

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

**Weekly Notices**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**Second Sunday Before Lent**

**Today's Collect**

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next Week's Services:**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

|          |               |                 |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|
| 9.30 am  | Harvington    | Holy Communion+ |
| 11.00 am | Church Lench  | Morning Service |
| 11.00 am | Abbots Morton | Holy Communion+ |

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024: Ash Wednesday**

|          |            |                            |
|----------|------------|----------------------------|
| 11.00 am | Harvington | Holy Communion and Ashing* |
| 7.30 pm  | Inkberrow  | Holy Communion and Ashing+ |

**Holiday Club 13-15<sup>th</sup> February**

Are you able to help? Would you like a place for your children?

Get in touch with Richard Thorniley **01386 870527**

**holidayclub@archbenefice.org.uk**

## **For Prayer**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord cares for you. He cares for everyone and every situation. So, we come to this God of love and bring Him our pain, our fears, our weariness, our concerns, and we know that He listens as we pray. We bring Him our joys, our successes and our moments of calm and we know that He rejoices with us.

Remember, we are not forgotten by God:

**Those who hope in Him will renew their strength.**

Lord God, we thank You that You do not grow tired or weary. Look with compassion on our tired and weary world. We pray for those working so hard to bring peace; when they are discouraged, come close to them. We pray for the people of Gaza and Ukraine, forced from their homes because of war, tired of hearing the bombs and the shelling, needing a Saviour to lift them up. We pray for the people of Israel losing hope over the return of their loved ones held hostage, mourning the loss of family and friends. We pray for those who need new energy to keep serving in places of despair. We lift our tired and weary world to You.

Remember, we are not forgotten by God:

**Those who hope in Him will renew their strength.**

Lord, we remember those who have died this week due to the violence of others. We are weary of the hatred that we see and hear all around us. Yet we acknowledge that we, too, do not always bring goodness into every situation. We come humbly before You, asking You to forgive us for when we have not been kind and loving. Lord, You came to bring a new way of living, to usher in a new kingdom. Show us ways of being Your hands, feet, eyes and ears in every situation we find ourselves. May our lips always speak uplifting words of encouragement and kindness, just as You speak words of love to us.

Remember, we are not forgotten by God:

**Those who hope in Him will renew their strength.**

Lord, give us new wings of determination and energy as we go forward into a new week. Go before us, Lord, prepare the way for us to bring your goodness into each place. When we are afraid, fill us with courage. When we are energized, help us to overflow with Your joy and creativity. When we are doing mundane, boring tasks, help us to be startled by Your presence. When we are weary, give us Your peace and rest. Fill us afresh ready for each new day.

Remember, we are not forgotten by God:

**Those who hope in Him will renew their strength.**

## **This Week's First Reading: *Proverbs 8:1, 22-31***

<sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – <sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. <sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 104:26-37***

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.

*Psalm 104:26-37 continued*

- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

**This Week's Second Reading: *Colossians 1:15-20***

<sup>15</sup>Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 1:1-14***

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. <sup>4</sup>What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **Next Week's First Reading: *2 Kings 2:1-12***

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

## *2 Kings 2:1-12 continued*

‘Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ <sup>10</sup>He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## **Next Week’s Psalm: *Psalm 50:1-6***

- 1 The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence.
- 3 Consuming fire goes out before him and a mighty tempest stirs about him.
- 4 He calls the heaven above, and the earth, that he may judge his people:

## *Psalm 50:1-6 continued*

- 5 'Gather to me my faithful, who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'
- 6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 4:3-6***

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 9:2-9***

<sup>2</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.