

The Gospel of St Matthew [Part Five]

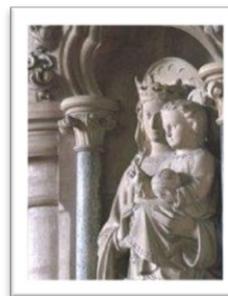
2020 is Year A, the Year of Matthew

IN THE narrative that constitutes the first part of the fourth book of the gospel (Mt 13:54–17:27), Jesus is shown preparing for the establishment of his church with its teaching authority that will supplant the blind guidance of the Pharisees (Mt 15:13–14), whose teaching, curiously said to be that of the Sadducees also, is repudiated by Jesus as the norm for his disciples (Mt 16:6, 11–12). The church of Jesus will be built on Peter (Mt 16:18), who will be given authority to bind and loose on earth, an authority whose exercise will be confirmed in heaven (Mt 16:19). The metaphor of binding and loosing has a variety of meanings, among them that of giving authoritative teaching. This promise is made to Peter directly after he has confessed Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Mt 16:16), a confession that he has made as the result of revelation given to him by the heavenly Father (Mt 16:17); Matthew's ecclesiology is based on his high Christology.

Directly after that confession Jesus begins to instruct his disciples about how he must go the way of suffering and death (Mt 16:21). Peter, who has been praised for his confession, protests against this and receives from Jesus the sharpest of rebukes for attempting to deflect Jesus from his God-appointed destiny. The future rock upon whom the church will be built is still a man of "little faith" (see Mt 14:31). Both he and the other disciples must know not only that Jesus will have to suffer and die but that they too will have to follow him on the way of the cross if they are truly to be his disciples (Mt 16:24–25).

The discourse following this narrative (Mt 18:1–35) is often called the "church order" discourse, although that title is perhaps misleading since the emphasis is not on the structure of the church but on the care that the disciples must have for one another in respect to guarding each other's faith in Jesus (Mt 18:6–7), to seeking out those who have wandered from the fold (Mt 18:10–14), and to repeated forgiving of their fellow disciples who have offended them (Mt 18:21–35). But there is also the obligation to correct the sinful fellow Christian and, should one refuse to be corrected, separation from the community is demanded (Mt 18:15–18).

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Thames ISIS Pastoral Area
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Sunday 2nd February	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
Monday 3 rd February	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 4 <i>St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr</i> <i>[red]</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>Those suffering from Throat Infections</i>
Tuesday 4 th February	<i>Feria: Of Week 4</i> <i>[green]</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
Wednesday 5 th February	<i>St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr</i> <i>[red]</i> Morning Prayer <i>[Week 3]</i> : 9am St Mary's <i>[ecumenical]</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
Thursday 6 th February	St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs <i>[red]</i> Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's
Friday 7 th February	<i>Feria: Of Week 4</i> <i>[green]</i> Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Chapel Adoration: 3pm Evening Prayer: 5pm St Augustine's <i>[ecumenical]</i>
Saturday 8 th February	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i> <i>[white]</i> Mass at English Martyrs', Didcot, and St John Vianney Wantage
Sunday 9th February	Weekday Lectionary: Cycle 2 Psalter: Week 1 SUNDAY 5 [A] <i>[green]</i> Mass: 9.30am St Mary's <i>Pro populo</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's Mass: 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

CANDLEMAS TODAY

Today there is a candlelight Mass, sung by the Newman Consort, at 6pm.

ST MARY'S FEAST

There is 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 *price 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.

POPE'S MESSAGE TO THE SICK

The Holy Father has released a special message for the 28th World Day of Prayer for the Sick, which is to be held on **11th February 2020**, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. In it he says: Jesus' words "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest". The complete message is in the porch board.

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.

FAITH IN POLITICS

Faith in Politics is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme which began in 2003. The scheme uniquely offers a foundation of Catholic faith and spiritual formation for those who believe they may have a vocation to public service in politics or public affairs. For more information go to faithinpolitics.org.uk

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection was £940.82 of which 81.6% was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

22nd March: Clergy Assistance Fund

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

Find us on   Like

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, Jadvyga 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: *Catherine Lilian Harris, Lady Agnes Eyston, Thomas Hogan, James Goodball, William Howard.*

HOLY FATHER'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION - We pray that the cries of our migrants brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. **16th March 2020**. £599.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with breakfast and dinner. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

READER'S WORKSHOPS

There will be two workshops on **12th and 19th September** at Our Lady & St Edmund Church. To book your place, please go to www.godwhospeaks.org/readers

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.