

THE LAST JUDGEMENT

(MATTHEW 25:31-46)



Portal of the last judgement of Notre Dame de Paris, France

We come today to the final Sunday in the Church's year. The Gospel presents us with a vision of the last judgement, when the Son of Man comes in glory.

We might note that all the (Gentile, that is, non-Jewish) nations are gathered before the throne of judgement. The charge sheet does not mention religious duties but rather social action, or lack of it. One way of looking at this text is to consider that it is dealing with the salvation of the Gentiles. The twelve apostles have been given the task of judging the twelve tribes of Israel; it is the place of the Son of Man to judge the Gentiles. The criterion is how the person has treated the poor, weak and vulnerable members of society. The surprise on the part of those who have shown mercy shows that there was no ulterior motive in their acting with compassion: it was simply the right thing to do for a fellow human being who was suffering. ■

REFLECT

St John Paul II once remarked that a society can be judged by how it treats its weakest members. Perhaps we might include in this category a range of vulnerable people: refugees, immigrants, unemployed people, those who are mentally ill, and so on. The common denominator in such groups, as in those mentioned in the scene of the last judgement, is that they are, in economic terms, non-productive and therefore regarded as not worth very much, "the undeserving poor" as the expression used to be. Yet they have needs, and perhaps the most basic need is to be recognised as a human being, as a person. Pope Francis has spoken of the importance of seeing faces rather than just a vast number of anonymous figures. The need to be loved, to be cared for, to have someone listen to one's story is greater than the immediate material requirements, as anyone who spends time visiting people who are sick or those in prison soon discovers.

The last judgement deals with human values. If this is applied to Gentiles, then it must be relevant to later Gentile Christians as well. But the purpose is not to paint a picture of the end of time, but rather to spur us on to examine our lives in the here and now. The Bible emphasises the importance of social justice and care for vulnerable and neglected people. In this teaching, Jesus is deflecting his disciples' attention away from himself and onto the suffering members of society. Not only is he to be found among them, he is actually identifying himself with them, just as he identified himself with those on the margins of social and religious life when he shared table-fellowship with them and scandalised the respectable people of his day. Those who minister to persons in need often say that they receive more than they give: those who attend to suffering and marginalised people just because they are suffering and marginalised will be surprised at the recognition they receive. ■

SAY

Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters, you do unto me. (Matthew 25:40)

LEARN

The description of the last judgement is an apocalyptic vision rather than a parable.

Salvation for all people is presented as behaving in a decent human manner towards people in need.

Sheep and goats were often found in the same flock: goats needed more shelter at night.

DO

Find a way of helping someone mentioned in the list at the last judgement, or someone else who is in need of care or simple attention.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and
ever.

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,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after
my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a
shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he
stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep,
so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue
them from wherever they have been scattered
during the mist and darkness. I myself will
pasture my sheep, I myself will show them
where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I
shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray,
bandage the wounded and make the weak
strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I
shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will
judge between sheep and sheep, between rams
and he-goats.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

- The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he give me repose. (R.)
- Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. (R.)

- You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
- Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death
came through one man and in the same way
the resurrection of the dead has come through
one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all
men will be brought to life in Christ; but all
of them in their proper order: Christ as the
first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ,
those who belong to him. After that will come
the end, when he hands over the kingdom to
God the Father, having done away with every
sovereignty, authority and power. For he
must be king until he has put all his enemies
under his feet and the last of the enemies to
be destroyed is death. And when everything is
subjected to him, then the Son himself will be
subject in his turn to the One who subjected all
things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of
the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our
father David!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of
Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the
angels, then he will take his seat on his throne
of glory. All the nations will be assembled
before him and he will separate men one from
another as the shepherd separates sheep from
goats. He will place the sheep on his right
hand and the goats on his left. Then the King
will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you
whom my Father has blessed, take for your
heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the
foundation of the world. For I was hungry and
you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave
me drink; I was a stranger and you made me
welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and
you visited me, in prison and you came to see
me.' Then the virtuous will say to him in reply,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed
you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did
we see you a stranger and make you welcome;
naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go
to see you? And the King will answer, 'I tell you
solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the
least of these brothers of mine, you did it to
me.' Next he will say to those on his left hand,
'Go away from me, with your curse upon, to the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I
was thirsty and you never gave me anything to
drink; I was a stranger and you never made me
welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick

and in prison and you never visited me.' Then it
will be their turn to ask, 'Lord, when did we see
you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick
or in prison, and did not come to your help?'
The he will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far
as you neglected to do this to one of the least
of these, you neglected to do it to me.' And they
will go away to eternal punishment, and the
virtuous to eternal life."

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.

