

## ME – A SAINT??

(MATTHEW 5:1-12)



Jesus goes up the mountain (which our text, unfortunately, translates as “the hill”): he sits down, which is the position of a rabbi when teaching; it is Jesus who gives the teaching, which is the basic meaning of “Torah”, he does not receive it from elsewhere.

Jesus, then, is interpreting the Law as it could be applied by his disciples in their own time and situation: this was the purpose of the Pharisees, and later the rabbis, to adapt the Torah in such a way that its values could be lived out by those who followed their teaching. When Jesus declares that “my yoke is easy and my burden light”, he is saying that his interpretation of the Law is less strict than that of other teachers. Matthew is thus presenting Jesus’ teaching as the authoritative understanding of what the Law of God implies. ■

### REFLECT

Today we celebrate the feast of All Saints. We are not thinking primarily of those Christians who have been canonised, that is, officially recognised by the Church as having lived a holy life and who are held up as examples to inspire us to try our best to live out our baptismal commitment. We are celebrating all those ordinary folk, members of our own families and others who lived out their faith quietly in the rough and tumble of everyday life. Very few of the canonised saints were married people with families.

There used to be a feeling that a holy life was one which could be lived only by people who consecrated their lives to God as priests, nuns, monks or other religious persons. However, the Second Vatican Council did away with this manner of thinking when it taught that everyone is called to holiness. The notion that lay people had to settle for a second-class way of life in the Church was seen to be false. No way of life is higher, better or holier than any other. The manner in which individual people live out their Christian commitment is the way in which they find holiness, which is essentially being close to God and practising the values of the Gospel in the situation in which they find themselves: for many people, this is marriage and family life; other states, such as the single life, are as valid in this regard. No one is excluded from being holy, and that includes you. In the Beatitudes, which form our Gospel reading today, the reward of the kingdom is not promised to those who work miracles, but to the kind of person who is described there. Jesus gives eight Beatitudes rather than Ten Commandments: but in a real sense, they are more demanding. ■

### SAY

**How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

(Matthew 5:3)

### LEARN

In Matthew’s version of the Gospel, mountains are places of revelation.

The Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus in the same light as Moses, who received the Torah on Mount Sinai.

No state of life is better or holier than any other: everyone is called to holiness.

### DO

Make the sign of the cross with holy water. Think of your baptismal promises: they are your way to being holy.





**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,  
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all  
the Saints,  
at whose festival the Angels rejoice  
and praise the Son of God.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration  
the merits of all the Saints,  
bestow on us, we pray,  
through the prayers of so many intercessors,  
an abundance of the reconciliation with you  
for which we earnestly long...  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** *Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.  
I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty it was to devastate land and sea, "Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels who were standing in a circle around the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: "Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen."

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, "Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?" I answered him, "You can tell me, my Lord." Then he said, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 23

Response:

Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

- The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
- Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
- He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet  
been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.  
Surely everyone who entertains this hope  
must purify himself, must try to be as pure  
as Christ.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you who labour and are  
overburdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.  
There he sat down and was joined by his  
disciples. Then he began to speak. This is  
what he taught them:

"How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what  
is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the  
cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Happy are you when people abuse you  
and persecute you and speak all kinds of

calumny against you on my account. Rejoice  
and be glad, for your reward will be great in  
heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May these offerings we bring in honour of all  
the Saints

be pleasing to you, O Lord,  
and grant that, just as we believe the Saints  
to be already assured of immortality,  
so we may experience their concern for our  
salvation...

Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall  
see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the  
sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy  
and wonderful in all your Saints,  
we implore your grace,  
so that, coming to perfect holiness in the  
fullness of your love,  
we many pass from this pilgrim table  
to the banquet of our heavenly homeland...  
Amen.

# ***Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon*** ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 8.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: [abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## **NEW PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Please note that from 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the parish office will be open on **Tuesdays through to Fridays from 8.30am to 12.30pm.**

**CONFESSIONS:** For now, this is by appointment only. Please contact the parish office to make a booking.

## **PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church will be open for **private prayer only**, between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.**

## **MASS BOOKINGS**

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. should be made on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.** Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for.** We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

## **HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

### **No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) **EACH MONDAY**, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

## **NEWSLETTER:**

For now, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website, or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time.

