

The Gospel according to Matthew (v)

THE narrative section of the third book (Mt 11:2–12:50) deals with the growing opposition to Jesus. Hostility toward him has already been manifested (Mt 8:10; 9:3, 10–13, 34), but here it becomes more intense. The rejection of Jesus comes, as before, from Pharisees, who take “counsel against him to put him to death” (Mt 12:14) and repeat their earlier accusation that he drives out demons because he is in league with demonic power (Mt 12:22–24). But they are not alone in their rejection. Jesus complains of the lack of faith of “this generation” of Israelites (Mt 11:16–19) and reproaches the towns “where most of his mighty deeds had been done” for not heeding his call to repentance (Mt 11:20–24). This dark picture is relieved by Jesus’ praise of the Father who has enabled “the childlike” to accept him (Mt 11:25–27), but on the whole the story is one of opposition to his word and blindness to the meaning of his deeds. The whole section ends with his declaring that not even the most intimate blood relationship with him counts for anything; his only true relatives are those who do the will of his heavenly Father (Mt 12:48–50).

The narrative of rejection leads up to the parable discourse (Mt 13:3–52). The reason given for Jesus’ speaking to the crowds in parables is that they have hardened themselves against his clear teaching, unlike the disciples to whom knowledge of “the mysteries of the kingdom has been granted” (Mt 13:10–16). In Mt 13:36 he dismisses the crowds and continues the discourse to his disciples alone, who claim, at the end, to have understood all that he has said (Mt 13:51). But, lest the impression be given that the church of Jesus is made up only of true disciples, the explanation of the parable of the weeds among the wheat (Mt 13:37–43), as well as the parable of the net thrown into the sea “which collects fish of every kind” (Mt 13:47–49), shows that it is composed of both the righteous and the wicked, and that separation between the two will be made only at the time of the final judgment.



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|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 5th February | Sundays: Year A, Weekday: Week 5 (I), Divine Office: Week 1 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [GREEN] Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Eileen Herdsman (Lynn Wood) Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s Pro populo |
| Monday 6th February | St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs [red] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s Sick & Housebound |
| Tuesday 7th February | Feria [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s FM Charles Gorton 1937 |
| Wednesday 8th February | St Josephine Bakhita, Religious [white] Adoration: 11.45am St Mary’s Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s FM Edward Monk 1966 Finance Committee Meeting 7.30pm, Holy Family Room |
| Thursday 9th February | Feria [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s FM Louisa Goddard 1967 |
| Friday 10th February | St Scholastica, Virgin [white] Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Holy Souls Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House |
| Saturday 11th February | Our Lady of Lourdes [white] No Mass at St Mary’s. 9.30am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot |
| Sunday 12th February | SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Divine Office: Week 2 [GREEN] Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Pro populo Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s Pro populo |
| | Confessions: Sunday 8.45am or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk |

THANKS

Many thanks to the East Hendred Consolidated Catholic Charities Trust for the replacement of the lamp-post, gates, and notice-board at St Mary's. There will be work too on the wood of the archway. We are very grateful to Stuart for his craftsmanship.

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.

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday 20th February at 8.00pm** in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. Contact Gillian Groeger for more information gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

VOTIVE CANDLESTAND

There is a second collection today (5th February) to raise the remaining money for the new Votive Candlestand. Thank you for your generosity.



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.

DOMESTIC CHURCH: (4) SUNDAY MASS

A Catholic family will usually want to be together, Sunday by Sunday, for Mass. Sometimes the family goes to Mass in shifts—freeing up one or other parent quietly to worship or as a way of coping with the uneven habits of babies and small children. When one of the parents is not a Catholic, he or she might prefer to stay at home and do some child-minding. It may help organise the busy modern weekend to alternate between St Mary's at 9.30am and St Patrick's at 11.15am or to go to Didcot, Abingdon, or Wantage. A conversation over lunch, perhaps on the themes of the readings or homily, may often be a good thing to do.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday collection raised a total of £939.48 of which 79% 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, Jenny Ayres and Jadryga Adasko*. 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: *James Goodhall, William Howard, Elizabeth Ellamery, James Stanley Hogan, James Herd, Tamsie Castle, Peter Mulford, Adrian Fortescue and Agnes Smith*.

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK!

Today (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**.

CONSECRATION OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH

The Consecration of the church is one of the most important events in its lifetime. Fifty years ago, Bishop Warlock came to English Martyrs in Didcot and blessed the church, but because it was not fully paid for, it could not be consecrated at the time. We are really pleased that Bishop Philip is going to visit Didcot on the anniversary of English Martyrs' blessing, to actually consecrate the church. This is going to be on **Saturday 18th February at 12 noon**. We hope that many people will be able to attend in order to make this a wonderful celebration.

HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION - COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

DIOCESAN INTENTIONS - PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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.