

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM****23<sup>rd</sup> of Year A**

Tea/coffee in Church after Mass. All welcome. Please stay.  
 TODAY: Fr. Philip is preaching for Friends of Friendless Churches at Mundon, nr Maldon, Essex, at Evensong (5.00pm).

**This Week:** Divine office - Psalter Week 3

**Mon:** 1.30-2.25 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament for silent prayer  
 2.30pm Mass, laying on of hands and anointing for healing.  
 (Col 1 v 24- 2 v 3; Luke 6 v 6-11)  
 Int: The sick

**Tues:** 9.30am Mass (Col 2 v 6-15; Luke 6 v 12-19)  
 Int. The lonely & bereaved  
 10.30am - 12.30pm Tea, coffee, cake in church

**Wed:** **St John Chrysostom**  
 9.30am Mass (Col 3 v 1-11; Luke 6 v 20-26)  
 Int: Deepening of our spiritual lives

**Thurs:** **HOLY CROSS DAY (Feast)**  
 8.00am Mass (Numbers 21 v4-9; John 3 v 13-17)  
 Int: Refugees. Displaced people

**Fri:** **Our Lady of Sorrows**  
 9.30am Mass (Heb 5 v 7-9; John 19 v25-27)  
 Int. Priests Society of Holy Cross

**Sat:** **S.S. Cornelius & Cyprian**  
 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday (readings as Sunday)  
 4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Next Sunday:** 24th Year A  
 9.30am Parish Mass and Address  
 (Ecclesiasticus 27 v 30-28 v 7; Romans 14 v 7-9; Matt18v 21-35)

**Notices:**

1. Please support our Healing Service tomorrow.
2. The next event for Friends of St. Mary's is Friday 6th Oct at 7.30pm in church. Antiques Road Show. Please make a note of the date.
3. Thank you to all who sponsored Anne &/or Chris &/or Taylor in cycle ride. It is not too late to sponsor them!!

**THEME:** We all share responsibility for the quality of life in the Church. We cannot ignore the welfare of others; as St. Paul reminds us: "You must love your neighbour as yourself". We ask God's forgiveness for sometimes avoiding our responsibilities; for being silent when we have seen injustice or judging other people harshly.

**Entrance Hymn:** 60 v. 1-3.

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times we have ignored the needs of others and shrugged them off with words like "it's his business". Lord have mercy.

**People:** *(sing)* **KYRIE ELEISON** (Ukrainian setting)

**Celebrant:** Forgive us when we do not open our hearts to those we have injured or those who have injured us. Christ have mercy.

**People:** **CHRISTE ELEISON**

**Celebrant:** Forgive us for the times we refuse to forget the past and trust you. Lord have mercy.

**People:** **KYRIE ELEISON**

*Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness*

**Gloria** – St Thomas setting *(words on sheet)*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray that we may realise the freedom God has given us in making us his sons and daughters. God our Father, you redeem us and make us your children in Christ. Look upon us, give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised.*

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading – Ezekiel 33 v. 7 - 9:** Ezekiel is commanded by the Lord to call Israel to repentance. It is important that we accept our responsibility to guide people in the ways of God. Others may, or may not, listen and act upon what we say. The main thing is that we try.

*The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 94

**® O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. ®

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. ®

Ⓜ **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!

as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your fathers put me to the test;

when they tried me, though they saw my work. Ⓜ

Second Reading – Romans 13 v. 8 – 10: If we want to sum up the way of life we must follow as Christians, we need use only one word: love. Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.*

Gospel Hymn: 60 v.4 & 5.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

Gospel - Matthew 18 v. 15-20: The Gospel reading takes up the theme of Ezekiel. We are urged to be concerned about our brothers and sisters and not to be afraid to point out that which is wrong.

*Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.*

*'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'*

Address      Creed. Nicene (Page 7 of Hymn Book)

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant : In the Gospel Jesus told us, "If two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my heavenly Father". Encouraged by his promise let us pray:

Reader: Let us ask God for discernment to know when to speak and when to keep silent about sin in other peoples' lives.

Let us pray for those who find it hard to love, that they may find in Jesus an inspiration and guide.

Let us pray for those who desire to receive God's forgiveness but cannot find the courage to come and say sorry.

Let us pray that we may always be faithful to God's commandments so that the Church may be a living example of Christ.

Let us pray that Church leaders may, like Ezekiel, be fearless in denouncing evil, yet compassionate in correcting the wayward.

Let us pray for all who fear they are rejected because of sin. May they always find in the followers of Christ the compassion and understanding that we should show them.

Let us pray for the sick, especially Marjorie Rousseau, Jean Martin, Angie Wilson, Jim Wilson, Julie & Andrew Gray, Jan Ross and all to be anointed at our healing service tomorrow.

May God forgive the sins of those who have died, and through that forgiveness welcome them into everlasting life, especially Jose Pereira and Lilian Doyle, Percy Blythe-Brook; Millicent Taylor; Louis Giraud; Dorothy Parsons; William Hendry; Pamela van Carrapiett; Sylvia Scott; Jean Yeardsley; Betty Rush and Muriel Downie whose anniversaries are this week.

The love of a mother for her children remains true whatever may happen. In confidence we turn to Mary and pray: **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*SILENCE*

**All: Father, make us a community of genuine love and forgiveness. Keep us sensitive to one another's needs, caring for one another's weaknesses, encouraging one another's virtues, as we live our lives together in Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.**

**Blessing of chancel carpet in memory of Jose Pereira**

*The Mass continues on page 8 of the hymn book*

**Offertory Hymn:** 497 v. 1 & 2.

Offertory Prayers: Hymn 497 v.3 & 4.

**Sanctus:** St Thomas setting;

**Mystery of Faith:** St Thomas setting

**Blessed and Praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in Excelsis!**

**Agnus Dei:** St Thomas setting

*Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please come to the altar rail holding a hymn book.*

**Hymn at Holy Communion:** 409, 500 (Please join in.)

**Hymn at Ablutions:** 35.

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Angelus**

Notices

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn:** 609 – sung in honour of Our Lady whose birthday we celebrated on Friday.