

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 140-143 Prayer of the Church, 4

28th SUNDAY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

OCTOBERth, 2020

The gospel reading today ends with the disquieting words, "...many are called, but few are chosen". At the beginning of the Gospel Jesus calls people to be



be his disciples: "Come, follow me." He 'called' them, but it would seem that he did so because he had 'chosen' them to be his disciples. In the centuries since then 'many' people, including ourselves, have heard Jesus' call, his invitation to be his disciple. Have we been chosen? What does it mean to be 'chosen'? The distinction between call and choice is made at the conclusion of a parable spoken, in the context of Matthew's gospel, to the Chief priest and elders of the people. (21:23-24) They have understood that the two previous parables were an accusation against them and we have been told that 'they would like to have killed him'. (21:45-46) Today's parable is about a king who invites guests to a banquet celebrating his son's wedding. The guests refuse to attend; they have better things to do. When the king repeats his invitation they make it clear that nothing could persuade them to attend

his banquet. They despise him; they attack and kill his servants. The king realises his chosen guests have turned against him and he destroys them. He then invites anyone and everyone to attend his celebration. It is clear that Jesus considers the chief priest and elders, the leaders of his 'chosen people' to have betrayed his trust. Like the ungrateful people who refused to attend the king's banquet in the parable, they too have opted to pursue their own interests whilst taking advantage of the privileges they enjoyed through his friendship. The call to be a disciple, like any invitation, requires a response: it can be accepted or refused. The king's friends, in the parable, refuse his invitation; the common people accept. The parable, however, is not only about leaders of Israel who have betrayed the trust placed in them. It is about our call to be Jesus' disciples in the kingdom of heaven. The call to be a disciple has costs: "If anyone want to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself..." (Matt 16:24). This where the poor unfortunate who attends the banquet in the parable without a wedding garment. It seems, to us, such trivial fault. The reaction of the king seems to be out of all proportion. Parables often have details which don't quite work, but they contribute, nonetheless, to their general teaching. This ill-clad guest reminds us of the cost of discipleship. He has not counted the cost. Many are called but not all of them, fewer, are grateful to have been chosen and accept the responsibility the invitation entails.

from EVANGELII GAUDIUM

"There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter. I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. I understand the grief of people who have to endure great suffering, yet slowly but surely we all have to let the joy of faith slowly revive as a quiet yet firm trust, even amid the greatest distress: 'My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is... But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness...' (6)

FINANCE

After six months of Coronavirus, our finances are beginning to suffer. The income from collections and fundraising for the first six months of last year was approximately £50,000; this year, it's approximately £30,000. Also there has been no income from the repository or candle sales, which amounts to around £3,000. Cash collections at Mass are considerably reduced. I would ask those who do not already do so to consider supporting the parish by setting up a standing order. Please contact Terry or Dilys for bank details.

"Many are called but few are chosen"

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 25:6-10	Psalm 22	Philippians 4:12-20	Matthew 22:1-14
Monday:	Galatians 4:22-5:1	Psalm 112		Luke 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Galatians 5:1-6	Psalm 118		Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday:	Galatians 5:18-25	Psalm 1		Luke 11:42-46
Thursday:	Ephesians 1:1-120	Psalm 97		Luke 11:47-54
Friday:	Ephesians 1:11-14	Psalm 32		Luke 12:1-7
Saturday:	Ephesians 1:15-23	Psalm 8		Luke 12:8-12

CHURCH OPENING THIS WEEK

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham: Sunday 10.30 Mass
Monday to Saturday 9.30 Mass
(followed by exposition on Monday. Confessions on Saturday)
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
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.

Under the present circumstances 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.

NEWS & VIEWS

Fr Harri, the Vicar of Walsingham, has asked Fr Michael Rear to join the committee that produces News & Views, the magazine delivered to every house in Walsingham. He has done so in the hope of including more news and articles into it from the Catholic Parish and Shrine in Walsingham. Please let Fr Michael have any news items about forthcoming events, celebrations, etc, and any articles of interest. They may be given in writing or sent by email to him at: Walsingham@post.com.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Several people have drawn attention to a lax approach to social distancing and other hygiene requirements made necessary by the Covid 19 situation, especially at the Church of the Annunciation on Walsingham on Sundays.. We have revised the seating arrangement in that church and ask all participants to follow the instructions of stewards who are working to protect you and everyone participating in the Mass. Inconvenient though it may be we are obliged to follow the government's instructions. Please cooperate with them without argument

CAFOD

Confusion reigns. Last week we were told that Cafod's Harvest Fast Day, what used to be Family Fast Day was to be Friday, October, 2nd. Now, it seems, it is this coming Friday, October 9th. This year Cafod is promoting a coronavirus appeal for all those facing the worst of the crisis. Envelopes should be available in each church. It would help if stewards were to place these on each seat. Let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild, heal. You can donate on line at cafod.org.uk .

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:

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

Contact Parish Priest: 07538 130655; 01328 713044

Web page: www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org
annunciation22@gmail.com

Newsletter contributions: annunciationnewsletter@gmail.com