

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

Weekly Notices
11th February 2024
Sunday Next Before Lent

Today's Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services:
Wednesday 14th February 2024: Ash Wednesday

11.00 am	Harvington	Holy Communion and Ashing*
7.30 pm	<i>Inkberrow</i>	Holy Communion and Ashing+

Sunday 18th February 2024

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Family Service
11.00 am	Rous Lench	Morning Service

For Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for being with us even when we didn't know you were there. For the times when we caught a glimpse of you. For moments when we might have had an amazing encounter. We rejoice that you are a God who comes to us. Raise our eyes towards you today that we might go into the week ahead energised and inspired to meet you in every person and every situation.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you, **Help us to tell others the story.**

Lord, we pray for all who have hit the headlines this week, whether for good, painful or unpleasant reasons. We also remember those who were prominent in the news just a few days or weeks ago who have now faded from the front pages, yet whose stories are still known to you. Thank you, Lord, that you never forget anyone. You know our stories and love us throughout our lives.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you, **Help us to tell others the story.**

Lord, we bring to you those who need a special touch from you right now. We pray for those who are sick, remembering King Charles among them. We also pray for..... Lord, may they know the revelation of your healing power. We pray for those who are sad and sorrowful, particularly naming..... Come close, Lord, with your tender touch. Help us to be bringers of peace and kindness this week to anyone we know who needs to feel your presence in their lives...

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you, **Help us to tell others the story.**

Lord, thank you that the disciples and Gospel writers had the courage to tell their stories. We pause for a moment to think of those who directly, or indirectly, led us to this faith moment in our lives... Lord Jesus, the great storyteller, help us never to be ashamed of our story of faith, even if it doesn't seem as dramatic or exciting as those of other people. Give us the courage and desire to tell our story to others, that our witness may in some way help to bring others to trust and follow you. Lead us this week into moments of opportunity where we can share your love with those who need you so deeply.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you, **Help us to tell others the story.**

Amen.

This Week's First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

²Elijah 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.

³The 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.'

⁴Elijah 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. ⁵The 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.'

⁶Then 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.

⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then 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.

⁹When 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.' ¹⁰He 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.' ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire

2 Kings 2:1-12 continued

and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha 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.

This 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:
- 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.

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

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In 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. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 continued

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.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 9:2-9*

²Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then 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.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As 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.

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 9:8-17*

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a

Genesis 9:8-17 continued

flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹²God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Next Week’s Psalm: *Psalm 25:1-9*

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Next Week's Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'
¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'