

them to change. Jesus knows that insight does not automatically lead people to change: it can paralyse people. He thinks people might change if you love them. Why should people bother to change if they have a suspicion that people are not remotely interested in them?

The Pharisees don't accuse Jesus of ministering to sinners; they accuse him of welcoming them and eating with them. Jesus eats with religious people and with sinners; with Pharisees, tax collectors and Zealots. He has a catholic taste for table companions. He believes that unrestricted table fellowship is the best way of bringing salvation to people, especially to those who are excluded from the Temple and the tables of the righteous. He is not interested in those who consider themselves righteous, or virtuous, because he has not come for them.

If you have come principally for sinners, then it is no use hoping to meet them in the synagogue or the Temple, because sinners don't go there. But everybody has to eat. At the house of Levi, Jesus turns up, because there are going to be a lot

of sinners there. It is the ideal place for pastoral opportunity and so he is there, and being with them he is at home, and he hopes that at table something might happen. The table, for Jesus, is a place of possibility, for change, for conversion.

In most societies the table is a miniature of society: it is the place where people come together to talk, to relate, to eat. The table expresses the discrimination and separation that exist in the larger group; it expresses the boundaries of group identity:

*"In all societies, both simple and complex, eating is the primary way of initiating and maintaining human relationships... Once the anthropologist finds out where, when, and with whom the food is eaten, just about everything else can be inferred about the relation among the society's members. To know what, where, how, when, and with whom people eat is to know the character of their society."*

That is equally true of the character of Jesus' mission. At Jesus' table there is no discrimination but radical equality. For Luke, that is a key characteristic in understanding him and his mission.

## MASS TEXT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

***Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me. For the honour of your name, lead me and guide me.***

FIRST READING (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 1

RESPONSE: ***Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.***

- Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night. (R.)
- He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. (R.)

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13**

- Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. (R.)

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20)

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!***

GOSPEL (Luke 6:17. 20-26)

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

***They ate and were filled; the Lord gave them what they wanted: they were not deprived of their desire.***

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2010

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



## Table fellowship

When the tax collector Levi is called by Jesus, the new disciple throws a party (Luke 5:29). He holds a great reception. Obviously, as Luke acknowledges, Levi invites his friends, who are also tax collectors and sinners; and he invites Jesus as well. Jesus has to make up his mind: does he go or not? He goes. The Pharisees and scribes go, not to the meal, but to register their complaint. The great question that recurs throughout the Gospel is: "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Why? Jesus replies with his mission statement: "It is not those who are well that need the doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the virtuous, but sinners."

They seem confused by this. They say: "John's

disciples are always fasting and saying prayers." So what did they expect Jesus' disciples to do? To do the same. Why is it that everyone expects Jesus' disciples to do exactly the same as John's? The disciples of the Pharisees are rather like the disciples of John, because they are famous for two things: fasting and prayer. Jesus' disciples seem to be famous for neither. The Pharisees say: "Your disciples go on eating and drinking."

How do you get people to change? You can stay away from them, and go around leaking your moral disapproval. You can tell people what you think of them; and sometimes we think that if we tell people the truth about themselves it will automatically help



## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

7 St Peter's Road, Cirencester GL7 1RE  
[Telephone: Cirencester 01285 652 087]  
www.stpeterscirencester.org  
Parish Priest: *Fr. Michael Davies*  
Permanent Deacon: *Rev. J Fothergill*

Welcome to our church. If you are a visitor, we hope that you will enjoy your stay in Cirencester. If you are new to the Parish, please make yourself known to someone in the congregation. Saturday evening and Sunday morning, there will be a 'welcoming person' with a badge. Readings (Year C) page 811. For details, see back page.

First Mass of Sunday:	Saturday 6 pm
Sunday Mass:	9.30 am 11 am
Mon 15 Feb	Mass 10 am
Tue 16 Feb	Mass 10 am
Wed 17 Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY Mass 10 am Mass 6 pm Blessing and distribution of ashes at each Mass.
Thur 18 Feb	Mass 10 am
Fri 19 Feb	Mass 10 am
Sat 20 Feb	Mass 10 am Confessions 10.30-11 am, 5-5.30 pm

Please pray for:

- those who are sick, including Tina Dick, Jose Lock, Irene Grout, Fr Frank Loughran, Carla Marshall, Eric Graham, Paul Mahoney, Maisie Norton, Lucy Telling, Claire Halliday, Harold Adams, Irene Spaul, Sally Walsh, Alice Walsh, Philip Langton, Gwen Murphy, Dorothy Godleman, Cesira Franco, Tom Tooley, Clive Owlett, Mary Kinson, Bethany Mickleburgh

(Please inform Fr Michael of any changes to be made to the above list)

- those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including Irene Rackstraw

### FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion this year will begin on **Sunday 28 February at 4 pm**, with a meeting for parents and children in the Presbytery. Forms for parents are available at the back of church.

### ASH WEDNESDAY 17 February

A day of fast (less food than usual) and abstinence (from meat or meat products). Mass will be at 10 am and 6 pm, with blessing and distribution of ashes at each Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 10.30 on Friday (after 10 am Mass).

### FINANCE

Weekend 6/7 February 2010: £260.

Gift Aid: £436, yielding a tax rebate of £117. Total: £813.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CIRENCESTER

Churches Together in Cirencester, which includes all denominations, are once again to present a Lent course. This will be over five weeks beginning the week of 22 February. Poster in the church porch, flyers at the back of church.

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

There are a few vacancies on St Gregory's, Cheltenham, pilgrimage, 27 April – 6 May. £900. Contact Joanne Moston 01242 243207.

### PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Lisieux, Chartres, Orleans, Nevers (resting place of St Bernadette), Paray-le-Monial... James Bruce is now somewhere in the French Alps, once feared by Hannibal's elephants. One, maybe two frontiers crossed so far.

### HOLY ROOD CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL, SWINDON

Vacancy for Deputy Head from September 2010. Closing date 26 Feb, interviews 17 Mar. Ring 01793 523802.

### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 5 March 10 am at Holy Trinity Church, Watermoor. Speaker, Rev Leonard Doolan. All welcome. If you would like to represent St Peter's by reading a few lines, please contact Julia Morgan on 652352,

### URGENTLY NEEDED

Sleeping bags for Homeless Shelter in Gloucester. Ring Bleddwyn on 640184.