

## ***St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church***

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### **Newsletter for the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Working for Christ**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Scriptures at Mass**

The prophet Amos is faithful to the task that God gave him, even as he is rejected by those to whom he is sent. (Amos 7:12-15)

We hear a hymn of thanksgiving to God for the great spiritual strength he gives us in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3-14)



from the *Maestà* by Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308

Jesus sends out the twelve apostles in pairs as his representatives. (Mark 6:7-13)

***Lord Jesus Christ, you promised always to give your Church shepherds. In faith, we know your promise cannot fail. Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, we pray you raise up sacred ministers from your holy people, that the sacrifice in which you give your body and blood may be daily renewed in the world until we come to that kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.***

### **First reading Amos 7:12-15**

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer;' get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,' Amos replied to Amaziah 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."'

### **Psalm**

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us  
your saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us  
your saving help.*

Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us  
your saving help.*

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps.

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us  
your saving help.*

### **Second reading Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.  
Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,  
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,  
determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ  
for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace,  
his free gift to us in the Beloved,  
in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.  
Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.  
He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,  
the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning  
to act upon when the times had run their course to the end:  
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head,  
everything in the heavens and everything on earth.  
And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning,  
under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will;  
chosen to be, for his greater glory,  
the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.  
Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your  
salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy  
Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those who  
God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;  
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel Mark 6:7-13** Jesus made a tour round the villages, teaching. Then he summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

**Clergy moves** Please pray for priests and parishes who are involved in moves this year. Bishop Philip has announced, amongst other, that Fr Leslie Adams will go in September to Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne and our own former parish Priest Fr Joe Gruskiewicz comes to St. Joseph's & St. Thomases' Churches, Havant and Emsworth. God bless everyone involved.



**Stella Maris** We take a collection for the work of this great organisation, formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea, this weekend, which includes Sea Sunday. Deacon Nick O'Neill is the Senior Chaplain for Stella Maris in the south of the country. Please show our positive, practical and generous support for all that he does. **Stella Maris** have asked Nick to attend the vigil Mass and two Sunday Masses at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. In a couple of weeks Deacon Nick will speak at our own Masses about his chaplaincy work.



For now we quote from **Stella Maris**: *Our chaplains and trained volunteer ship visitors help not only the seafarers and fishers in port or in centres, but also those in hospital, in prison, or in court. Our ministry leads us to stand alongside seafarers in times of trouble, wherever that takes us. All this good work is done on behalf of the Catholic church, through the kind and compassionate support of your parish and other parishes. Thank you for helping to make this possible, and thank you, in advance, for any financial and prayer support that you and your parish can kindly give this year.*

**The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver** will appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missionary Committee of England & Wales next weekend and will be grateful for your support.

**Please pray** for all those who are sick, bereft or in any particular need.

**Our Liturgies this week**  
**Prayer of the Church Week 3**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Our Lady on Saturday**



10 am Mass for all who work in our schools  
6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

**11<sup>th</sup> July, Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**Sea Sunday**

10 am Mass for all who work at sea  
11.30 am Mass for Connie, Poppie, Archie and Harry: First Holy Communion

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July, Feria**

10 am Mass Eileen & Peter Robson RIP (at the request of Marie Pitchford)

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, St Henry**

10 am Mass The intentions of Mrs S. Rhodes (at the request of Ron Snelling-Bowman)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, Feria**

10 am Mass Norah & Bill Petrie RIP (at the request of Carole & Brian Maddock)  
10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
The ashes of Norah Petrie RIP will be interred in the Memorial Garden after Mass

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, St Swithun**

10 am Mass Rosa RIP

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

10 am Mass for the intentions of all for whom the priest has promised to pray

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, St Bonaventure**

10 am Mass Peter Hall's continuing recovery  
6 pm Mass for the people of the Parish

**18<sup>th</sup> July, Sixteenth Sunday of the Year**

10 am Mass Kathy Farmer (at the request of Ron Snelling-Bowman)  
11.30 am Mass for the work of all Missionaries  
*The additional 11.30 am Mass continues until a review late in July.*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available during the half hour before Mass.

We livestream on Facebook and our website.

<http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>  <http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>

Thank you for helping us all by adhering to the requirements to wear a face-covering,  
to use sanitiser & to sit where our stewards & signs indicate.

