

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Weekly Notices

3rd March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Sunday 10th March 2024: Mothering Sunday

9.30 am	Harvington	Mothering Sunday Communion
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Mothering Sunday Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Mothering Sunday Communion+

Lent Course Meeting: TUESDAY 5th MARCH

The theme is: **'The Circle of Life'**

An interactive meditation through art with musical soundscape.
We are meeting at 7.30 pm but gather at 7.00 pm for refreshment
at **Abbots Morton Village Hall**

Basic drawing materials supplied but feel free to bring your own.

All Welcome

For Prayer

God of all, we give thanks for your guidelines for our lives. We are called by you to live in your love and follow your framework. We pray that in these times of challenge and doubt, where truth is hard to find, we would always turn to you. We pray for those who lead our nation. We ask for peace and calm in parliament as life-changing decisions are made that affect us all, and that, despite political differences, our MPs would put people at the centre of their thinking and voting. In the financial challenges that cities, towns and communities face we ask for a sense of fairness and justice, and a focus on those most in need of help and support. May we all give thanks for what we have and seek to be generous to others.

God, who created us all,

may we follow your guidelines and live in your love.

God of all, we give you thanks that you made all people and value every one of us. We are called by you to follow your guidelines in living and sharing our lives with others avoiding conflict and to seek peace. We pray for the end of the wars and conflicts that divide nations. We remember the desperation of the many thousands of refugees. We remember those on all sides of these conflicts: children, the elderly, fighters and families, who continue to suffer or have lost their lives in these past few days. We pray for the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and other agencies and organisations that have influence, that they would continue to seek a settlement.

God, who created us all,

may we follow your guidelines and live in your love.

God of all, we thank you for our church, our community, and the many blessings you give us. We are given ways to live that make our lives better; help us to grow and thrive as followers of Jesus. We ask that we would be good servants. We pray for our homes, our schools, our medical centres, and all those who support others to find help and wholeness. We pray for the workplaces that are hard for employees, for those who are unemployed, and our local community – bring hope and truth where that is lacking. We pray for our church family; for all those in pain or sickness and facing challenging decisions, those who are sad at the loss of those they love. For all the seen and unseen needs, we ask you to walk with us through your love.

God, who created us all,

may we follow your guidelines and live in your love.

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 20:1-17*

¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work— you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Exodus 20:1-17 continued

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 19:7-14*

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
- 11 By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often they offend? O cleanse me from my secret faults!
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me; so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 2:13-22*

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹Jesus answered them,

John 2:13-22 continued

‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’²⁰ They then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Next Week’s First Reading: *1 Samuel 1:20-28*

²⁰Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked him of the LORD.’

²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow.²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.’²³ Her husband Elkanah said to her, ‘Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only - may the LORD establish his word.’ So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him.²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young.²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.²⁶ And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him.²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.’ She left him there for the LORD.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 127:1-4*

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil, for he gives his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Colossians 3:12-17*

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 19:25b-27*

²⁵Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.