

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 134-136 Prayer of the Church, 2

26th SUNDAY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

SEPTEMBER 27th 2020

Over the next three Sundays we hear a series of three parables with a shared theme: a reversal of fortunes. Their context in the gospel narrative is important. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and thrown



the dealers out of the temple. His authority for doing so has been questioned by the chief priests and elders. It would seem to be first of all to these leaders of the Jewish people that Jesus is addressing these parables. In the one we hear today we meet two sons whose father owns a vineyard. The Jewish leaders' ears probably pricked up at the word 'vineyard'; surely it brought to mind Isaiah's poem (Isaiah 5:1-7) where Israel is the vineyard – the vineyard they are supposed to be tending. One of the sons consents when his father sends him to work in the vineyard, the other refuses. The one who assents, however, does not go whilst the one who refuses thinks better of his behaviour and goes to the vineyard. God himself has asked then, the chief priests and elders, to work in his vineyard and they have consented. But have they kept their promise?

To use another biblical metaphor, have they tended the sheep of God's pasture, or are they like an earlier generation of leaders against whom the prophet Ezekiel thundered, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves"? And what about the son who refuses his father? Among the people of Israel were those who showed little respect for the elders of Israel or for the Law of Moses. These were looked down upon, despised by the leaders of Israel: tax collectors and prostitutes for example. But, says Jesus, at least some of them, unlike the chief priests and elders were prepared to listen to a prophet, to John the Baptist who proclaimed, "The Kingdom of God is at hand", and accept his invitation to change their way of life. This parable does not begin with the worlds, "The kingdom of God is like...". Nonetheless it *is* about the kingdom of God, and about repentance or change. For those who refuse the invitation to the kingdom of God it is never too late to change their minds. Those who accept the invitation can also change their minds. Sometimes, unfortunately, like the self-seeking shepherds of Israel, those who change for the worse don't realise they have done so. The parable is addressed, of course, not only to the leaders of Israel but to each of us and invites us to reflect on our own faith. We do well, as ever to listen to the words of St Paul: "...the one who thinks he is standing firm should be careful not to fall." (1 Cor 10:12)

from EVANGELII GAUDIUM

"The books of the Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times... Perhaps the most exciting invitation is that of the prophet Zephaniah, who presents God with his people in the midst of a celebration overflowing with the joy of salvation. I find it thrilling to reread this text: "The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives you the victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival" (3:17). This is the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life, as a response to the loving invitation of God our Father: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment" (Sir 14:11, 14). What tender paternal love echoes in these words!" (4)

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:

"Which of these did the father's will?"

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:	Ezekiel 18:25-28	Psalm 24	Philippians 2:1-11	Matthew 21:28-32
Monday:	Job 1:6-22	Psalm 16		Luke 9:46-50
Tuesday:		SS. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Archangels		
Wednesday:	Daniel 7:9-14	Psalm 137		John 1:47-51
Thursday:	Job 9:1-16	Psalm 87		Luke 9:57-62
Friday:	Job 19:21-27	Psalm 26		Luke 10:1-12
Saturday:	Job 38:1-40:5	Psalm 138		Luke 10:13-16
	Job 42:1-17	Psalm 138		Luke 10:17-24

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.

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

Friday, October, 4th, is Cafod's Harvest Fast Day, what used to be Family Fast Day. Cafod's coronavirus appeal is for all those facing the worst of the crisis. 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 . Envelopes will be available next week.

THANK YOU

Ann Crossley writes: "Thank you to everyone who gave their old/redundant specs. which were collected to go to Beirut after the explosion. Almost 350 of them were packed up and The Lebanese Wine Company are transporting them very kindly. They are being sent to the two hospitals left standing among other places. That poor country could do with our prayers in addition to our aid to their vision!"

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

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