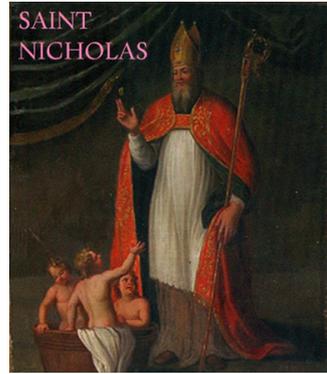


The Parish Clergy:
The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate
Fr. Andrew Stevens, M.A., S.S.C.,
Regional Dean For Southwark Forward in Faith
S. Nicholas Vicarage, 64, Purrett Rd., Plumstead,
London, SE18 1JP
Tel. 020-8854 0461 Facsimile 020-8265 5065
e-mail parishpriest@saintnicholasplumstead.org
Web site: www.saintnicholasplumstead.org
The Reverend the Hon. Curate Fr. Charles Heard
The Churchwardens:
Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mr Alex Davies
The Churchwardens Emeriti
Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement



Ramp available for access

SALVE, SALVE, PASTORINHOS

This hymn is sung in honour of the Seers of Fatiam - it now takes on a greater significance since their Beatification as the Church awaits a second miracle in order to proceed to their Canonisation.

*Let us joyfully sing with one voice:
Francisco and Jacinta, pray for us!*



Bl. Jacinta Marto

Hail, hail, little shepherds
Our pride and joy.
Hail, hail, little shepherds
Chosen ones of Mary.



Bl. Francisco Marto

Your innocent eyes
Have seen the Lady.
The loving protectress
Of her pilgrim sons.

A Forward in Faith parish under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham, during the vacancy in See The Right Reverend Peter Wheatley, we are a Eucharistic community who is worshipping in the present, upon the Apostolic Truths of the past, in the hope of finding our future salvation in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

The Mass is offered daily

Sunday	8:00am
	11:00am
Monday	8:00pm
Tuesday	7:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	12:00pm
Saturday	10:00am



Exposition of the BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

Confessions:

Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm, Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.



Please turn off all mobile 'phones

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME

Isaiah 55:10-11

Anyone who has ever worked in a garden will understand the need for careful preparation. The produce of that preparation and work is something which is expected. We wouldn't waste effort and capital if we thought that it would return nothing.

God expresses this very sentiment in today's passage from the prophet Isaiah. As God sends his word out, through us, he expects a return. The produce which is expected is growth and sustenance. God's provision comes with the expectation of labour, but it is labour which works towards a significant end.

Far too often, we deceive ourselves about God's expectation of productivity in our life with Him. The seed which we are called to carry out is much more than an option – it is key to our existence and calling. It is not enough to 'get by' in our duty to our Maker, because the harvest which we are called to reap is so great. As we receive God's word, we must always do so with a clear understanding that he expects a healthy return.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In the late 12th Century a group of hermits began to live on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. In the middle of their hermitages they built a chapel for common worship. They dedicated it to Our Lady and in time it became named for the Lady of the place, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Devotion to Mary under this title among the Christians of the Holy Land, it is a strong feature of devotion to the Blessed Virgin, to see her in a local setting, she makes our own places holy. In England we find comfort and vision in our devotion to her as Our Lady of Walsingham. Devotion to our Lady of Mount Carmel is associated with the devotional wearing of the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Legend has it that the scapular was given to St Simon Stock an early Carmelite by Our Lady herself. The scapular is, by custom shown on statues of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



The children who saw the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in the early twentieth century saw, among other gracious signs of God's love, a vision of the Blessed Virgin as Our Lady Mount Carmel.

There is a long and ancient custom of asking Our Lady of Mount Carmel to pray for the Holy Souls in purgatory. We can all turn to her prayer when those who we love and value have died. Devotion to Our Lady under this title is also associated with the gifts of Chastity, humility and the life of prayer.

