

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM****31<sup>st</sup> Sunday year A****This week: Divine Office – Psalter Week 3**

**Mon.** 1.30-2.25pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament for Silent Prayer  
2.30pm Mass, laying on of hands and anointing for healing.  
(Romans 11v.19-36; Luke 14v.12-14.)  
7.00pm Friends of St Mary's Committee – 11 Mayfield Way

**Tues.** 10.30am Requiem Mass for departed benefactors of our church.  
(Daniel 12v1-3. Matt.5v1-12)  
11.00-1.00pm Coffee, cake and soup in Church.

**Wed:** 9:30am Requiem Mass for those who have died by suicide.  
(Lamentations 3v.17-26; Luke 23 v.33. 39-43)

**Thurs. DEDICATION OF ST. JOHN LATERAN (feast)**  
9.30am Mass. Int: Church Preservation Societies  
(Ezek. 41v.1-2.8-9,12. John 2v.13-22)

**Fri. St Leo the Great**  
9.30am Mass. Int: Our Bishops  
(Romans 15v.14-21; Luke 6 v.1-8)  
10.40am School Service for Remembrance – in church

**Sat. St. Martin of Tours**  
10:00am 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday.  
4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
(Wisdom 6v.12-16. 1Thess.4v.13-18. Matt.25v.1-13)

**NEXT SUNDAY: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

9.30am Solemn Mass of Requiem for Fallen in War  
(11 Macc. 12v.43-45. Rev.v.1-7. Luke 24v.13-35)  
Including laying of wreath by parish memorial and 2 minutes' silence, and followed by short act of remembrance by the US memorial in the south churchyard.

**NOTICES:**

1. Teas/coffee after Mass. Please stay
2. Please support our healing service tomorrow
3. December Draw – 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Friends of St Mary's would welcome draw prizes – please see Graham or Anita,
4. list on table for names of departed for requiem Masses on Tuesday (benefactors) and Wednesday (those who have died by suicide).
5. Volunteers needed to provide soup for Tuesdays (either home made or tinned). Please sign the list on the noticeboard and don't leave this just to the usual people.

**THEME:** Not practising what we preach is so easy but so very wrong, which is what we hear about in today's first reading and Gospel. This in marked contrast with the second reading, where we hear of St. Paul's zeal in preaching God's message for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking. May we imitate Paul's sincerity and honesty with God.

**Prayers for departed in the Holy Cross Chapel**

**ENTRANCE HYMN 262 v 1-5**

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for often saying one thing and doing another. Lord have Mercy. **People:**(sing) **Kyrie Eleison** (Ukrainian setting)

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for causing others to stumble. Christ have mercy. .

**People: Christe Eleison**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the pride by which we exalt ourselves. Lord have mercy. **People: Kyrie Eleison**

**Gloria** - Sanctus setting (words & music on laminated card)

**OPENING PRAYER:** *Let us pray that our lives will reflect our faith.* God of power and mercy, only with your help can we offer you fitting service and praise. May we live the faith we possess and trust your promise of eternal life.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**1st Reading: Malachi – 1:14 – 2:2, 8-10.**

The Lord sternly rebukes those who are not sincere in their faith. Yet it is not so much a condemnation as a serious plea to take our faith to heart. We are asked to realize how our example affects one another and called to be examples of love and unity.

*I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.*

*Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 130 ® Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. O Lord, my heart is not proud<br>nor haughty my eyes.<br>I have not gone after things too great<br>nor marvels beyond me.® | 2. Truly I have set my soul<br>in silence and peace.<br>A weaned child on its mother's<br>breast, even so is my soul. ® |
| 3. Israel, hope in the Lord<br>both now and forever..®  |   |

**2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13** Paul gives us an example of a faith that is truly lived. He practised exactly what he preached. Perhaps more than his words, his actions testified to the message of the Gospel. The same should be true for us today.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

**Gospel Hymn: 262 v 6 & 7**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12** Jesus warns the disciples not to follow the ways of the Pharisees who failed to practise what they preached.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

#### **ADDRESS**

Everyone has been given a candle. These are now blessed as a sign of prayer for our departed relatives and friends. We take them to the Lady Chapel to light and place on the altar. **Hymn in procession: 28**

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

#### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**Celebrant:** In true humility let us place our petitions before God; for we know that those who humble themselves will be exalted.

**Reader:** Let us pray for those who seek to know the ways of the Lord, that we may be true witnesses to them of Gospel values.

Let us pray for all leaders; may they be guided by your truth so that they may deal justly and honestly with all people.

We pray for people suffering because of other people's actions, especially in Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.

We pray for all atheists, agnostics and those who have left God out of their lives; may the Holy Spirit fill their lives with God's presence.

Let us pray to God that our faith may not be a matter of words but shown in deeds performed in love.

We pray for all who are depressed and those who live without hope or consolation and for all the sick, especially Ray Mayes, Angie Wilson, Taylor Birch, Julie and Andrew Gray, Jan Ross, Jenny Ellwood and Jim Wilson. We pray, too, for all who will be anointed at the healing service on Monday.

Let us pray for, doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals and all who care for the sick. May they see in their sick brothers and sisters the very person of Christ Himself and be encouraged to continue their healing ministry with renewed patience, compassion and skill.

Let us pray for all who are separated from us by death – especially Molly Thurston, John Pyett, John Herron, William Cameron, Hilary Fenning, Charles Stepanic, Stephen Exley, Joyce Taylor, Paul Watson, Marjorie Greensmith, Dorothy Reid, Rhoda Jackaman and Brian Everett, whose anniversaries are this week.

Let us pray with Mary whose presence was a continual help to her Son in his ministry

**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: Lord, receive our prayer, empower us with your grace to pray not only with our words but with our actions. May we become the instruments through which our prayers are answered. As always we make our prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*Mass continues on page 9 of Hymn Book*

Offertory Hymn: 41 v 1 **Offertory Prayers** Hymn 41 v 2 & 3

**Sanctus & Mystery of Faith** - Sanctus setting

**Blessed and Praised be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in Excelsis!**

**Agnus Dei** - Sanctus setting.

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

**Lord's Prayer** **Agnus Dei** Sanctus setting

**Hymns at Communion:** *As the deer pants for the water, 231*

**Post Communion Hymn: 179**

**Post Communion Prayer** **Angelus** Notices **Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: 432**