



REFLECT

Matthew stresses that faith in Jesus can never be a purely private matter to be kept under wraps. This doesn't mean it is only preachers who give testimony to their faith in Jesus. When St Francis of Assisi was sending out his first friars to preach the good news, he told them "Preach the Gospel to every creature, using words if necessary."

Francis appreciated the importance of the witness of life, that everything we do and say is a witness to the Gospel. That witness can be as risky as the preached message. Confessing faith in Jesus publicly will earn the right to have him stand as our witness on the day of judgement. ■

Today's Gospel is part of Jesus' mission discourse. The disciples are given reasons why they should be confident as they set out on their mission. Twice they are told, "Do not be afraid." The first time, it is intended to inspire boldness in their preaching. The second time, it is to encourage the disciples to remain steadfast in the face of persecution.

A prominent feature of the Old Testament stories of the calling of prophets is the comforting words: "Do not fear." The preachers of Jesus' message take their place alongside the prophets of old. The message they are to deliver is a bold, public proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God. They may have received much of the substance of the message in private teaching from Jesus but the time has now arrived for them to proclaim that word publicly, even "from the rooftops". Many ancient religions claimed to have secret teaching that was only to be made known to those who had undergone lengthy rites of initiation. Christianity made no such claims. Its message was the Gospel, the good news of the coming reign of God, that was to be made known free of charge "to every creature", as Jesus would repeat in his final words after his resurrection.

But such public proclamation runs the risk of persecution and death. The call to confidence is supported by some sayings about God's provident care for the disciple. Mere earthly existence is not as valuable as the life of the soul. The one who has dominion over the life of both body and soul is the compassionate Father in heaven. Two comparisons of God's providence drive the point home. Sparrows, the smallest of birds, might appear to be of insignificant value but the Father keeps count even of them. By the same token, every hair on the human head has been counted and a human being is worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

The discussion of persecution introduces the theme of public witness. Declaring oneself for Jesus was part of Christian martyrdom. A disciple was a martyr because he or she had given public testimony for Jesus before the courts. The other side of martyrdom is that Jesus, the first witness, will in turn give evidence on behalf of the disciple in the heavenly court. The contrary is also true: a disciple who is so paralysed by fear that he or she publicly disowns Jesus will in turn be disowned by him before the heavenly court. ■

LEARN

"Persecutions are not a reality of the past, for today too we experience them, whether by the shedding of blood, as is the case with so many contemporary martyrs, or by more subtle means, by slander and lies. Jesus calls us blessed when people "utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account". At other times, persecution can take the form of gibes that try to caricature our faith and make us seem ridiculous." – Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*

DO

Think about how you witness to the Gospel every day, whether at work, school or at home. How good a witness are you?



PRAY

Jesus tells us that we have nothing to fear. God has counted every hair on our heads. God is as close to us as our very own heartbeat. Thank the Lord for the gift of his love. Ask God to deepen your faith and trust in him.

SAY

"Lord, do not allow me to abandon or deny you in times of difficulty. Give me the strength to always speak your word."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your
heritage,
and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your
holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your
love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
Jeremiah said:
I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends watched
for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 68

Response:
In your great love, answer me, O God.

- It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my
brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
- This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)
- The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their
chains.
Let the heavens and earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.
Sin entered the world through one man, and
through sin death, and thus death has spread
through the whole human race because
everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world
long before the Law was given. There was no
law and so no one could be accused of the
sin of "law-breaking", yet death reigned over
all from Adam to Moses, even though their
sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of
breaking a law.
Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall.
If it is certain that through one man's fall so
many died, it is even more certain that divine
grace, coming through the one man, Jesus
Christ, came to so many as an abundant free
gift.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
**The Word was made flesh and lived among
us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "Do
not be afraid. For everything that is now
covered will be uncovered, and everything
now hidden will be made clear. What I say to
you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you
hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-
tops.
"Do not be afraid of those who kill the
body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather
who can destroy both body and soul in hell.
Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny?
And yet not one falls to the ground without
your Father knowing. Why, every hair on
your head has been counted. So there is no
need to be afraid; you are worth more than
hundreds of sparrows.
"So if anyone declares himself for me in
the presence of men, I will declare myself for
him in the presence of my Father in heaven.
But the one who disowns me in the presence
of men, I will disown in the presence of my
Father in heaven."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH
**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**
**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.**
**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)
**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**
**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**
**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**
**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation
and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to
you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
**The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of
your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant
devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

.....
"To be connected with the church is to be
associated with scoundrels, warmongers,
fakes, child molesters, murderers, adulterers,
and hypocrites of every description. It also,
at the same time, identifies you with the saints
and the finest persons of heroic soul within
every time, country, race, and gender. To be a
member of the church is to carry the mantle
of both the worst sin and the finest heroism
of soul... because the church always looks
exactly as it looked at the original crucifixion,
God hung among thieves."
Ronald Rolheiser OMI



Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is closed until further notice. More information as we get it.

