

# 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 108-110 Prayer of the Church, 1

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
YEAR OF ST MATTHEW  
JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Once again, today, we hear Jesus teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven. The expression 'Kingdom of Heaven/Kingdom of God',



which appears about a hundred times in the New Testament, is clearly at the very heart of the message of good news which Jesus proclaims. Today he tells us it is like buried treasure. If buried treasure is to realise its value, it must first be found. When it is found by someone who recognises its value, his determination to possess it knows no bounds; he will do whatever is necessary to possess it. The gift of understanding the 'mysteries of the Kingdom' is not given to everyone. (Mt 13:14) We have been granted an inkling of these mysteries, sufficient to indicate that they are real treasure. The appropriate response is to allow nothing to keep us from sharing in it. Any hardship we may encounter

in its pursuit will turn to joy. We must be constantly on the look-out for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus earlier teaching, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Mt 6:33) is endorsed in this parable and its twin, that of the merchant seeking fine pearls. Jesus goes on to say that the Kingdom of heaven is also 'like a dragnet'. In this image, rather than our quest for the Kingdom it seems to be the Kingdom's or God's reaching out to us. We are reminded of the call of the first disciples, at the beginning of the gospel, when Jesus says to Simon and Andrew, "...I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:20) They, and of course we who have also accepted his invitation, are invited to join in Jesus' work of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven to all mankind. The message will sometimes fall on deaf ears. When he instructs his disciples, earlier in the gospel, Jesus says to them, "As you go, proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand... if any one does not listen to what you have to say, shake the dust from your feet as you leave." (Cf. Mt 10:6-14) Everything in the gospel points to the coming of the Kingdom; to the coming of a time when the will of God is done, "...on earth as it is in Heaven." (Mt 6:10) Yes, we believe that at death, "life is changed, not ended," (Eucharistic Prayer III) but there is much more to the Kingdom than pie in the sky.

...from CHRISTUS VIVIT

*"If we are indeed convinced that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, we can "once more cast out the nets" in the Lord's name, with complete confidence. We can dare, as we should, to tell each young person to ask whether this is the path that they are meant to follow. Occasionally, I would bring this up with young people, and they would respond almost jokingly: "No, that's not for me!" Yet, a few years later, some of them were in the seminary. The Lord cannot fail in his promise to provide the Church with shepherds, for without them she would not be able to live and carry out her mission...In discerning your vocation, do not dismiss the possibility of devoting yourself to God in the priesthood, the religious life or in other forms of consecration. Why not? You can be sure that, if you do recognize and follow a call from God, there you will find complete fulfilment." (274-276)*

## 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](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

*"...he went off, sold all he had, and bought it."*



## 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:	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalm 118	Romans 8:28-30	Matthew 13:44-52
Monday:	Jeremiah 13:1-11	Deuteronomy 32:18-21		Matthew 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Jeremiah 14:17-22	Psalm 78		Matthew 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Jeremiah 15:10-21	Psalm 58		Matthew 13:44-46
Thursday:	Jeremiah 18:1-6	Psalm 145		Matthew 13:47-53
Friday:	Jeremiah 26:1-9	Psalm 68		Matthew 13:54-58
Saturday:	Jeremiah 26:11-24	Psalm 125		Matthew 14:1-12

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**STOP PRESS**

FR KEITH

At last, but suddenly, a long-expected date for my surgery has been announced: August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Because of the Covid 19 situation a period of fourteen days quarantine is required before surgery, so I'm already isolated. In order to prevent Fr Tom, as a member of the same household, being isolated as well and the whole parish operation grinding to a halt, I'm away from home and pretty well *incommunicado*. (In desperation I can be reached by mobile phone or e-mail.) I will be out of action for some time following surgery. Manpower assistance has been sought and the changing situation will be reviewed here each week. Thank you for the patience I feel sure you will show.

*Keith*

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

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