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

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice
by which the human race is reconciled to you,
we humbly pray
that your Son himself may bestow on all
nations
the gifts of unity and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality,
we ask, O Lord,
that, glorying in obedience
to the commands of Christ, the King of the
universe,
we may live with him eternally in his
heavenly Kingdom.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
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: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: 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
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

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note that during this second period of lockdown, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Thursdays: 7.30am to 8.30am**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm.**

BACK TO MASS BOOKINGS:

In anticipation of the lifting of the current lockdown on 2nd December (and only if it is lifted), Mass bookings can once again be made as follows:

- **On Monday 23rd November, you can book for Masses from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th December.**
- **On Monday 30th November you can book for Masses from Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th December.**

DAY OF PRAYER TO END THE COVID CRISIS

The Day is called "Twenty-Four Hours with the Lord" and will take place on **Friday 27th November**. There will be a twenty-four hour long programme of Mass, prayer, Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration at Portsmouth Cathedral, which you we are invited to join in as much as you can by live stream. You can see the proposed programme on our website news page.

In our parish, you are invited to join in praying the Rosary at 8pm on Zoom. Email, well in advance, contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk to get the joining in details.

CHRISTMAS POST

Due to the pandemic situation, this year's operation of the Abingdon Scouts and Guides Christmas Post has been **cancelled**.

34th week of Ordinary Time

Live streamed ONLY

Sunday 22 November *OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE*

10.15am Mass (Feliks Kucz, RIP)
2.00pm Polish Mass

Monday 23 November

9am Mass (Michael & Mary Haughton, RIP)

Tuesday 24 November *St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions*

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

Wednesday 25 November

7pm Mass (Richard 'Dick' Kearney, RIP)

Thursday 26 November

9.30am Mass (Hector & Gustavo Garcia, RIP)

Friday 27 November

7pm Mass (Special intention)

Saturday 28 November

12pm Mass (David Anthony Bland, RIP)



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

You can make these on our website. You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church. **Your continued support 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.

MARY'S MEALS – A BIG THANK YOU!

THANK YOU so much to everyone from the parish who have been so generous in supporting our *Mary's Meals* fundraiser. I am delighted to report a running total of £5686.54. The boost from the Government has been a great help but that does not demise the fantastic contribution you have all made. God Bless you all. Sue.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

National Youth Sunday 2020 (NYS) takes place this coming **Sunday 22nd November**, the feast of Christ the King. It represents an opportunity to explicitly recognise young people - their gifts, talents and uniqueness. The Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) has produced a host of resources to help facilitate the celebration of National Youth Sunday in school, parish and at home. Please visit www.nationalyouthsunday.com to have a look.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK

Urgently needed are:

- Tinned meat (ham, corned beef, meatballs, stew, curry)
- Tinned vegetables (carrots, potatoes) or Instant potatoes
- Tinned fish (tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines, pilchards)
- Jam, marmalade and honey
- Tins or long life cartons of custard Small (500g) bags of sugar

Last Christmas the foodbank gave out hampers to over 200 households. This year it is more important than ever to help. They are asking for donations of the items below **by 11th December, and making sure that the 'best before dates' on all items are 26th December or later.** If you cannot deliver yourself, phone 07960 718632 and we will pick up from you.



IN NOVEMBER WE PRAY FOR

Deceased members of our parish, family and friends.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

A **big thank you** to all who purchased Christmas cards. We have raised over £500 plus donations so far. We have some cards left so if anyone would like any please ring Mary on 534873 or Anne on 520171.

Friends of the Holy Land also invite you to join them via Zoom on two occasions: 7.00pm on **Wednesday 9 December** when Peter Rand, FHL's Vice Chairman would like to share with you and take questions on the reality of life with COVID for our Christian brothers and sisters in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan, as we approach Christmas – a very different experience to ours in the UK. Peter has visited the Holy Land frequently in the last 10 years and is in regular contact with the FHL Bethlehem office and other partners. Please email Peter at peter.rand@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and he will send you the link to access the meeting.

Also, at 10am on **Saturday 5 December**, FHL are organizing a live cookery demonstration of a traditional Palestinian Christmas meal, prepared by the ladies at St. Martha's House, a Day Care Centre in Bethlehem. Again, please email Peter who will send you the link.

2020 ADVENT RETREAT BY ZOOM

To help you prepare your own personal journey for Advent this year we invite you to join this Retreat, which will take place on **Saturday 28th November from 10.30am to 2.30pm**, with Holy Mass at 12pm.

The retreat will include reflections and discussions, scripture, sacred art video, guided prayer and an opportunity to share in the journey of the magi to the birth of Christ. The retreat is open to all and everyone is welcome. People can choose whether to join in various discussions and sharing or can simply listen and reflect. The day will be hosted by the parish RCIA team and anyone interested should contact Pauline on pehanley@hotmail.com or call 07506 753085 to register for the zoom link.

KEY STAGE 2 TEACHER VACANCY (FIXED-TERM) ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

We are looking for an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed teacher, who would be supportive of our school mission statement and the Catholic ethos of our school, to teach a Year 6 class from January 2021 to July 2021. Calls to discuss this position further with our Headteacher, Mrs Maria Delany-White are encouraged and warmly welcomed. Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack. Closing date: Friday 27th Nov. 2020 at 4pm.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We cannot host a lunch this year, but Peachcroft Christian Centre are offering to deliver festive hampers on Christmas day to those who would otherwise be alone or are in need of help. If you would like this help – or know anyone that would – please can you let them know **as soon as possible** by either emailing: events@peachcroftcc.org or phoning 07379 469311.