

# The Catholic Parish of St Luke

Benyon Grove, Orton Malborne, Peterborough. PE2 5XS

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

*What are you most excited about in your life right now?*

*What's your biggest achievement?*

*What are you most proud of?*

*Tell us about your wife / kids!*

*How do you spend your free time?*

*What are your hobbies?*

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Our meeting on the  
**Thursday 5th October 2023**  
was attended by eight.

We welcomed  
**Fr. Bienn Carlo**  
**Assistant Parish Priest**

Our spiritual topic was :  
**The Month of the Rosary**  
**Reciting**  
**The Luminous Mysteries**  
**of the Holy Rosary**  
**in Church**

The evening finished with supportive  
conversation and a variety of  
suggestions to progress the fellowship.

This was discussed over a  
Chicken Korma Curry, a Beer, Coffee & Soft Drinks

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**Gospel Reading—Sunday 8th October 2023**  
**Matthew 21: 33-43**

**This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those

wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

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### **NEXT WEEK**

#### **A Rich Banquet**

Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year.

'I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.'

The parable of the marriage feast for this Sunday is certainly very vivid and engaging. It is also very challenging. It all seems so exaggerated and unreasonable. All the parables that Christ teaches are meant to set us thinking and to ask questions about what they really mean -- meant to make us feel a little uncomfortable. And this is certainly true of this parable.

For one thing, why do those who are invited to the marriage feast react so violently? Why did some react by beating up and killing the servants who bring them the invitation? What's the sense of doing this? Likewise, the reaction of the king is so extreme. Punishing the wrongdoers would have been reasonable, but destroying the whole city seems to go a bit far.

Also challenging is the whole business with the poor person who turns up without a wedding garment. An open invitation has been given to all at the very last moment and so he goes along, only to then find that he's being taken to task for not having got dressed up, and then bound up and thrown out

into the darkness. Wouldn't it have been a bit less extreme just to have politely pointed out that there was a dress code and told him just to go away?

So, what are we to make of it all? How are we to react?

Certainly, with this parable, we are once again made to think about what it means to reject Christ and his offer of salvation. The Son in the parable is Christ and his marriage feast is the salvation that Christ offers. Although we may want to appreciate the reasons why people do so, it remains a shocking thing to do to reject the salvation that God offers to us in Christ. Rejecting the Gospel is as shocking as the reaction of those who reject the marriage invitation in the parable.

And it is shocking because of what the offer of salvation itself is. And here the image of the marriage feast itself is so powerful. We are being told that salvation in the here in now and then in its fullness in the next life is like both a marriage and like a feast. As the passage from Isaiah also tells us. The redemption of God's people is like a 'banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy.' This is as hearty as it can get.

This parable then and the Bible as a whole tells us that salvation is the fullest and most enjoyable experience of human living that there can be. The incentive to seek salvation and to respond to God's offer of salvation is because of the positive delight that it will bring. And there's no more powerful way to convey this message than teaching us through those human means by which the fullness of life can be enjoyed, through marriage, through feasting, through good food and good wine.

And this salvation is what is tasted already in the Eucharist, the sacred banquet, to which we are invited in this life. 'Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.' The Eucharist is the marriage feast of the Lamb of God, to which we are invited each day of our lives in the here and now. 'O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory given to us.' The exaggerated language of the parable compels us, shocks us, to see the magnitude of what the offer of God's salvation is like in all its abundant richness. To see what is being refused or what is being accepted.

And the imagine of the guest who is rejected also challenges us to see, shocks us into seeing, that the full enjoyment of this abundance can only come about when we become fit for it. For we have to made ready to receive it by Christ, who gives us the wedding garment of his saving grace.

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**12th October 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Spiritual Topic :**

## **October - The month of the Rosary**

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.

- 7.35pm — Rosary Recital in Church
- 8.00pm — Discussion on the forgoing "A Rich Banquet."
- 8.30pm — Sharing of food and personal Conversation.

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## **This month the main liturgical feasts are:**

**St Luke**

Wednesday 18th October

**SS Simon & Jude**

Saturday 28th October

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## **History of the Catholic Church in Britain**

**Part 3**

### **Norman Conquest of England and part of Wales**

Control of the English Church passed from the Anglo-Saxons to the Normans following the Norman conquest of England. The two clerics most prominently associated with this change were the continental-born Lanfranc and Anselm, both Benedictines. Anselm later became a Doctor of the Church. A century later, Pope Innocent III had to confirm the primacy of Canterbury over four Welsh churches for many reasons, but primarily to sustain the importance of the Gregorian foundation of Augustine's mission.

During mediaeval times, England and Wales were part of western Christendom: monasteries and convents, such as those at Shaftesbury and Shrewsbury, were prominent institutions, and provided lodging, hospitals and education.

Likewise, centres of education like Oxford University and Cambridge University were important. Members of religious orders, notably the Dominicans and Franciscans, settled in both universities and maintained houses for students. Archbishop Walter de Merton founded Merton College, Oxford and three different popes – Gregory IX, Nicholas IV, and John XXII – gave Cambridge the legal protection and status to compete with other European medieval universities. Augustinians also had a significant presence at Oxford. Osney Abbey, the parent house of the college, lay on a large site to the west, near the current railway station. Another Augustinian house, St Frideswide's Priory, later

became the basis for Christ Church, Oxford.

Pilgrimage was a prominent feature of mediaeval Catholicism, and England and Wales were amply provided with many popular sites of pilgrimage.



The village of Walsingham in Norfolk became an important shrine after a noblewoman named Richeldis de Faverches reputedly experienced a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1061, asking her to build a replica of the Holy House at Nazareth. Some of the other holiest shrines were those at Holywell in Wales which commemorated St Winefride, and at Westminster Abbey to Edward the Confessor. In 1170, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in his cathedral by followers of King Henry II and was quickly canonised as a martyr for the faith. This resulted in Canterbury Cathedral attracting international pilgrimage and inspired the *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

An Englishman, Nicholas Breakspear, became Pope Adrian IV, reigning from 1154 to 1159. Fifty-six years later, Cardinal Stephen Langton, the first of English cardinals and later Archbishop of Canterbury (1208–28), was a pivotal figure in the dispute between King John and Pope Innocent III. This critical situation led to the signing and later

promulgation of the *Magna Carta* in 1215, which, among other things, insisted that the English church should be free of ecclesiastical appointments fixed by the king.



*Pope Adrian IV.  
The only Englishman to be a Pope*

**Next Week : Part 4**  
*Tudor period and Catholic resistance*

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### **Diary Dates**

#### **Over 60's Turkey & Tinsel Christmas Luncheons and Entertainment**

Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th December  
12.30pm to 3.00pm

Tickets & Menu available from the Parish Office  
£9.50 per person

#### **Social Evening**

#### **Men's Fellowship with the Ladies' Bible Group**

Wednesday 13th December at 7.00pm

#### **Grand Christmas Draw Tickets NOW ON SALE**

and available for sale.

To be drawn on 17th December.  
Obtainable from the Parish Office.

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### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED**

#### **Saturday 25th November**

From 10.00am to 4.00pm

To help set up the Church for the  
"Towards Advent" event.

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### **THIS WEEK'S SOCIAL SUPPER**

Homemade—KFC Style Boneless Chicken

Beers, Tea, Coffee, Cola and Fruit Juice

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