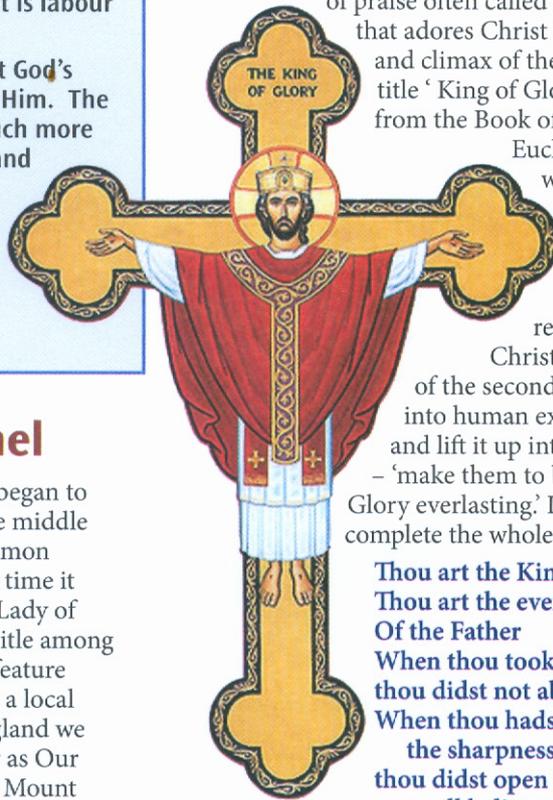
Forward!

Welcometoourcelebrationtoday

20th July 2011

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The King of Glory



The section of the Te Deum – the ancient hymn of praise often called the Ambrosian Hymn – that adores Christ is in many ways the heart and climax of the text. It begins with the title 'King of Glory' which comes directly from the Book of Psalms and in the earliest Eucharistic liturgies of the church was used in the procession of the gifts to the Holy Table when the people welcome 'the King of Glory'. When we pray and sing the Te Deum we recount the whole saving work of Christ and it conveys a clear sense of the second person of the Trinity coming into human experience to redeem humanity and lift it up into the Divine presence – it ends – 'make them to be numbered with thy saints in Glory everlasting.' It is a heartfelt plea for Jesus to complete the whole work of his grace in us.

**Thou art the King of Glory O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son :
Of the Father
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man :
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome
the sharpness of death :
thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven
to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God :
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come :
to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :
whom thou hast redeemed
with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints :
in glory everlasting**

I WOKE to hear as day was dawning
my conscience say "It's Sunday morning."
My flesh, my soft companion, said
"Be sensible, and stay in bed..."
The world which thinks itself so knowing,
and Satan, argued twice a minute
"Why should you go? There's nothing in it!"
THE morning air, the sun0bright east,
GOD'S holy house, the vested priest,
the faithful gathering in twos and threes,
the flesh washed, dressed, on its knees:
The Church obeyed, the world well flouted,
our Saviour in, and Satan outed,
the Cross proclaimed and Christ our Lord
sought out, met, welcomed, and adored.

Brother Edward

S. NICHOLAS CHURCH

FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis



All-powerful God,
you made
Saint Nicholas
a bishop and leader
of the Church
to inspire your people
with his teaching
and example.
May we give fitting
honour to his memory
and always have the
assistance of his prayers
We ask this
through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper

If you are celebrating
a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY
and would like to share it
with your Church Family
A £15 DONATION
covers the cost of Sherry
(You may if you wish provide wine
of your own choice)
*to be enjoyed at the back of church
after Mass*
Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Angelus will be sung at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

HYMNS:

Introit:	NEH 360
Gradual:	NEH 200
Offertory:	NEH 484
Communion:	NEH 294
Post Communion:	NEH 478

Palm Crosses:

Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving

The Paschal Candle:

Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving for Theo & Otto

The Seven Day Shrine Lights for July

The Blessed Sacrament:

Jessica Roberts: In thanksgiving

The Sanctuary:

Michelle & Daniel Storey:

Thanksgiving for baby Jamie

Our Lady by the Lady Chapel:

Joy & Stephen Jahans: In thanksgiving

Our Lady of Walsingham:

Fr Charles: In thanksgiving for the life of

Peggy Heard

Our Lady of Fatima:

Murray Smallbone: For the repose

of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008

S. Nicholas:

FLOODLIGHTING

15th Reg & Doreen: In thanksgiving for the life of
Jessie Smith

Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gather here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis

INTRODUCTION

Today Jesus tells the parable of the sower and invites us to examine our personal response to his teaching.

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Isaiah compares the meaning and sequence of natural events with the power of God's creative word, which never fails to achieve its purpose.

Second Reading Romans 8:18-23

Redeemed humanity and all of creation share in the hope of eternal glory.

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Seeds are scattered on the earth and fall on hard, poor and rich soil. This process is compared with the proclamation of the reign of God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Believing in God's presence among us, we pray for our needs and for the needs of others.

We pray that as members of the Church we may be like the good earth of the Gospel and produce a harvest of good deeds.

Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for all who work in agriculture and on the sea: that the Lord will provide them with the necessary means and resources to produce food and to protect God's creation.

Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for all who suffer hunger and are living in great want: that Christ's love may inspire us to help them.

Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for those who are separated from family and friends: that they may be reunited in love and peace.

Lord, in your mercy.

Father, in your loving kindness hear the prayers of all who call on you in faith, through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

- Olivia Grace Kintu
 Barbara Brunt Jack Brunt
 Victor Boyce Murray Smallbone
 Fr Gerald Lane Sarah Catherine Namutebi
 Fr Charles Ada Smith
 Ernie Maty Amina Chaudhury
 Joe Moss Chucks Owlbo
 Colin Jones Daphne Langford
 Bhupendra Pattini Anita Johnson
 Lisa Bowden Geoff McCarthy
 Mary Cook Sue Yurik
 Wayne Yurik Josephine Bampton Marie Borland
 Alison Mules Christina Agin
 Douglas Boyce Madeleine Barredo
 Heath (10 month old baby)
 Marjorie Unwin Meghan Belcher
 Phylis Knight Lesley Loftus
 Ruby Arthurs Diane
 Brian Goulding Issa Olarewaju Lawal
 Doreen Cleaver Mandy McWhinnie
 Courtney Louise Puddefoot
 Brian Marshall Carol Bohurjak
 Tommy Bohurjak Jim Webb Pam Webb
 John David Cook Fr Timnothy Raphael
 Tom Bohurjak Susan Jahans
 Sarah Burton Beverley Goering
 Paul Rice Stanley Lewis
 Ebere Collins Ofojebe Pat Wenham
 Liz O'Sullivan Val Marshall
 Kenneth Looseley Doreen Looseley
 Bill Russell Jack Bowden
 Kay Nelson Connie Guntrip
 Diane Fulbrook Colin Cresswell
 Teresa Agin Rodney Warrener
 Ian Mackie Robert McEwan
 Kay Etherington Joan Gosling
 Stephen Jahans Diane Kot
 Rhiana Williams Danny Bell
 Vic Clark Jill Pearson
 Howard Weston-Smart
 Roy Richards
IN THANKSGIVING
 Laura Farmer Olive Verrall

Rota

JULY	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Intercessions
Sunday 3 rd *	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	B. Scott
Sunday 10 th	R. Barzey	E. Buhl	J. Jahans
Sunday 17 th	P. Alexander	B. Scott	A. Davies
Sunday 24 th	T. Agin	S. Obubo	S. Jahans
Sunday 31 st	V. Baffoe	E. Crawley	T. Agin
AUGUST			
Sunday 7 th	D. Stevens	Y. Stevens	R. Martin
Sunday 14 th	B. Stroud	S. Jahans	G. Agin
Sunday 21 st	J. Jahans	G. Agin	A. Davies
Sunday 28 th	K. Beacham	R. Martin	J. Jahans
SEPTEMBER			
Sunday 4 th	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	B. Scott

**FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION
JULY General Intention:**

That Christians may contribute to alleviating the material and spiritual suffering of AIDS patients, especially in the poorest countries.

Missionary Intention:

For the religious who work in mission territories, that they may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.

FLOWERS IN MEMORY

THE DEPARTED

Sherron Oliveri
Jean Court
Rose Howell
Jonathan Timko

YEARS MIND

10th Ian Morton
11th Margaret Anne Heard
11th Mr Olayinka Omosebi
11th Mrs Omosebi
14th Agnes Elizabeth Buhl
14th Stella Ethel Warrenner
15th John Melsom
15th Jessie Ellen Smith
15th Dulcie Morton
16th George Brooks

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED:

Sunday 12th June 2011:
Zachary John Richard Varney

THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

Sunday 10th July 2011:
Jamie Michael Stephen Dean
Sunday 14th August 2011:
Emanuel Isheanesu Madondo
Sunday 9th October 2011:
Tia-Amber Gardener

