

The Gospel according to Matthew (vii)

THE narrative of the fifth book (Mt 19:1–23:39) begins with the departure of Jesus and his disciples from Galilee for Jerusalem. In the course of their journey Jesus for the third time predicts the passion that awaits him at Jerusalem and also his resurrection (Mt 20:17–19). At his entrance into the city he is hailed as the Son of David by the crowds accompanying him (Mt 21:9). He cleanses the temple (Mt 21:12–17), and in the few days of his Jerusalem ministry he engages in a series of controversies with the Jewish religious leaders (Mt 21:23–27; 22:15–22, 23–33, 34–40, 41–46), meanwhile speaking parables against them (Mt 21:28–32, 33–46), against all those Israelites who have rejected God’s invitation to the messianic banquet (Mt 22:1–10), and against all, Jew and Gentile, who have accepted but have shown themselves unworthy of it (Mt 22:11–14). Once again, the perspective of the evangelist includes not only the time of Jesus’ ministry but that of the preaching of the gospel after his resurrection. The narrative culminates in Jesus’ denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees, reflecting not only his own opposition to them but that of Matthew’s church (Mt 23:1–36), and in Jesus’ lament over Jerusalem (Mt 23:37–39).

In the discourse of the fifth book (Mt 24:1–25:46), the last of the great structural discourses..., Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple and his own final coming. The time of the latter is unknown (Mt 24:36, 44), and the disciples are exhorted in various parables to live in readiness for it, a readiness that entails faithful attention to the duties of the interim period (Mt 24:45–25:30). The coming of Jesus will bring with it the great judgment by which the everlasting destiny of all will be determined (Mt 25:31–46).

The story of Jesus’ passion and resurrection (Mt 26:1–28:20), the climax of the gospel, throws light on all that has preceded. In Matthew “righteousness” means both the faithful response to the will of God demanded of all to whom that will is announced and also the saving activity of God for his people (see Mt 3:15; 5:6; 6:33). The passion supremely exemplifies both meanings of that central Matthean word. In Jesus’ absolute faithfulness to the Father’s will that he drink the cup of suffering (Mt 26:39), the incomparable model for Christian obedience is given; in his death “for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt 26:28), the saving power of God is manifested as never before. © *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*



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Sunday 19th February	Sundays: Year A, Weekday: Week 7 (I), SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s <i>Patrick & Eithne Naughton [40th Wedding Anniversary]</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s	Divine Office: Week 3 [SEXAGESIMA]
Monday 20th February	<i>Feria</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[green] <i>Sick & Housebound</i>
Tuesday 21st February	<i>Feria</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[green] <i>The Naughton Family [Annie Furlong]</i>
Wednesday 22nd February	The Chair of St Peter Adoration: 11.45am St Mary’s Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s	[white] <i>Isabelle Langley [Annie Furlong]</i>
Thursday 23rd February	St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[red] <i>FM Edward Woods 1937</i>
Friday 24th February	<i>Feria</i> Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House	[green] <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 25th February	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i> No Mass at St Mary’s. 9.30am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot	[white]
Sunday 26th February	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s	Divine Office: Week 4 [QUINQUAGESIMA] <i>Pro populo</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
Confessions: Sunday 8.45am or by appointment		
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THE -GESIMA SUNDAYS

The three Sundays before Lent, since the fourteenth century, are sometimes known as 'Septuagesima' (70 days), 'Sexagesima' (60 days), and 'Quinquagesima' (50 days). The arithmetic is terrible but the sense of a 'little Lent' or 'pre-Lent' period is very helpful, as we prepare for Lent to begin on Ash Wednesday. The origin of this longer period is that, in the East, there were five Lenten fast days each week (Monday to Friday) but, in the mediaeval West, there were six (Monday to Saturday). To fit in 40 fast days before Easter, the West settled on counting from Ash Wednesday but the East, preserving an earlier practice, had to start earlier. We still maintain the daily fast—giving up something for Lent—but the formal fast days are now just Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

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

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets again on **Friday (24th February)**, in the Parish Rooms at 6:30pm. We will be going swimming and returning to the Parish Rooms at about 9pm. Permission forms need to be filled in. Please see Veronica if you have not got one of these. Thanks

40 HOURS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN NEWMAN'S CHAPEL LITTLEMORE

Starting on **Friday (24th February)** with Mass at 9am followed by exposition until 9pm. Then on Saturday and Sunday exposition from 7am until 9pm. See poster in porch for more details.

DOMESTIC CHURCH: (6)

Prayers at Night. It is quite usual for a mum or dad to be with a child for prayers at bedtime. With very little children the list can be a bit of a formula: 'God bless' everyone from mum down to the hamster. The challenge is to open up this formula with some of the concerns a family or child may have and for the prayers to be not just one adult + one child but parents and children together. Prayers at night can be in the sitting room: they don't have to be at the bedside. Thanking God for the day and thinking of—and saying sorry for—the things that have gone wrong are part of the task in hand. It is also the time to include the set prayers—Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be—so they become very familiar.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last two Sunday's collection raised a total of £860.95 and £801.5 of which 84% and 83% was Gift Aided. £365.53 was collected for the Votive Candlestand. May God bless you for your generosity.

FUTURE COLLECTIONS

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 McNicol, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jenny Ayres and Jadvyga 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: *Charles John Eyston, Margaret Mary Bishop, Harry James Ballard, Joseph Purcell, Fanny Shanks, Charles Eyston, Donato Giacomina and Arthur Robert Langley*.

GATHERING IN CHRIST

We are a small ecumenical lay group that meets monthly to pray and study a piece of the Bible. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 7th March** 7.30pm in the parish rooms. This gathering would be a very opportune time to join us in that we are embarking on a new project. We are planning to study the life of David and we will start at 1 Samuel Chap.16. Then work our way through the rest of 1 Samuel and move to 2 Samuel. You will be very welcome and we start with coffee and biscuits at about 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm. start. The normal finishing time is about 8.30 - 8.45pm.

SUMMER CAMP FOR BOYS

This year Fr Mark Hogan will again be leading a camp for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury, from **Sunday 23rd to Saturday 29th July**. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. Please contact dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.