

St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon

Eighth Sunday after Trinity



See page 3 for details

2nd August 2020

A Message from our Rector

The Feeding of the Five Thousand is a special story because it recalls the many times in the past when God acted to feed his people. We remember when God provided manna in the wilderness to feed the Children of Israel during the Exodus. In 2 Kings there is a story of the prophet Elisha feeding a hundred hungry men with twenty barley loaves.

One of the reasons why this particular story became so important for the early Christians is that it reminded them of the miraculous meal they celebrated regularly when they gathered for the breaking of the Bread. Can you not hear the Eucharistic implications in Matthew's version?

He took the bread, then he blessed it, then he broke it and gave it to them. Two thousand years later we still gather in Christian community in the same hope of experiencing Jesus Christ in our lives through the breaking of the bread.

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:18-21

More than five thousand were fed because we do not know how many women and children were fed at the same time! As Dom Gregory Dix once famously wrote:

And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unflinchingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the plebs sancta Dei—the holy common people of God. Dom Gregory Dix *The Shape of the Liturgy*.

As we receive Holy Communion, albeit, at the moment, in one kind we are following in the footsteps of those who sat on the grass and watched as Jesus' miracle sustained them, as we are every time we receive the bread he still blesses for us that makes us the sancta Dei- the holy common people of God.

Bible References

Year A	Psalm	First reading	Second reading	Gospel
Eighth Sunday after Trinity August 2nd, 2020	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Genesis 32:22-31	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Monday, August 3	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Genesis 31:22- 42	Romans 1:8-15	
Tuesday, August 4	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Genesis 32:3- 21	Acts 2:37-47	
Wednesday, August 5	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 43:1-7;	Matthew 15:32-39	
Thursday, August 6 The Transfiguration	Psalm 105:1- 6, 16-22, 45b	Genesis 35:22b-29	Acts 17:10-15	
Friday, August 7	Psalm 105:1- 6, 16-22, 45b	Genesis 36:1-8	Acts 18:24-28	
Saturday, August 8	Psalm 105:1- 6, 16-22, 45b	Genesis 37:5- 11	Matthew 16:1- 4	

Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

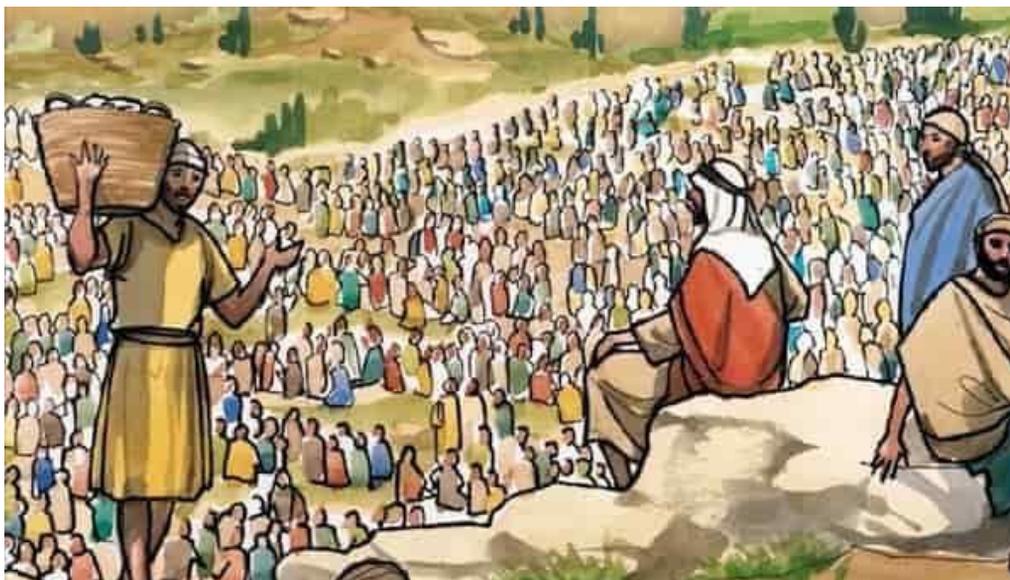
Front Cover picture:

The Transfiguration by Raphael c 1520

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfiguration_\(Raphael\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transfiguration_(Raphael))

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here
and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Five Loaves and Two Fishes

Parish Notices

- Welcome back!
 - A single Said Communion service will be held on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00am on 2nd August
 - Strict social distancing measures will need to be observed at all times.
 - The maximum number of worshippers admitted will depend on family groupings but is expected to be of the order of 35-40. Duty Wardens and Sidesmen will be on hand to manage seating arrangements.
 - In support of the Government's Test and Trace programme, worshippers will be required to register their attendance and give a contact telephone number to a Duty Warden on arrival. Service attendance records will be retained for 21 days and then destroyed.

In order to assist us in observing social distancing guidelines and avoid the potential disappointment of being refused entry we ask all worshippers who wish to attend on 2nd August and successive Sundays to notify the Parish office, either by telephone on 01932 866005 or by email at: admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk

Please bring a face mask with you to wear in church

- **Revision to opening Hours for Private Prayer**

Commensurate with the re start of communal worship, St. Mary's will remain open until 2pm on Sundays for private prayer. The church will no longer be opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays