

**Coffee and tea after Mass. Please stay if you can.**

Thank you to all who have decorated our church for Harvest – for the gift of flowers, vegetables and tinned foods.

**This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 3**

**Mon: ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (Feast)**

9.30 am Mass (1 Cor. 2 v 10-16; Matt. 13 v 47-52)  
Int: Homeless

**Tues: 9.30 am Requiem Mass – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Hazel Lockwood**

10:30 - 12:30 Tea, coffee, cake etc in church

**Wed: No Mass at Mendlesham (Jonah 4 v 1-11; Luke 11 v 1-4)**

Int: Friends of Friendless Churches

**Thurs: Votive Mass of St Luke**

1.30 - 2:25 pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament for Silent Prayer  
2:30 pm Mass. Laying on of hands & anointing for healing  
(II Tim. 4 v 10-17; Luke 10 v 1-9)  
Int: Sick; Ministry of Healing

**Fri: St Edward the Confessor**

9.30 am Mass (Rom. 8 v 26-30; Matt. 5 v 1-12)  
Int: King & Government

**Sat: 10.00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday (Readings as tomorrow)**

Int: Communicant life of the Church

**Next Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> of Year A**

9.30 am Parish Mass and Address  
(Is. 25 v 6-10; Phil. 4 v 12-14, 19-20; Matt. 22 v 1-14)

---

**NOTICES**

1. Have you ordered November candles? List on the table.
2. Friends of St Mary's Boxes are blessed at the Dedication Festival – 29 October.
3. Advance notice: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November: 11.00 am: SERVICE OF LIGHT for parents and relatives of children who have died.

*Thought for this week:*

*“The happiest people in the world are those who have found the life tasks to which they have been called ..... and the unhappiest are those that have not even begun to search” – Robert C. Leslie.*

*Please keep silence from 9.25 am to prepare for Mass*

8th October, 2023

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**

**27th of year A: HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

**Theme:** We are God's chosen people - the Lord's vineyard in today's readings. We also face a challenge; we cannot take our chosen position for granted. Has the word of God's Son really found a home in our heart? Does it bear fruit in the way we live?

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** 55 v. 1 - 3

**Penitential Rite**

*Celebrant:* Father, you sent Jesus into the world with a message for us. Forgive us, for it does not often find root in our hearts. Lord have mercy.

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

*Celebrant:* Lord Jesus, we listen to your word Sunday after Sunday. Forgive us, for it does not bear fruit in the way we live.

Christ have mercy. **People: CHRISTE ELEISON**

*Celebrant:* Lord, do not reject your chosen people. Change our hearts and turn them into rich and receptive soil for your word. Lord have mercy.

**People: KYRIE ELEISON**

*Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness*

**GLORIA – St Thomas setting** (words on paper)

**Opening Prayer:** Father, God of goodness, you give man the land to provide him with food. May the produce we harvest sustain our lives and may we always use it for your glory and the good of all.

**Liturgy of The Word Of God**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 5 v 1 – 7:** It is not enough to be God's chosen people: we must bear fruit - which we can only do if we remain in the vine.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed; integrity, but only a cry of distress.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79** **®The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its  
shoots. ®

Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. ®

® **The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. ®

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be  
saved. ®

**2nd Reading: Philippians 4 v. 6 – 9:** St. Paul writes that the peace of God is ours if we really trust in God.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**Gospel Hymn:** 55 v 4.

**Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 21 v. 33 – 43:** The Gospel takes up the image of God's vineyard. Jesus tells us that this is the Kingdom of God. It is given to those who will produce good fruit.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

**Address Creed – Apostles** (page 8 of hymn book)

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray to God who has dominion over everything he creates and to whom all will one day return.

**Reader:** Let us pray that, whatever situations people find themselves in, whether success or failure, joy or sorrow, they will always trust the God we call Father, and place themselves in his hands.

Let us pray that the Church may have the openness of heart, mind and spirit to recognise God's prophets today and to accept their message.

We pray for those who stubbornly refuse to hear God's word. You alone, Lord, can change their hearts and give them faith and life.

Let us pray for all farmers, that they may have thankful hearts at harvest time.

Let us pray that the fruits of the earth that we share and enjoy, may be shared with those in need. We pray for St Martin's Norwich and Stowmarket Food Bank.

Let us pray for farmers, farm workers, fishermen and all in the distribution chain who have laboured to provide food from land and sea.

Let us pray for the sick - especially those who are dear to us, that they may be comforted by the Lord, who accepted death on the cross. We pray especially for Sandy Cook, Jean Martin, Julie and Andrew Gray, Jan Ross, Angie Wilson, Jessica Mercer, Jenny Ellwood and Taylor Birch.

Let us pray for those who have died, especially Elizabeth Gammage, recently departed (*pause while a candle is lit*); also for William Pitt, Hilary Taylor, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, Edward Sanders; Alice Lawton and Betty Rand, whose anniversaries occur this week, that all those who hoped in the vision of the Lord may now possess the fullness of heavenly glory.

Mary knew that her Son was the keystone of the building. Let us pray with her:  
**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.**

S I L E N C E

**All: God our Father, hear our prayers. Show us the way we must walk to be with Jesus our life, and to bring forth fruit that will last in your kingdom. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Mass continues on page 9 of hymn book*

**Offertory Hymn:** 346 v 1

**Offertory Prayers:** 346 v 2 & 3

**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:** No. 298 and 205. *Please join in.*

**Hymn at Ablutions:** 264

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Angelus**

**Blessing of Harvest Gifts**

**Notices**

**Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn** 211