THOSE NEWLY MARRIED

Saturday 14th August 2010 at 3:00pm
Ian Clive John Brooks & Tessa Amelia Hawkins

THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY

BIRTHDAY

10th Paris Hector
10th Darlington Anway
14th Sue Turner
14th Brian Marshall

Sunday Readings: Year A
Weekday Readings: Year 1
Psalter Week 3

JULY 2011

* 10	Su	G	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
			(CWCL:3rd Sunday after Trinity-Proper 10) DO1(3) MP:50(220) EP:51(246) Mass pr, Gl, LI 675 (ad lib: shorter form of Gospel), Cr, Sunday Pref R1: Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalm 64:10-14 R2: Romans 8:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23 or Matthew 13:1-9
			<i>Day of Special Prayer for Seafarers (Sea Sunday). No special Mass is permitted. The intercession should be included in the Prayer of the Faithful.</i>
11	M	W	<i>Europe:</i> S BENEDICT Ab, CO-PATRON OF EUROPE, Fest DO3(3) MP:188(421) EP:188(421) Mass from Com of Holy Men and Women: for Religious, Gl, LII 1095, Pref of Vigins and Religious <i>Day of Special Prayer for Europe: No special Mass is permitted. The intercession should be included in the Prayer of the Faithful.</i>
		W	<i>Outside Europe:</i> S Benedict Ab, Mem DO4(3) MP: 188(421) EP:188(421) Mass from Com of Holy Men and Women: for Religious, LII 192
12	T	(G)	FERIA OF 15th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(3) MP:53(222) EP:59(248) Mass of feria, LII 194 <i>or:</i> <i>Wales:</i> (R) S John Jones PrMr, Mem DO4(3) MP:180(321) EP:181(321) Mass from Com of Martyrs, LII 194
13	W	(G)	FERIA OF 15th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(3) MP:54(223) EP:60(249) Mass of feria, LII 196
14	Th	(G)	FERIA OF 15th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(3) MP:55(224) EP:61(250) Mass of feria, LII 198 <i>or:</i> (W) S Camillus of Lellis Pr, Mem DO4(3) MP:188(335) EP:188(333) Mass from Com of Holy Men and Women: for those who work with the underprivileged, LII 198
15	F	W	S Bonaventure BDr, Mem DO4(3) MP:188(325) EP:188(325) Mass from Com of Pastors or Com of Doctors of the Church, LII 200
16	S	(G)	FERIA OF 15th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(3) MP:57(226) Mass of feria, LII 202

The words prayed in the Mass are being revised around the world, no matter what language is spoken. However, by the nature of the language in some parts of the world, the revisions are less extensive.

Long journey to the present

This is the third English translation since 1974, the current version having been completed and implemented in 1985. This third edition of the Roman Missal was issued by Pope John Paul II in 2000. After it was published in 2002, the work of translation began. During this translation a different model than that used after the Second Vatican Council was employed, so some of the words that we proclaim at Mass have been changed.

Words communicate meaning

Words affect our lives. How we say and hear words affect how we react to life: the way we live, pray, and believe. The desirable end of revised translation of the Roman Missal is to produce texts that will serve as fitting instruments for molding souls in the Christian spirit and of raising minds and hearts to God; texts that will convey images that can help us express our feelings of praise and thanks to God in new but more profound ways.

More formal language and scripturally richer texts

This version will be more formal in language and scripturally richer in images. Some of the words in the Gloria, Creed, Holy, Holy, Holy and Memorial Acclamations will be different. A few of the acclamation changes will be in the responses to “The Lord be with you“ and the “Lord, I am not worthy.” The parts of the Mass will also be assigned new musical settings.

The revision of the text has been likened to the cleaning of an old painting whose images are brought to clearer light in the cleaning process. Throughout the many years of work on the translation of the Latin liturgical texts, translators, and the Bishops who oversee, review, and revise the translations have sought a balance between the word-for-word, literal meaning of the Latin and the demands of proclamation, style, and intelligibility. For example, the most frequently used phrase “The Lord be with you” whose response will be “And with your spirit,” is a direct translation of the *Latin text Dominus vobiscum*, to which we responded *Et cum spiritu tuo*.

Revised Translation encourages fuller participation

We should all be excited to pray the revised translation, since it will give a fuller meaning to the words expressed in the document from the Second Vatican Council, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, “full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebration called for by the very nature of the liturgy” (CSL, 14).

The hymn for the translation of the Relics

- 1 **The thirteenth of May**
In the Cova d’Iria
Appeared, oh so brilliant,
The Virgin Maria.
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
- 2 **The Virgin Maria**
Encircled with light,
Our own dearest Mother
And heaven’s delight.
- 3 **To three little shepherds**
Our Lady appeared.
The light of her grace
To her Son souls endeared.
- 4 **With war and its evils**
The whole world was seething,
And countless of thousands
Were mourning and weeping.
- 5 **To save all poor souls**
Who had wandered astray,
With words of sweet comfort
She asked us to pray.
- 6 **By honouring Mary**
And loving her Son,
The peace of the world
Will most surely be won.

THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

In his Apostolic letter on the Rosary, 16th October 2002, Pope John Paul II proposed a further five significant moments in the life of Christ. These he called the Luminous Mysteries, and they follow on from the Joyful Mysteries, then the Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries to complete the cycle.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

THE ANNUNCIATION

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel

THE VISITATION

Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the joy of Israel, thou art the honour of our people.

THE NATIVITY

While all things were in silence, and the night was in the midst of her course. The Almighty Word leapt down from heaven.

THE PRESENTATION

This is the Lord, we have patiently waited for Him, we shall rejoice and be joyful in His salvation.

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

In the streets and in the broadways. I shall seek him whom my soul loveth.

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

A river flowed from Eden to water the garden.

THE MARRIAGE FEAST AT CANA

As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

JESUS PROCLAIMS THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

The saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom for ever and ever.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

My God how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in a robe of light.

The Institution of the Eucharist

Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of the God Most High.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

My heart is troubled within me, and the fear of death is fallen upon me.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Surely He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows. But He was wounded for our iniquities, he was bruised for our sins.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Despised and the most object of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with infirmity

The Carrying of the Cross

Why, then, is Thy apparel red, and Thy garments like theirs that tread the wine-press.

THE CRUCIFIXION

He hath delivered His soul unto death, and was reputed with the wicked.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

THE RESURRECTION

And His sepulchre shall be glorious.

THE ASCENSION

Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be ye lifted up, O eternal gates, and the king of glory shall enter in.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you.

THE ASSUMPTION

Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come.

THE CORONATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon, and as a cypress tree on Mount Sion.

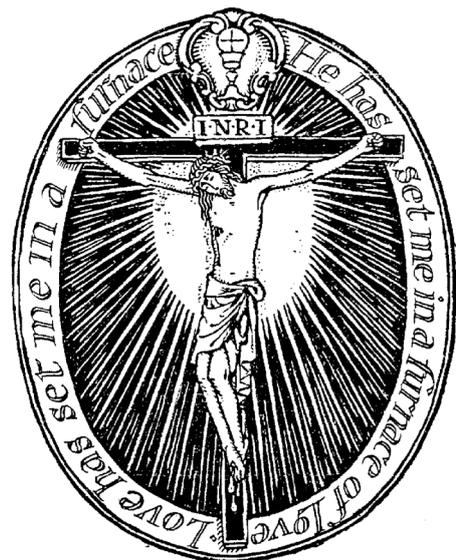
Change, as we all know, is part of life. Nothing stays the same, locally or globally. Just think of how our world and the Church have changed over the past twenty (20) years. We also are not the same Catholic people we were only a few years ago.

After praying the words of the Mass for so many years (more than 35 years), both the priest and the people will have the opportunity once again to be more conscious of the words we pray. Richer meaning of the words may be spiritually heard in a new way, transforming our hearts. They will not be words said by rote, but words with a fuller scriptural understanding.

As a diocese we can grow spiritually from this experience. I encourage all the faithful to take full advantage of all the means that your parish will provide to help you better understand the reasons for these changes and how they can help us grow closer to God.

Change requires time

As with all changes, it will take time to adapt. When we first start saying and listening to those prayers, it may seem awkward; but after a while we will pray them more fully and actively. During this time of transition we will need to be patient. Not only will parishioners need time to internalize the changes, but it will also take the priest time to become comfortable with his part of the new translation.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

In my justice I shall see your face, O Lord; when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
your light of truth
guides us to the way of Christ.
May all who follow him
reject what is contrary to the gospel.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:10-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: "As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 64

RESPONSE: *Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.*

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

SECOND READING (Romans 8:18-23)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:1-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and

sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, "Why do you talk to them in parables?" "Because" he replied "the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

"But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

"You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept the gifts of your Church.

May this eucharist

help us grow in holiness and faith.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE OF SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME VI

(or at priest's choice)

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

In you we live and move and have our being.

Each day you show us a Father's love;

your Holy Spirit, dwelling within us,

gives us on earth the hope of unending joy.

Your gift of the Spirit,

who raised Jesus from the dead,

is the foretaste and promise

of the paschal feast of heaven.

With thankful praise,

in company with the angels,

we glorify the wonders of your power:

Holy, holy, holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest
wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts,
my King, my God! How happy they who dwell in your house!
For ever they are praising you.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, by our sharing in the mystery of this eucharist,

let your saving love grow within us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.