## **31<sup>st</sup> week of Ordinary Time**

***In Church for those who have booked, and also live streamed***

### **Sunday 1 November**

10.15am Mass (Sheila Finch, RIP)  
2.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass (Maria Loretta Harvey, RIP)

### **ALL SAINTS**

(Sheila Finch, RIP)

(Maria Loretta Harvey, RIP)

### **Monday 2 November**

9am Mass (Kathleen Brady, RIP)

### **ALL SOULS**

(Kathleen Brady, RIP)

### **Tuesday 3 November**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

### **Wednesday 4 November St Charles Borromeo**

7pm Mass (Eddie Mullin, RIP)

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

9.30am Mass (All the bereaved)

### **Friday 6 November**

7pm Mass (Mary Kerr, RIP)

### **Saturday 7 November Our Lady on Saturday**

12pm Mass (Anthony McDonald, intentions)



## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.



## CHURCH DONATIONS

The parish still *really* needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**

*Please do not use the online 'Donate' button for clergy stipends (Mass intentions, weddings, Baptisms). These can be put in an envelope marked FAO the parish priest and indicating what the offering is for and who is giving it. The envelope can then be left at the parish office or in the donations basket in the Church.*

## PARISH MISSION – A NEW SERIES

Sr. Veronica OP from the Formation for Mission Team shares information on a new series of short videos to help parishes understand the Mission of a parish in the Light of the New Evangelisation. There will be a total of six short videos (about 10-15 minutes long) helping parishes to gain a better perspective of the role and purpose of a Parish; how to develop a parish vision in a variety of practical ministries such as youth, marriage and family, and areas such as the sick and housebound also especially recognising those who are marginalised members of the wider parish community. **You can watch all the episodes, as they are received, on the News page of our website.**

## BLESSING OF GRAVES



Fr Jamie will be blessing graves on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** at 10am in the Church graveyard and 12.30pm at the Spring Road cemetery. Please do not congregate together, but go directly to the family plots and wait for him to come to you.

For those interested, the Mass intention for the 9.30am Mass on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November** is for *All the Bereaved*. If you haven't already booked a place, you will be able to follow the Mass online.

## BAMENDA SUNDAY:

This Sunday we pray especially for our sisters and brothers in our sister diocese, the Archdiocese of Bamenda. This intention is more urgent than ever this year given the continuing violence and instability. We pray for peace and justice to be restored and for the safe reopening of their schools. Please pray too for Archbishop Andrew, Bishop Michael and all the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese. We also remember in our prayers the six priests that we currently have working over here in our Diocese of Portsmouth and the amazing contribution of faith and joy they make to our lives. You can make a donation securely online through the link on the *News* page of our website.

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### Future Diary Dates

*No events at the moment.*



Historically, the economic impact of COVID 19 to Christians in the Holy Land has been catastrophic. The FHL office in Bethlehem is being inundated by people seeking help. Unfortunately our presentations and sales of Olive Wood Products and Christmas card sales have had to be cancelled in parishes. However we are going to proceed to sell the Christmas Cards (£3.25 packet of 10). Contact any of the following:

**Mary Mulqueen:** 01235 534873 or 07857386398

**Ann Green:** 01235 520171 or [ann.green@zen.co.uk](mailto:ann.green@zen.co.uk)

**Clare Calnan:** 01235 524861 or 07810192267

Thank you most sincerely for supporting our brothers and sisters in The Holy Land, it really does make a difference to their lives.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM ABINGDON

Abingdon Church Twinning - which enables Christians in Abingdon to develop friendship with churches in our 5 twin towns - have packs of mixed Christmas cards with 2 local Abingdon scenes for sale. The packs of 10 are £4.50 and contain a brief Christmas greeting in English, French, Flemish, German and Italian. If you would like to buy a pack (or more than one!) please ring Anne Dodd - 01235 525997.

## BACK2BASICS

The *Formation for Mission Team*, led by Sr Hyacinthe, are offering an online course for anyone interested - but especially for those preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their first Holy Communion. More details are available on the *News* page of our website.

## DIOCESAN READERS' WORKSHOPS

There is a workshop on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (workshop 1) and 21<sup>st</sup> November (workshop 2) at 10 am. These are being done using Zoom and you can access the link to register on the *News* page of our website.

## DAY OF PRAYER TO END THE COVID CRISIS

Bishop Philip invites us to keep with him a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for an End to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Day is called *"Twenty-Four Hours with the Lord"* and will take place on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020** – please save the date. More information will be available later.