



## IT'S NOT FAIR! (MATTHEW 20:1-16)

Today's Gospel passage tells of the workers in the vineyard who are hired at different times of the day, and so put in unequal amounts of work.

At the end of the day, the foreman is told to pay the wages in reverse order to the time when the labourers were employed, thus setting up the ones engaged at the beginning of the day to expect a higher rate of pay. Most people probably feel some sympathy with their indignant reaction on discovering that everyone receives the same remuneration.

Perhaps we might consider another point of view: that of the owner. It is not the fault of the workers that they found no employment until the final hour before dusk. They have indeed been "standing here idle all day", not because they were unwilling to work, but as they tell the landowner, it is "because no one has hired us". They also have families to feed, their needs are just as great as those of the others, who were probably younger and fitter and so chosen first. The owner sees their willingness to work, but also their need, and responds to that. In justice, the ones hired earlier have nothing to complain about because they receive the amount to which they agreed: their fault lies in criticising the owner for his generosity, and perhaps not appreciating the desperate situation and anxiety of those who were earlier passed over by all those who could have helped them with a day's employment. ■

### REFLECT

In certain parts of the world today, the setting of this parable is acted out daily. Gangs of people gather at a pick-up point, a lorry arrives, and those engaged clamber aboard and are driven to a building site, roadworks or some agricultural place of work. Such people have no assured employment, therefore no certain pay, but they do have family responsibilities.

Translated into religious terms, we can see that there is a lesson here. It is tempting for a person to think that having been a practising Christian for a long time entitles them to some sort of special recognition. But the Gospel teaching is of our expectations being reversed; that God does not think as we do. The parable is concerned with the attitude of the owner. It is a trap: we instinctively, perhaps, side with those individuals who have borne the heat of the day and are annoyed that the most recent arrivals receive the same pay as they do. But the ones who come later are not "shirkers": they just were not given the same chances as the others. The Gospels show Jesus as being concerned with such people, those on the margins, who are written off by those who are socially and religiously respectable. But the master (God) does not write off this latter group either: rather he appeals to them to change their attitude, to see the others' situation from a different point of view. God's mercy extends to all, and there are no degrees of mercy. ■

### DO

Make the sign of the cross with holy water: ask the Lord for the grace to see others as God sees them.



### LEARN

The workers hired later are not "shirkers": they have been available all day; it is not their fault that no one has offered them work.

A theme throughout the Gospel tradition is that of reversal, for instance, "the last will be first and the first, last".

To be a disciple of Jesus is more important than the length of time that a person has been one.

### SAY

**With the Lord there is mercy, and plentiful redemption**

(Psalm 130:7)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress,  
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**GLORIA**

Lord to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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**

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 144

Response:

The Lord is close to all who call him.

- I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
- The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

- The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

**SECOND READING** *Philippians 1:20-24,27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes,  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, 'You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.' So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'Because no one has hired us' they answered. He said to them, 'You go into my vineyard too.' In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.' So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. 'The men who came last' they said 'have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat.' He answered one of them and said, 'My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."

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 with favour, O Lord, we pray,  
the offerings of your people,  
that what they profess with devotion and faith  
may be theirs through these heavenly  
mysteries.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You have laid down your precepts to be  
carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your  
statutes.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Graciously raise up, O Lord,  
those you renew with this Sacrament,  
that we may come to possess your  
redemption  
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

.....  
If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at  
the church door, you will not find him in the  
chalice.

*St John Chrysostom*

# ***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: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: [abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

*We live stream all services*

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](http://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](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CONFESSIONS:** For now, this is by appointment only.  
Please contact the parish office to make a booking.

## **PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church will be open for **private prayer only**,  
between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

## **MASS BOOKINGS**

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.** should be made on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

- Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between **10am and 11am each Monday** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. **There is no recorded answering message system**. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
- Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **each Monday**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.
- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that there are currently only **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am and the other at 6.30pm**.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help.

## **25<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time**

***In Church for those who booked, and also live streamed***

### **Sunday 20 September**

10.15am Mass (Edna Harrold, RIP)  
1.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass (David Graham, RIP)

### **Monday 21 September (St Matthew)**

9am Mass (Gomes family intentions)

### **Tuesday 22 September**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

### **Wednesday 23 September (St Pio of Pietrelcina)**

7pm Mass (Special intention)

### **Thursday 24 September (Our Lady of Walsingham)**

9.30am Mass (Theresa Brett, RIP)

### **Friday 25 September**

7pm NO Mass for parishioners due to Confirmation

### **Saturday 26 September**

12pm Mass (Katie & Ernie Bell – 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary)

## **FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER MASS**

Please note, that due to a Confirmation service, there will be no Mass for parishioners on this date.

## **HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

### **No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY**  
to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. **Instead, email:**  
**[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)**  
**EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week**

## NEWSLETTER:

We currently cannot provide the newsletter in church. Please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website, or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time.

## YOUR PARISH STILL NEEDS YOU!

The parish still *really* needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**

## BIODIVERSITY

The focus this Sunday is on the importance of biodiversity, which Pope Francis explores in the first chapter of *Laudato Si'* - the Care of our Common Home. ***Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another.*** (42) The Creation Prayer Walk round the centre of Abingdon and the Season of Creation Calendar are both still available on the News section of the parish website.



## 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 today 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.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:

This has been a very difficult year for so many. We have some photos of those members of our parish who have sadly died since March and these you can see on your left as you enter church. However, the extraordinary circumstances mean that not all the contact details of the next of kin are available to offer condolences on behalf of the parish. If your loved one's photo is not there and you would like it to be, please send or drop in, a small photo to the parish office and I will add it in. If you would like a call please let me know via the parish office and I will be in touch. God bless. Sue Richards.

**Please pray for the young people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Also keep in your prayers the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist on 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

## 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.*

## RCIA SESSIONS:

You might wish to find out more about Jesus. Or perhaps you want to receive Baptism, or become a Catholic. Or maybe you are a Catholic but not Confirmed? We can help you on this faith journey. **RCIA sessions began on 15<sup>th</sup> September** online using Zoom. For more details and joining information, contact Pauline: **07506 753085** or email: **pehanley@hotmail.com**

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

This course takes place on **Mondays** from **6.30pm to 7.30pm** online using Zoom. It is open to anybody interested in growing their faith and is suitable for those who have completed the RCIA course as well. The format is one of discussion, sometimes watching a short video, and generally spending a little contemplative time together. For information and details, email: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk**

## LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

Fr Thomas, who sadly can't be with us in person this year, sends his blessings to all parishioners and would appreciate you viewing a short new video of his work, which is now available on the News page on the parish website. The Covid crisis has hit Tamil Nadu hard and has severely stretched his resources, and in his absence to make an appeal for funds, asks for our usual generosity in supporting his work in caring for the dying destitute. Donations can be made via the LftB web site - **lightfortheblind.org.uk** or by contacting our treasurer Mark Wilkins, 1 Highgate Croft, Keighley, BD20 8JQ. Tel: 0782 443 1217. Many thanks and God Bless.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

On **Monday 28th September**, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed as last year this country saw the highest number of abortions ever. For details of our live saving work see **www.GoodCounselNetwork.com**