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN:

We have begun the phased opening of our church. Please be aware that this is a **phased opening** and will be reviewed week by week based on instructions from the Government and the Diocese. For now, here is what you need to know:

- The church is open for **private prayer only**, between **11.00am and 1.00pm from Monday to Friday**.
- The church will remain closed at weekends and on week days outside of these hours.
- To ensure that those who come in to pray can do so safely and with social distancing, a system has been put in place for seating and movement within the church. Special volunteer ushers will be there throughout, to guide you, and there will be notices clearly displayed.
- In the unlikely event that you may have to queue outside to get in, please maintain the 2 metre distance with other people not in your household.
- Those who are sick and those feel they are vulnerable are requested not to enter for now.
- Please note that the parish centre will remain closed, so there will be no access to toilet facilities.
- Thank you for being patient as we work through this phase.

GIVING: We now have a facility on our website to make donations to the parish. The purpose of this donation facility is to enable any sum received to be used for and by our parish for its upkeep and benefit of parishioners. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. The facility will enable one off or continual donations (with or without gift aid) to be made securely to our parish bank account. Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated. The donation button can be accessed on our website home page.

12th week of Ordinary Time

All these Masses are live streamed only

Sunday 21 June

10.15am Mass (Ron Moss, RIP)

Monday 22 June (Ss John Fisher & Thomas More)

9am Mass (Michael & Mary Haughton, RIP)

Tuesday 23 June

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area for other masses

Wednesday 24 June (Nativity of St John the Baptist)

7pm Mass (Celia Edwards & Celia Jones, RIP)

Thursday 25 June

9.30am Mass (Wallace Ellwood, RIP)

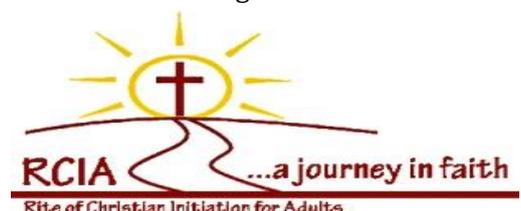
Friday 26 June

7pm Mass (Jan Staniland, RIP)

Saturday 27 June

9am Mass (Kitty Murphy, RIP)

RCIA: The RCIA in Abingdon is there to help those adults who are thinking of becoming a Catholic or who are baptised Catholics but who have missed Holy Communion or Confirmation. There is an online meeting on **Monday 22nd June at 7pm**, when you can have an informal discussion and find out more about how we welcome people into the Catholic Church. Please contact pehanley@hotmail.com for further details and the meeting link.



CAFOD:

The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works, are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal. Please also sign the CAFOD Petition to the Prime Minister which urges the cancellation of debt for the poorest countries and sharing of a vaccine when it is developed. <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

BIBLE ALIVE: The **July** edition of this useful booklet that can help you to focus on the daily Mass readings, is now available. If you would like a copy put through your letterbox - or know somebody who would - please email your name and address to: contact@ourladyandstedmud.org.uk - or if you have no access to email, leave a message on the parish office phone.

WORKING AND PRAYING TOGETHER:

- **Praying the Rosary** together will **continue every day during the month of June, at 8pm**. For information on how you can join in, whenever you can and would like to, please email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
- **Mothers' Prayers** continues through video conferencing or social networking. Email clare@claresimpson.com if you would like to join in. For **Mothers' Prayers in Spanish** on Mondays at 11.30am, please email mamakolb@gmail.com
- The friendly **Cake and Conversation** group for those whose first language is not English has been continuing to meet via Zoom each Wednesday while the Parish Centre is closed. If you would like further information about the group please phone Anne on 525997, Angela on 532296 or email abingdoncakeandconversation@gmail.com



CELEBRATE: Celebrate are organising a wonderful, uplifting Catholic family conference online from **27th to 28th June**. There is something suitable at different times of the day for the whole family - whatever the age. You can find out more and join the conference by simply following this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Celebratecommunity/>

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS: Please read this on the News page of our website - and included in hard copy for those who do not have the Internet.

Parish Events for the Week

NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Future Diary Dates

No events at the moment.

Youth Events

YOUTH GROUPS

The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.

WE PRAY FOR:

The repose of the souls of:

- Anthony William Holden
- Mary Leen
- Mary Whittington
- Vi Mackay
- Annette Mott
- Sean McCaffrey
- Kathleen Boyle



We also pray for the families of the recently deceased

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for our Catholic Faith, for mission, outreach and service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church.

May Mary Immaculate help us. May St Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen.

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do though, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

FAITH ENRICHMENT: There are a number of events and programmes on offer - necessarily online at this point in time. It is impossible to include them all here, but if you are able to visit the *News* page on our website, then you can find out more and have access to the details.