

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 7th February 2021

The Second Sunday
before Lent



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - viewable via the Broadcast Page of our church website. www.stjohns pevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 situation, St John's Church is closed for public worship services & private prayer until further notice.

Sunday Parish Mass will be online only - recorded in the closed church and broadcast via our church website at 10:30 a.m, all being well.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Ian M, Brenda R, Jane G, Cynthia H, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Libby V, Kath Q, and Linda.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time:

Ruby Crighton, Charity Oware, Norman Gray, and Paula Pennington Hall,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: Thou Whose Almighty Word... chosen by Gwen B.

As a child, Gwen won a scholarship to Horsham High School, but tragically her brother died in an accident, and the family relocated to Surrey for a fresh start. So Gwen went to Reigate County School, and was selected, as a first year student, to sing in the school choir. Gwen has fond memories of singing the school hymn - *Thou Whose Almighty Word* – and in particular how the very good but somewhat highbrow choir mistress insisted on the correct intonation of the final line "Let there be light!" Those words have stuck in Gwen's mind ever since, and hence it is her choice for our Gradual Hymn today.

This hymn, together with today's readings, reflects the involvement of the whole Trinity in Creation, and beyond. God the Father setting Creation in motion in Genesis Chapter 1; God the Son - the Word - described by John in the Gospel reading; God the Holy Spirit - the Wisdom at work during the Creation process.

American theologian Frederick Buechner has an interesting take on this:

"In Hebrew the term *dabar* means both 'word' and 'deed'. Thus to say something is to do something. *I love you. I forgive you. I am afraid.* Something that lay hidden in the heart is irrevocably released through speech into time, is given substance and tossed like a stone into the pool of history, where the concentric rings lap out endlessly.

Words are power, essentially the power of creation... When God said 'Let there be light', there *was* light where before there was only darkness. When I *say* I love you, there *is* love where before there was only ambiguous silence.... By speaking I give it reality.

'In the beginning was the Word', says John, meaning perhaps that before the beginning there was something like silence... then the Word. The Deed. The Beginning. 'The Word was with God, and the Word was God', says John. By uttering himself, God makes himself heard, and makes himself hearers."

Mass for the Second Sunday before Lent

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son
Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins
in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's
commandments, and to live
in love and peace with all.

The Collect

Let us pray:

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

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 8.1,22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her
voice?

The LORD created me at the beginning
of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the
earth.

When there were no depths I was
brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding
with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth –
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I
was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of
the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains
of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not trans-
gress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of
the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master
worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 1.15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation; 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. He himself is
before all things, and in him all things hold
together. 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. For in him
all the fullness of God was pleased to
dwell, 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.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel-day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move o'er the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light! *John Marriott (1780-1825)*

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father
except through me.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ, to hear us when we pray in faith.

Strengthen Martin, Will and Ruth, our bishops, and all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit ... ; give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ ... ; according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy
All Hear our prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [N and of] all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,
All Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace *is introduced*

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

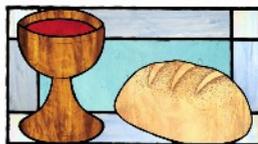
Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Music: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*
- Buxtehude

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.
All Blessed be God for ever.



The priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and
praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our
salvation,
always and everywhere to give you
thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death
with light that will not fade.

This day the risen Lord walks with your
gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking
of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending song of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death
on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once
for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and
this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of
Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Peter,
Mary the Mother of God, and all the
saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share
in one bread.**

Agnus Dei is said:

**All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

Communion is received

Music during Communion:
Herr Christ, der einig Gottes sohn
- J.G. Walther

Prayer after Communion

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
All Amen.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have
set before us,
so we and all your children shall be
free,
and the whole earth live to praise
your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.
All Amen.

Priest Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Concluding voluntary:
Postlude in D major - Healey Willan



Prayer for our nation - week 2

Last week, our Archbishops invited us all to call on God in Prayer - to set aside time to pray, particularly at 6 p.m. each day.

"More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other.

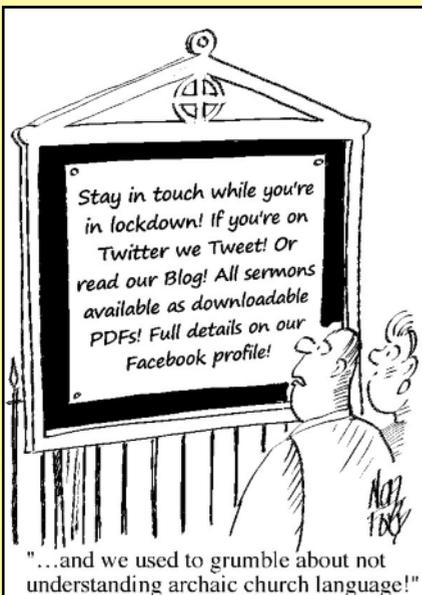
Prayer is an expression of love."

This week's prayer, for 8th - 14th February:

Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.

Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



York St John University - "Covid-19 & Church-21" online survey

At a loose end? Enjoy filling in online questionnaires? Last year, if you recall, researchers from York St John University carried out a project to investigate the churches' response (all denominations) to the challenges faced due to the pandemic and ensuing lockdown. It was very insightful, we are told, and apparently over 10,000 people took part. We are being invited to take part in a confidential follow-up survey now. If you are interested, please visit their webpage:

www.yorksj.ac.uk/coronavirus-church-and-you/

Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!



In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, *'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night'* (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!

The Rev'd Canon Paul Hardingham

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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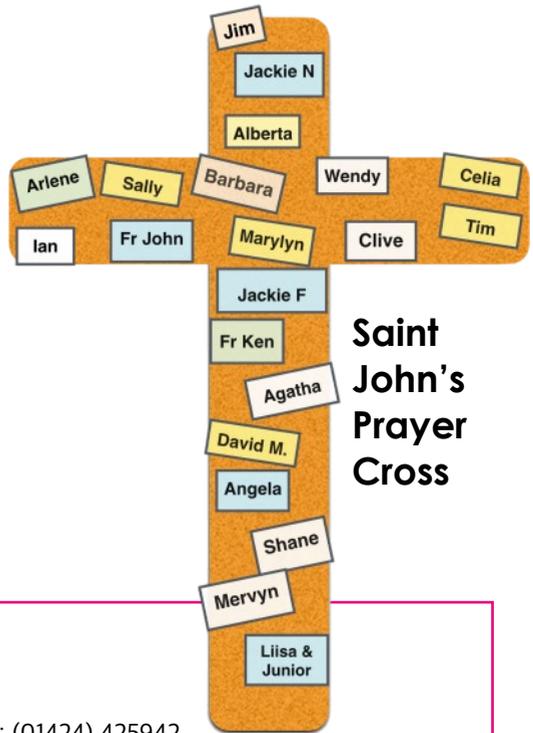
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Frederick Buechner quotation from "Wishful Thinking: a seeker's ABC", HarperOne, 1993



Saint John's Prayer Cross

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