**Papal Knighthood of the Order of St Gregory the Great Paul Concannon writes:** *I am delighted and honoured to be awarded a Papal Knighthood of the Order of St Gregory the Great. Or to be more accurate the Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great, although I won't be getting a horse! Established in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI, Papal Knighthoods are granted to lay people in recognition of service to their faith, community, or work of the Holy See on a local, national or international level. In my case it was due to my service in governance of Catholic schools. I first became a governor of our children's primary school, St Mary's in Northamptonshire 30 years ago and now have governance responsibility for 11 Catholic schools in Oxfordshire. I have also recently been appointed a Foundation Governor at our own primary school, St Thomas More, Havant. My nomination for this award was made by Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and I expect to receive the award at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham in October. I hope Canon Gerard will be able to join me and my family on this special occasion.*



Paul and Debra Concannon

**Right To Life UK** Catherine Robinson writes, after parishioners joined in an email campaign: *Diana Johnson MP has decided not to take to a vote her amendment that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth. Similarly, Rupa Huq MP has decided not to take to a vote her amendment that would have introduced a jail sentence of up to 2 years for offering support to women outside abortion clinic. This is an amazing victory. It appears that the abortion lobby realised that it was very likely that both amendments were going to be defeated and encouraged the MPs not to take these amendments to a vote. Thank you to the thousands of people who rallied over the weekend to get friends and family to email their MPs, who received more emails than they have ever received ahead of any abortion vote. In some cases, MPs received more emails on this issue than they had received on any other issue while in office.*

## **The Year of the Eucharist**

**Bishop Philip writes of his prayers, hopes and aspirations.**

1. Let us grow so much in our faith that we always acknowledge Jesus Christ to be really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist.
2. Let us see the Mass as the source of our life's activity.
3. Let us practise spending time regularly with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration
4. Let us beg the Eucharistic Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit, sending us out to transform the world in loving mission and service
5. Let us reach out in welcome to others, those outside the church, the non-practising and the needy, in order to draw them to Jesus in the Eucharist.

**Last Sunday at St Michael's Bernard Parvin made his First Holy Communion. and looked as resplendent as our Wildflower Patch!**



## Homily notes for the Fifteenth Sunday of the Year, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021, GDF

The prophet Amos had not wanted to be a prophet:

*I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets.  
I was a shepherd and looked after sycamores; but it was the Lord who said,  
'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'*

This present moment is the same as no other.

This scene is unique, not identical to the way that it was just one heartbeat ago.

Each person here changes, second by second, between breaths;

every moment is unique,

every scene shifts, if only by a flicker of the light

every person diminishes or matures, decreases or develops;

that is the way that life is.

If we don't go forward we go back: we cannot stay just as we are.

That is as true of our lives in our spirit as in every dimension of our being.

It is endlessly fascinating to see how people deal with change.

Those who resist and resent change seem doomed to gloom.

Whoever accepts and embraces change seems to seize opportunities  
for a good and a happy and whole life.



The work of Amos as a prophet was holy and bold.

He went from his sycamores and his sheep, as the Lord called him to do.

Amos railed against idolatry, injustice, and corruption.

He drew down on him the wrath of the priests such as Amaziah.

His style, hundreds of years on, is still highly regarded.

His writing is full of imagery, concise and simple and very clearly expressed.

Every time I read Amos I see those sycamore trees and I see his flock of sheep.

Amos embraced the change that God demanded of him:

he went to prophesy ... and his life and work were fruitful.

What change does God ever demand of you?

What changes have you had to make?

Throughout my life I have seen people grow and flourish

because they are ready, humbly, to accept change,

to be open to new situations, new environments, new adventures, new challenges.

I have also seen, and I am sure you have too,

people whose lives become stunted

by their dislike or even bitterness at the need to change.

Somehow their life stories become fixed, not on who they are and what they do, so much as on how: *'It should never have happened that way, I should never have done this or that, and it was so unfair that such and a thing happened'*

People shift from being the subjects of their lives to being the objects. They no longer *'do'* their lives so much as have their lives *'done'* to them. When Jesus sends out the Twelve in today's Gospel they get it just right. The Apostles go out to do what God commands of them. They do God's will first: they make their will fit perfectly to God's. Jesus exemplifies this: in Gethsemane he cries out: *'Thy will, not mine, be done.'* The Son wills what the Father wills, not only for Him but for all humanity.

In our day-to-day lives, each second is a unique gift. We can choose as Jesus chooses: *'Thy will, not mine, be done.'* How do we know the will of God? How do we know what change God wants from us? When we pray, when we gain the grace of the Sacraments we can strive to discern God's will. We can do that, too, through our spiritual reading and our meditation. We can seek spiritual guidance and we can examine our conscience, our needs and our desires. We can then live the change that comes as a gift from God with every moment of our lives ... or we can refer only to our own will. That way we can miss the richness that is greater than anything we can devise on our own.



Between now and this time next week, when we gather again to celebrate Mass, we will have a million and one choices to make. We will have a million and one changes to undertake. If we are open to God in every moment, and grateful for God's love within and throughout it all, we can change to be more holy and good and true; more the people that God wills us to be. Whatever change is demanded of us let us pray for the grace to make it with greatness of heart, with graciousness and with gratitude.