

The Gospel according to Matthew (iv)

THOUGH Jesus speaks harshly about the Pharisees in the Sermon on the Mount, his judgment is not solely a condemnation of them. The Pharisees are portrayed as a negative example for his disciples, and his condemnation of those who claim to belong to him while disobeying his word is no less severe (Mt 7:21–23, 26–27).

In Mt 4:23 a summary statement of Jesus' activity speaks not only of his teaching and proclaiming the gospel but of his "curing every disease and illness among the people"; this is repeated almost verbatim in Mt 9:35. The narrative section that follows the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 8:1–9:38) is composed principally of accounts of those merciful deeds of Jesus, but it is far from being simply a collection of stories about miraculous cures. The nature of the community that Jesus will establish is shown; it will always be under the protection of him whose power can deal with all dangers (Mt 8:23–27), but it is only for those who are prepared to follow him at whatever cost (Mt 8:16–22), not only believing Israelites but Gentiles who have come to faith in him (Mt 8:10–12). The disciples begin to have some insight, however imperfect, into the mystery of Jesus' person. They wonder about him whom "the winds and the sea obey" (Mt 8:27), and they witness his bold declaration of the forgiveness of the paralytic's sins (Mt 9:2). That episode of the narrative moves on two levels. When the crowd sees the cure that testifies to the authority of Jesus, the Son of Man, to forgive sins (Mt 9:6), they glorify God "who had given such authority to human beings" (Mt 9:8). The forgiveness of sins is now not the prerogative of Jesus alone but of "human beings," that is, of the disciples who constitute the community of Jesus, the church. The ecclesial character of this narrative section could hardly be more plainly indicated.

The end of the section prepares for the discourse on the church's mission (Mt 10:5–42). Jesus is moved to pity at the sight of the crowds who are like sheep without a shepherd (Mt 9:36), and he sends out the twelve disciples to make the proclamation with which his own ministry began, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 10:7; cf. Mt 4:17), and to drive out demons and cure the sick as he has done (Mt 10:1). Their mission is limited to Israel (Mt 10:5–6) as Jesus' own was (Mt 15:24), yet in Mt 15:16 that perspective broadens and the discourse begins to speak of the mission that the disciples will have after the resurrection and of the severe persecution that will attend it (Mt 10:18). Again, the discourse moves on two levels: that of the time of Jesus and that of the time of the church.

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Sunday 29th January	Sundays: Year A, Weekday: Week 4 (I), FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's	Divine Office: Week 4 [GREEN] FM Elizabeth Eyston 1952 Pro populo
Monday 30th January	<i>Feria</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[green] FM Sir William Weston 1937
Tuesday 31st January	<i>Feria</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[green] Private Intention
Wednesday 1st February	St John Bosco, Founder Adoration: 11.45am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[white] FM Edward Woods 1937
Thursday 2nd February	The Presentation of the Lord [Candlemas] No Mass at 9.15am St Mary's Adoration: 1.15pm (for St Amand's School) Kandlemas for Kids: 6.30pm Mass: 7pm St Mary's	[white] FM Bridget Woods 1937
Friday 3rd February	<i>St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr</i> Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House	[red] Holy Souls
Saturday 4th February	Our Lady St Mary on Saturday Mass: 9.30am St Mary's	[white] FM Fanny Gorton 1937
Sunday 5th February	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's	Divine Office: Week 1 [GREEN] Pro populo Pro populo

Confessions: Sunday 8.45am or by appointment

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CANDLEMAS (2nd February)

Kandlemass for Kids, 6.30pm in St Mary's, followed by **Mass at 7pm**, and **St Mary's Social Supper at 8pm** in the Wheatsheaf. Come along for the ceremonies, arrive just for Mass or join us for supper at **The Wheatsheaf**. Signing up sheet in the porch.

ST EDMUND'S YOUTH GROUP - SATURDAY (4th February)

8-10 yr olds from 1.30-2.30 pm.

11-12 & 13-14 yr olds from 3-4.30pm

15+ from 5-7pm

For more information please contact Melanie at leader.tipa@gmail.com

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next two meetings are at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, **February 7th** and **March 7th** in the parish rooms. At our February meeting we will be using the gospel of Luke, chapter 24, - the last chapter - to read, discuss and pray together. All welcome.

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK!

Calling all young people! Please come and join the celebration as we launch the new youth group in North Hinksey! On **Sunday 5th February** there will be a Mass of thanksgiving at **4:15pm** at **Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church in Oxford** (Yarnells Hill, OX2, 9BD), followed by refreshments in the Rosary Room. This will be followed by a talk on the relationship between **Science and Catholicism** for all teenagers and young adults (14-25) in the pastoral area and their friends, from **5:30-6:30pm**. For more information please contact **Melanie**.

DOMESTIC CHURCH: (3) FASTING AND FEASTING

Though children, non-Catholics, and the elderly are excused the duties of fasting and abstinence from meat, it is an excellent idea for households to observe the gentle rhythms of fasting and feasting. A vegetarian Wednesday and fish on Friday bring rhythm and shape to the week, even if nowadays the third fasting day of ancient times —Saturday - has turned into part of the weekend's feasting. As for feasting, few need to be encouraged to eat and drink special things, but there is a lot to be said for keeping the special meals for Sundays, feast days, and notable family dates. Maybe these are the days for ice cream and cake, a bottle of wine or a meal out.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday collection raised a total of £950.41 of which 78% was Gift Aided.

FUTURE COLLECTIONS

Sunday 12th February: Catholic Education Service

Sunday 26th March: Clergy Assistance Fund



NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**



BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

We remember in our prayers *Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Diana Tuson, Mary Wallace, Des McNichol, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam and Jenny Ayres.* Names remain for four weeks. Please request further inclusion.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Elizabeth Eyston, Agnes Mary Eyston, Patricia Turner Bridger, Frances Rivers, Helen Patterson, Edwin Brown, Laurence Lodge, Dame Teresa Rodrigues, Catherine Harris, Lady Agnes Eyston and Thomas Hogan.*



WALKING THE CAMINO

From Reading, **13th – 20th September 2017**. Flight: Stanstead – Santiago. 30+ people: For new & former walkers, 20 – 25km per day. Thousands of people do this walk every year, the most famous pilgrimage after Jerusalem & Rome. Info evening on **Thursday 9th February** in St James RG1 3FD at 7.30pm.

HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION

Please pray for Christian Unity "*that all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity*".

DIOCESAN INTENTIONS - PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Fr Anthony Glaysher who is recovering from surgery and for all clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese who are sick.

Archbishop Cornelius, the clergy and people of our twin diocese of Bamenda following recent outbreak of violence and unrest and the City of Bamenda and for all who have been killed or injured.

Peace in the world and for those who govern the nations that they may do so wisely and justly.

All those suffering in the world through hunger and disease and natural disaster.

Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life and for all currently discerning their vocation.

The sick clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese.

All the faithful departed, for deceased clergy and people of the Diocese, for those recently departed, especially as a result warfare, violence, terrorism and persecution.

The work of all Evangelisation Strategy Teams across our Diocese.

The success of the Convocation of Clergy to be held next Summer.

All the faithful of the Diocese that they may share their time and talents for the good of the Church and discern how God is calling them in a particular way to be more intentional disciples.



A VOTIVE STAND FOR OUR LADY

We could save £100 on this stand before the end of January. Please have a word with Fr Andrew or with Maria if you would like to contribute. The normal price is £516.10 (plus VAT)