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### **News from the Parish – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Today's gospel (Matthew 15; (10-20) 21-28) has an optional extra piece to read (verses 10-20) and within this (verse 15) Peter asks Jesus to explain a parable to them. Jesus' response is "*Are you still so dull?*" (the King James' version is slightly politer : "*Are ye also yet without understanding?*", whilst another translation has : "*Don't any of you know by now what I am talking about?*"). You sense a degree of frustration in his response.

Once again it seems that poor Peter is the stooge to allow Jesus to explain the parable (you'll have to read it to get the explanation). Mind you, I know that a number of my school teachers would have made much the same comment about me!

It can, for us, seem incredible that the disciples were so slow on the uptake. They were there at the time, seeing the miracles, hearing the parables and receiving the teaching – directly from Jesus – and yet they still struggled to fully understand.

In a strange way this is comforting, for when we may have doubts, for we are not alone. Thomas will forever be known as "Doubting" Thomas and, at one time or another, all the disciples had their doubts and uncertainties.

What is encouraging is that, millennia later, whilst we may still have doubts, the teachings of Jesus still continue, as does our faith.



## Church services

The services for this Sunday (9th August) will be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Holy Communion
9.00	St Mark's	Jubilate Communion
10.00	St Margaret's	<u>Said</u> Mattins
11.15	St Mary's	Parish Mass

There will be a Walsingham Cell Mass at St Mary's on Wednesday 12th (see below) and a Thursday communion at St Margaret's at 10.00 am.

We continue to welcome back, where they are comfortable, those who have been shielding and are now able to return to a more normal routine. They will still need to be cautious and take especial care with their precautions – please respect this.

You will be aware that, from this week-end, face masks are required to be worn in places of worship. This is in addition to maintaining social distance, hygiene and keeping a record of who has attended. We appreciate that a face mask for a whole service may be uncomfortable, but those are the rules and we need to keep each other safe. You may wish to bring your own water and St Mary's has temporarily ceased the use of incense to make things a bit easier.

The services for the following Sunday (16<sup>th</sup> August) will be :

8.00	St Margaret's	Holy Communion
9.00	St Mark's	Family Service
11.00	St Mary's	Patronal Mass (see below)

There will be a Thursday communion at St Margaret's at 10.00 am.

## Tea Party – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

As you receive this newsletter, preparations will be in full swing for the Tea Party being given by Marion and Anthony Myers, in their garden in Maresfield. This is to help raise some funds for the Parish but, more importantly, allow for some social contact (in a safe setting).

Thanks to those who have booked in for their tea, and for those making cakes and helping. It was getting a bit tense, but a number of bookings this week (despite the forecast of hot weather) have meant that it is going ahead



## **Walsingham Cell Mass – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

This service will be a Requiem Mass for Nigel Field, who was a member of the cell. All who knew him are invited to attend. The service starts at 10.30.

## **St Mary's Patronal Service – 16<sup>th</sup> August**

St Mary's Patronal service will take place on 16th August, **starting at 11.00** (earlier than usual) but due to space restrictions at St Mary's it will not be the united service for the parish that is the norm, where we gather as one congregation. There will be a service at each of the other two churches (8.00 at St Margaret's and 9.00 at St Mark's – there will be **no** 10.00 at St Margaret's)

Those who wish to attend St Mary's are invited to join them, but please contact Colin Woolgrove ([colinhwoolgrove@aol.com](mailto:colinhwoolgrove@aol.com)) so that he can keep a record of numbers.

## **Readings for this Sunday**

Genesis 45: 1-15

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

Psalm 85: 8-13

## **Prayers**

In our prayers this week we bring to mind Norman Longley, in hospital after a fall, and all those known to us.

*God heard Peter's cry for help and lifted him out of danger . May the Lord now hear our voices as we bring our prayers to him.*

*For the Church, that any storms which threaten its unity may be calmed; and that all that limits its witness may be removed, by the powerful presence of the Lord.*

*For the world; that peace may come through justice, and that forgiveness may lead to reconciliation.*





PARISH OF BUXTED & HADLOW DOWN  
ST. MARGARET THE QUEEN • ST. MARY THE VIRGIN • ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

*For those who feel overwhelmed by life's problems: for the sick and the lonely, the homeless and the poor, that through the lives of Christians they may be helped and renewed in hope.*

*For the dying and those who have died, that they may hear the Lord speaking word of encouragement and salvation, raising them to fullness of life.*

*God of all power, may we hear you in the silence and perceive you in your gentleness. May we never lose faith in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Providing support**

Fr David Milnes continues to provide spiritual support, by email and telephone, and we know that a number of you have appreciated this. His details are him at : [FRMILNES@aol.com](mailto:FRMILNES@aol.com) or 01825 830076 .

*But do you, or someone you know, want pastoral support of any kind? Or, alternatively, would you like to offer support; be it just a voice at the end of the telephone? Please let your churchwardens know.*

### **The Virtual Collection Plate**

Whilst there will be a collection plate at services (whose contents will be quarantined before counting and banking), however the guidance gives a clear preference for on-line giving.

If you are able to make a donation, then our bank details are :  
*HSBC Account: Parish of Buxted & Hadlow Down PCC A/C No: 11454064 Sort Code: 40-45-32. If you wish to gift aid then please ask for a form from the Treasurer ([treasurer@bhdchurches.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@bhdchurches.co.uk))*

Alternatively, the Planned Giving Scheme is where you can make a monthly direct debit and Gift Aid is automatically calculated. You can sign up by telephone (0333 002 1271) and all you will need are your bank details and the Parish name (Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down) and our PGS number (which is : 103080519).

Thank you, in advance.