understand. We aspire to be amongst those people. The Kingdom is spoken of many times in the gospel. We don’t speak about it often enough. Every day we pray repeatedly, “Thy Kingdom come.” We should reflect more about what we are saying. Jesus says this Kingdom is, “not of this world” Wisdom 12:13-19. We believe, however, that what he calls ‘this world’ is essentially, ‘of the Kingdom’. Those around us may not think so, and may not like the Kingdom being proclaimed: c’est la vie.

....from CHRISTUS VIVIT

“Young people do not always have the chance to decide what kind of work they will do, or how their energies and talents will be spent. Because, alongside their own aspirations, abilities and choices, there is the harsh reality of the job market. It is true that you cannot live without working, and that sometimes you have to accept whatever is available, but I ask you never to give up on your dreams, never completely bury a calling, and never accept defeat. Keep seeking at least partial or imperfect ways to live what you have discerned to be your real calling. When we discover that God is calling us to something, that this or that is what we were made for – whether it be nursing, carpentry, communication, engineering, teaching, art or any other kind of work – then we will be able to summon up our best capacities for sacrifice, generosity and dedication.” (272-273)

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

“Shall we weed it out?...no, let both grow until harvest.”



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:	Wisdom 12:13-19	Psalm 85	Romans 8:26-27	Matthew 13:24-43
Monday:	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 49		Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Micah 7:14-20	Psalm 84		Matthew 12:46-50
Wednesday:		Saint Mary Magdalene		
	Song of Songs:3:1-4	Psalm 62		John 20:1-18
Thursday:		Saint Bridget, patron of Europe		
	Galatians 2:19-20	Psalm 33;		John 15:1-8
Friday:	Jermiah 3:14-17	Jermiah 31:10-13		Matthew 13:18-23
Saturday:		Saint James the Apostle		
	2 Corinthians 4:7-15	Psalm 125;		Matthew 20:20-28

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
	Sunday 9.30 Mass

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.

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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