



In today's Gospel reading, we find another discussion between Jesus and his opponents, this time the Pharisees. It centres on which of the commandments is the greatest.

Matthew agrees with Mark that love of God and love of neighbour constitute the chief and basic commandment; that this is, in a way, a summary of the entire Torah. But Matthew goes further: he puts these two commandments on an equal footing, and presents them as supporting the rest. He uses the verb "hang" to express the idea of these two being the ropes which hold up the rest. His reply is perfectly orthodox, and Jewish Christians would be able to defend themselves on this basis.

Matthew shows that permeating religious practice must be love: love of God and our fellow human beings, and that both are equally important. In a sense, this is his version of the Golden Rule. ■

## REFLECT

**M**atthew the evangelist is usually understood as being a tax collector, called by Jesus to leave his profession and become one of Jesus' disciples. This traditional view has been expressed in art down the centuries. It may well be the historical fact, but it is unlikely that someone from such a background could have produced such a scholarly work, which we know as the Gospel according to Matthew: it betrays too deep a knowledge of the Jewish scriptures. There is another possibility about his identity, that he was, in fact, a convert Jewish scribe, "who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old" (Matthew 13:52 may offer this description of the author of the Gospel).

To Jewish converts, the place of the Law, which they had regarded as their way of responding to the Lord's covenant with Israel, must have been a question of the highest importance. By the time Matthew is writing, the Temple has been destroyed, the political influence of the Jewish people in the land has disappeared, and the Law has provided the core of their sense of identity. Does this have to be, at best, abandoned, or, at worst, repudiated because they have accepted Jesus and his message? The answer of the earliest disciples seems to have been "No", as they continued to frequent the Temple. Although there was eventually an official excommunication of Jewish Christians from the synagogue, it is likely that Jewish traditions continued to influence communities such as Matthew's. The lesson that love of God and neighbour should be the force which informs all the outward observing of our own traditions today, that there is no essential conflict between law and love, is as valid today as it was when Matthew wrote his Gospel. ■

## SAY

**The greatest commandment is to love God and my neighbour.**

## LEARN

The rabbis calculated 613 commandments in the Torah: 248 positive and 365 negative.

After the destruction of the Temple and the end of animal sacrifice, observing the Law took on even greater significance in Jewish life than before.

Not all the commandments were of equal weight: some were classified as "heavy" (more important), others as "light" (less so).

## DO

Reflect that when you come to celebrate the Eucharist, you are supporting your fellow parishioners as well as expressing your commitment to the Lord.





**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;  
turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
increase our faith, hope and charity,  
and make us love what you command,  
so that we may merit what you promise.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this, 'You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry: my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.'

'If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

'If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 17

Response:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my  
stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

**SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, "Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look, we pray, O Lord,  
on the offerings we make to your majesty,  
that whatever is done by us in your service  
may be directed above all to your glory.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

We will ring out our joy at your saving help  
and exult in the name of our God.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,  
perfect in us what lies within them,  
that what we now celebrate in signs  
we may one day possess in truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

You say grace before meals. All right. But I  
say grace before the concert and the opera,  
and grace before the play and pantomime,  
and grace before I open a book, and grace  
before sketching, painting, swimming,  
fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing  
and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.

G.K. Chesterton

# ***Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon***

## ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson  
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Office Email: [abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Tel: 01235 520375  
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*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **NEW PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Please note that from 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the parish office will be open on Tuesdays through to Fridays from 9am to 12.30pm.

**CONFESSIONS:** For now, this is by appointment only. Please contact the parish office to make a booking.

### **PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church will be open for **private prayer only**, between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

### **MASS BOOKINGS**

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. should be made on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October**. Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

## **HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

### **No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: **[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)**

**EACH MONDAY**, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **NEWSLETTER:**

For now, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website, or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time.

### **30<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time**

***In Church for those who have booked, and also live streamed***

#### **Sunday 25 October**

10.15am Mass (Magnaghi Giuseppina, RIP)  
2.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass (Jim Carey, RIP)

#### **Monday 26 October**

9am Mass (Therese Vine, RIP)

#### **Tuesday 27 October**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

#### **Wednesday 28 October Saints Simon & Jude**

7pm Mass (Deceased clergy, RIP)

#### **Thursday 29 October**

9.30am Mass (Special intentions)

#### **Friday 30 October**

7pm Mass (Lisa Paterson, special intentions)

#### **Saturday 31 October**

12pm Mass (Elizabeth Gayther, RIP)



### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.



## CHURCH DONATIONS

The parish still **really** needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**

*Please do not use the online 'Donate' button for clergy stipends (Mass intentions, weddings, Baptisms). These can be put in an envelope marked FAO the parish priest and indicating what the offering is for and who is giving it. The envelope can then be left at the parish office or in the donations basket in the Church.*

## PARISH MISSION – A NEW SERIES

Sr. Veronica OP from the Formation for Mission Team shares information on a new series of short videos to help parishes understand the Mission of a parish in the Light of the New Evangelisation. There will be a total of six short videos (about 10-15 minutes long) helping parishes to gain a better perspective of the role and purpose of a Parish; how to develop a parish vision in a variety of practical ministries such as youth, marriage and family, and areas such as the sick and housebound also especially recognising those who are marginalised members of the wider parish community. You can watch *Episode 1: The Parish - the Mission of the People of God* on the News page of our website.

## BLESSING OF GRAVES



With November fast approaching, this is an advanced notice to let you know that Fr Jamie will be blessing graves on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** at 10am in the Church graveyard and 12.30pm at the Spring Road cemetery. Please do not congregate together, but go directly to the family plots and wait for him to come to you.

For those interested, the Mass intention for the 9.30am Mass on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November** is for *All the Bereaved*. Bookings can be made in the usual way through our booking system the week before this date.

## AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO HALLOWE'EN



Rather than reaching for the Hallowe'en costumes later this month (or spending money buying them), why not consider allowing the little ones in your family to dress up as saints in readiness for All Saints' Day? It could also be a great opportunity to teach them something about a favourite saint.

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### Future Diary Dates

*No events at the moment.*

## NHS COVID-19 APP:

The new NHS COVID-19 app is now available to download for free on smartphone, in England and Wales. If you have downloaded it, you are now able to scan the code allocated to us, as you enter our church. It is on the inside door and on the notice board *inside* the church.



Historically, the economic impact of COVID 19 to Christians in the Holy Land has been catastrophic. The FHL office in Bethlehem is being inundated by people seeking help. Unfortunately our presentations and sales of Olive Wood Products and Christmas card sales have had to be cancelled in parishes. However we are going to proceed to sell the Christmas Cards (£3.25 packet of 10). Contact any of the following:

**Mary Mulqueen:** 01235 534873 or 07857386398  
**Ann Green:** 01235 520171 or [ann.green@zen.co.uk](mailto:ann.green@zen.co.uk)  
**Clare Calnan:** 01235 524861 or 07810192267

Thank you most sincerely for supporting our brothers and sisters in The Holy Land, it really does make a difference to their lives.

## PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October** is the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales and you are invited to join in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country.

## BACK2BASICS

The *Formation for Mission Team*, led by Sr Hyacinthe, are offering an online course for anyone interested - but especially for those preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their first Holy Communion. More details are available on the *News* page of our website.

## DIOCESAN READERS' WORKSHOPS

There is a workshop on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November (workshop 1) and 21<sup>st</sup> November (workshop 2) at 10 am. These are being done using Zoom and you can access the link to register on the *News* page of our website.

## BAMENDA:

The normal collection for Bamenda for this weekend is not feasible, but you can make a donation electronically by using the link on the *News* page of our website.