

The Gospel of St Matthew [Part Four]

2020 is Year A, the Year of Matthew

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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	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 3
Sunday 26th January 2020	SUNDAY III[A] Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s Mass: 6pm St Mary’s <i>[green]</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 27 th January	<i>Feria: Of Week 3</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s <i>[green]</i>
Tuesday 28 th January	St Thomas Aquinas, Religious, Doctor <i>[white]</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s
Wednesday 29 th January	<i>Feria: Of Week 3</i> Morning Prayer <i>[Week 3]</i> : 9am St Mary’s <i>[ecumenical]</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s <i>FM Hilda Balcombe 1953</i> <i>[green]</i>
Thursday 30 th January	<i>Feria: Of Week 2</i> Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s <i>FM Ada Daubenay 1953</i> <i>[green]</i>
Friday 31 st January	<i>St John Bosco, Founder</i> <i>No Mass in Hendred House Chapel</i> Funeral Mass: 11am St Mary’s <i>RIP Brian Mulford</i> <i>Adoration: 3pm</i> Evening Prayer: 5pm St Augustine’s <i>[ecumenical]</i> <i>[white]</i>
Saturday 1 st February	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i> <i>Mass at English Martyrs’, Didcot, and St John Vianney Wantage</i> <i>[white]</i>
Sunday 2 nd February	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 4 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (“CANDLEMAS”) <i>[white]</i> Mass (said): 9.30am St Mary’s <i>FM Elizabeth Eyston 1952</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s <i>Pro populo</i> Sung Mass and Ceremonies of the Day: 6pm St Mary’s
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

THIS WEEKEND COLLECTION IS 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.

Friday 31st January Please note that there is a Funeral Mass in St Mary's at 11am and no Mass at Hendred House.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT LECTURE SERIES

'*The Contemplative School of Mary*' by Fr Denis Chardonens, OCD on **Saturday 1st February** at the Carmelite Priory. Registrations at 9.30am, lecture 10am. Cost: £30 including refreshments. To reserve a place, 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 *prime fixe* for the menu—£10 per head—for a roast dinner and pudding. Excellent fare!

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me' are the words of the first verse of John's gospel, chapter 14; which chapter we shall be discussing and praying about at **our next meeting on Tuesday, February 4th**. In the same chapter, Jesus also says, 'I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.' We meet in the parish rooms from 7.30 to 8.30 – 9.00pm. All are welcome. Our **March meeting is Tuesday, 3rd**. For more information, contact Denis Smith; 01235 765564; djbm.smith@ntlworld.com.

KEEP IN TOUCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection was £1018.94 of which 77% was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

22nd March: Clergy Assistance Fund

Find us on   Like

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

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, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth

Gunn.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently especially: Brian Mulford and those with anniversaries at this time: *Albert Howard, Elizabeth Eyston, Agnes Mary Eyston, Patricia Tumer Bridger, Frances Rivers, Helen Jessie Patterson, Edwin Brown, Laurence Lodge, Dame Teresa Rodrigues.*

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.

WEEKEND RETREAT

The Carmelite Friars at Boars Hill are offering a weekend retreat for those involved in lay ministry in the diocese, **Friday 14th to Sunday 16th February**. The theme of the retreat is "Step aside - for the grace to be renewed and replenished in the Spirit". For further information please see poster in the porch.

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. It would be good for these duties to be taken on by 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.