

The Gospel of St Matthew [Part Three]

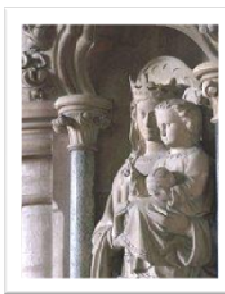
2020 is Year A, the Year of Matthew

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 19th January 2020	SUNDAY II[A] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's Mass: 6pm St Mary's	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 2 [green] Pro populo RIP Fr Sean Murphy 2005 FM Col. S.V Daughlish 1925
Monday 20 th January	<i>Feria: Of Week 2</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[green] FM Ada Daubenay 1953
Tuesday 21 st January	St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[red] RIP Sheila Shepherd
Wednesday 22 nd January	<i>St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr</i> Morning Prayer [Week 2]: 9am St Mary's [ecumenical] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[red] Private Intention
Thursday 23 th January	<i>Feria: Of Week 2</i> Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[green]
Friday 24 th January	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Chapel Adoration: 3pm Evening Prayer: 5pm St Augustine's [ecumenical]	[white]
Saturday 25 th January	The Conversion of St Paul Mass at English Martyrs', Didcot and St John Vianney Wantage	[white]
Sunday 26th January	SUNDAY III[A] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's Mass: 6pm St Mary's	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 3 [green] Pro populo
Confessions: 8.45am Sunday and after weekday Mass (St Mary's) and after 11.15am Sunday Mass (St Patrick's), or by appointment. www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk		

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

FR SEAN MURPHY

Of all the parish priests of East Hendred, none was more popular than Fr Sean Murphy. The fifteenth anniversary of his death is at this time and Bill Sheehan has organised a special mass **this Sunday (11am)**. This is in addition to our normal mass times. The celebrant will be Fr David O'Sullivan, parish priest of Wantage.

MUMS ON THE RUN

Next meeting is on **Monday (20th January)** at 8.15pm at 6 Castle Street, Steventon OX13 6SR. 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. Thanks for letting me know if you can or cannot attend. Please contact Amanda at physioamanda@btinternet.com

NEXT WEEKEND COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR CATHEDRAL

Envelopes are available for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Please give generously, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT LECTURE SERIES

'*The Contemplative School of Mary*' by Fr Denis Chardonnens, OCD on **Saturday 1st February** at the Carmelite Priory. For more info. please go to www.oxcacs.org.

CANDLEMAS (2nd February)

It is not often that the lovely feast of Candlemas falls on a Sunday. This year we shall have a candlelight Mass, sung by the Newman Consort, at 6pm. The morning masses will be said.

ST MARY'S FEAST

There will be a Candlemas Supper at the Wheatsheaf, Chapel Square, on **Monday 3rd February**, marking the end of the Christmas period. These are always enjoyable occasions: please sign up the list at church. We meet at 7pm and for 7.30pm and there is a *price fixe* for the menu—£10 per head—for a roast dinner and pudding. Excellent fare!

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday February 4th**, 7.30pm in the parish rooms.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection was £980.92 of which 85% was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

22nd March: Clergy Assistance Fund

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

Find us on   Like

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Jadryga Adasko, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol, Katherine Eyston.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently especially *Antonia Breakspear and Isabelle Langley* and those with anniversaries at this time: *Fr Sean Murphy, Edmond Joseph Mockler, Tamsie Mary Tonnor, Veronica Lineham, Edwin Harper, John Fisher, William Champ, Elsie Mulford, Gordon Tomlin, Francis Castle-Jack.*

HOLY FATHER'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION - We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of good will may promote peace and justice in the world.

KEEP IN TOUCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Bishop Phillip on Twitter. Follow the Diocese on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

READERS AND USHERS NEEDED FOR THE 6PM MASS

The 6pm Mass is a popular addition to the services at St Mary's. It would though benefit from some volunteers for reading and ushering. These are not onerous tasks, ushering just involves welcoming at the door, handing out service sheets, and gathering the collection. Reading is just the second reading at the 6pm Mass and the Alleluia. It would be good for these duties to be taken on by those not currently on any rotas, especially those who are candidates for confirmation and their families. If you would be able to volunteer please contact Richard Stone at richardandfiona@hotmail.com

PILGRIMAGES

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE ✘ April—October 2020: 7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel 01 4434510 or email reservations@medirishcentre.com

LOURDES ✘ Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Bishop Philip from **15 -19 July 2020**. Cost £695 per person sharing. Call Sue on 07780 221686 or email her at lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Volunteer should also contact Sue, a Youth pilgrim is £545 pp and rooms are shared with three others.

SOUTHERN ITALY & PADRE PIO ✘ Father Des Connolly, will be leading a pilgrimage to Southern Italy from **Sunday 16 - Friday 21 August 2020**. For more information please call Gill from Tangney Tours on 01732 886666.

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Please join us for a cup of coffee at St Mary's Parish Rooms. There is coffee after Mass at St Patrick's on the first Sunday of the month.