

# 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 131-134 Prayer of the Church, 1

25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Once again, today, we hear Jesus telling story whose characters are taken from the ordinary humdrum lives of the people among whom he lived. It is not,



however, a story about them but, as he tells us at the beginning, about the kingdom of heaven. A man who owns a vineyard needs labourers. He goes to the market place to look for them, hires some and agrees to pay them a denarius. The denarius was a Roman coin which, by the time Jesus was teaching, was more or less equivalent to the Greek drachma and considered to equate with the daily living expenses of a workman and his dependants. It is a concept similar to the 'living wage' of modern political discourse. There was more work to be done than could be handled by the labourers hired early in the day, so the owner of the vineyard returned time and again to find more men to do the work. He even hires some just before the end of the working day. He agrees to pay each of them the same daily living wage. Seeing those who had only just begun to work

paid a denarius, those hired earlier expected to receive more and grumbled when their hopes were dashed. It does seem unfair. Those who grumbled had done much more work than the others and naturally felt themselves deserving of more money. But to dwell too much on this detail is to be distracted from the point of the story. It is not about labour relations but about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven can only be perceived by those who accept Jesus' invitation at the beginning of the gospel to 'repent'; to change their way of thinking and of seeing things. To enter God's kingdom is like being rescued. The last person rescued from a sinking ship is just as safe as the first. What Jesus' parable is about is the generosity, the compassion, of the landowner who saves those standing idle in the market place from the hunger which must follow from not being hired. Possession of the denarius, the living wage, offers salvation from destitution. There are some who, like the labourers hired at dawn, might feel that someone who has despised the values of the kingdom through out his life but repents before he dies, is getting the best of both worlds, having his cake and eating it too. This, however, is the logic of 'this world' not that of the kingdom. From the viewpoint of the kingdom it is never too late to repent, to taste God's compassion for his creatures. The last will be first, because in the kingdom there is no first or last.

from EVANGELII GAUDIUM

*"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord".[1] The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us..." (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:**

*"Why be envious because I am generous?"*

## 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 55:6-9	Psalm 144	Philippians 1:20-27	Matthew 20:1-16
Monday:		<b>St Matthew, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>		
Tuesday:	Ephesians 4:1-13	Psalm 18		Matthew 9:9-13
Wednesday:	Job 3:1-23	Psalm 87		Luke 9:51-56
Thursday:	Job 9:1-16	Psalm 87		Luke 9:57-62
Friday:	Galatians 4:4-7	Lk 1:46-55		John 19:25-27
Saturday:	Job 38:1-40:5	Psalm 138		Luke 10:13-16
	Job 42:1-17	Psalm 138		

## 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.

## THANK YOU

During these trying times we are able to open the church only because of the generosity of those who volunteer to act as stewards and those who clean the church in accordance with the strict hygiene rules imposed by the government. This involves a great deal of hard work and I would like to thank all those who are currently serving the parish in this way.

In order to lighten their load there is an urgent need for more people to join them; many hands make light work.

## WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL

The third week in September is a time to work and pray for peace in the Holy Land. The World Council of Churches reminds us that, *'In the extremely fragile situation in Palestine and Israel, we still believe in the power of prayer because only the Spirit of God can soften hearts and change attitudes. Prayer does not mean, however, resignation on the part of the people; rather it implies a creative solidarity combining a spiritual reference point and practical action.'* This week for peace includes 'International Day of Prayer for Peace', the focus of which includes but transcends peace in the middle east to embrace the whole world. Let us pray that the hearts and minds of world leaders maybe guided by, "Peace of God which surpasses all understanding." (Philippians 4:7)

## REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Maureen Schofield, who was looking after the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, is unwell and unfortunately this means that we will not be participating this year. Please pray for her, and for all those who are sick.

## MGR PHILIP MOGER

A warm welcome to Mgr Philip as he takes up his new responsibility at the Shrine. He will be formally welcomed and installed as director for the shrine at the 12.00 noon Mass on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, in which you are invited to take part.

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

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