

NEWSLETTER 20th September 2020

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Join our Facebook group: St Teresa's Parish Community Princes Risborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Lijo Jose MSFS

Deacon: Sean Duffy (343705)

Safeguarding Representative - Phil Hughes (345006)

My dear parishioners

As I write this newsletter, I am very much aware that there are many more cases of Covid 19 in the world and in England. I hope the new 'rule of six' to limit gatherings to six people indoors and outdoors is not proving too difficult for you. Of course, our churches can still remain open for mass for more than six people, but the strict Covid 19 requirements must remain in place. Thank you all again for your cooperation and support in adhering to what is requested of us.

Sunday is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the Gospel is the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard from Matthew's gospel - 20:1-16. Sometimes it can seem to be a difficult parable to understand. Common sense tells us that those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. And the landowner has after all acted justly because each person is paid on the terms that were negotiated. He may seem over generous to us, a bit silly perhaps to pay out all that money to workers who have not done much.

So what does the parable mean? Well, to put it in a very simple but very meaningful way- God is like the landowner. His love is generous, extravagant. God gives his love, all of his love, to each one of us without exception. We just need open ourselves to receiving his love- we just need to open our hands to receive that love as the workers opened their hands to receive their pay.

God's love can't be measured or quantified. Sometimes it is us that find that a bit hard to take. Because we think in human terms, which are often a bit mean and judgmental. We might think ourselves a bit more deserving than others!! But God offers love abundantly and equally- his love is inexhaustible and it is not to be earned! I love to think of God's heart brimming over with love and kindness and compassion for each one of us. That love is pouring out, streaming out upon us like a beautiful waterfall- and there is no end to it.

Yes, sometimes we might move far away from this love, we might turn our backs on God, we might follow a wrong path but God is always waiting for us, waiting to shower that extravagant, inexhaustible love upon us. How comforting and consoling this is.

So let us take courage from this Sunday's gospel and never be afraid to turn to God and call on him. Let us rest secure in the knowledge that we are never alone and that we are loved with a love that is beyond anything we can ever dream of or imagine.

Have a lovely week and stay safe. I keep you all very much in my prayers. May God bless you.

Fr Lijo

Sponsored walk for Cafod: In order to support CAFOD, a group of parishioners are planning a sponsored walk of 85 kilometres. We will start the walk on September 21st and, hopefully, complete it on September 25th. If you would like to sponsor us in helping those suffering from extreme poverty and the pandemic, please go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/cecilia-sparkes-anne-harding>. Alternatively cash or cheques, in an envelope marked 'CAFOD' may be left at the presbytery. Thank you very much for all your support. Anne Harding

Churches Together Food Bank: Churches Together in Princes Risborough runs a food cupboard for families in need of help. Before the pandemic there were a regular 18 families in need of our support, now there are 80 families and the number may well rise. The food cupboard runs from St Mary's Church and they take donations of tinned and dried food, plus cleaning and personal hygiene products, at St Mary's Church Bell Tower on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 1pm. You will also find a trolley in Tesco store every day into which you can drop a donation if you are shopping there. If you are able to support this local effort the organisers will be truly grateful. Should you be able to volunteer help with packing donations please let the organisers at St Mary's know. Betty Cresswell

Bookings for Mass: Wednesday 23rd and Sat/Sun 26th/27th September 2020

General points: (Reminder: we only take bookings one week at a time)

Please do wear masks to Mass.

Please do not come to Mass if you have Covid-19 symptoms or are self-isolating because of contact with someone who has tested positive.

Please do book for any of the above Masses you would like to attend. In the event of over-subscription, 'new' bookers will take priority.

You will receive confirmation on the day specified below.

HOW TO BOOK

EACH TIME you book, please give: Full name(s) – individual, household or bubble; number of seats required; which Mass; and:

N.B. - *phone number... Please give your number each time. Thank you!

For Mass at 10am on Wednesday 23rd September:

Booking: opens 9am Saturday 19th September

: closes 9am Tuesday 22nd September

Confirmation: on Tuesday 22nd September by 6pm

Email: stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

For Masses: 6.30pm Saturday 26th or 8am or 10am Sunday 27th September:

Booking: opens 9am Monday 21st September

: closes 6pm Thursday 24th September

Confirmation: on Friday 25th September by 6pm

Email: stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301374 (or answerphone)