

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

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

Sunday Parish Mass is 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".

An online Ash Wednesday service... will be recorded by Fr David and be viewable via the Broadcast page of the church website.

Please note that Fr David is hoping to have a little "down time" this week.



People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, 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:

Charity Oware, Norman Gray, Paula Pennington Hall, Eunice Byrom, Peter Harvey (Priest), Mila, and Clive Riddell,

...and all who mourn.

This year's Lent Course, or Pilgrimage, will be presented by Fr David via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 p.m, starting on 23rd February. We will be following the *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* course. If you would like to take part, please send Fr David an email in order to receive the online signing-up details. Alternatively, Fr David is endeavouring to get printed versions for those not online to use at home as individual households. If you are online, but cannot make the Tuesday 7 p.m. timeslot, then the materials can be accessed via this link:

ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2021

... or search for *CTBI*, and then for *Lent Course 2021* on their website.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *Jerusalem the Golden*

The text of *Jerusalem the Golden* originated from *De Contemptu Mundi*, a long, satirical poem in Latin, written by the twelfth century French Benedictine monk Bernard of Cluny. Most of his poem concentrated on earthly suffering and corruption, directed against the secular and religious failings he observed in the world at that time. However, the first section described, in comparison, "the peace and glory of heaven", based on Revelation 21:1-2, and these verses formed the basis of John Mason Neale's translation into the hymn verses we know today.

Mass for the Sunday next 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.

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.

**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.**

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.

The Collect

Let us pray:

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.

All Amen.

A reading from the Second Book of Kings

2 Kings 2.1-12

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

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. 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.'

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

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.' 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.' 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. 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.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

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

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not,
What social joys are there;
What radiancy of glory,
What light beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,
Conjubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessèd
Are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David;
And there, from care released,
The song of them that triumph,
The shout of them that feast;
And they who with their Leader
Have conquered in the fight,
Forever and forever
Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part;
His only, his for ever,
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

*Vv 1-3 Bernard of Cluny (12th cent)
tr J.M. Neale (1818-66),
v.4 Hymns Ancient & Modern 1861*

clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 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.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

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.

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

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 Mark
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 9.2-9

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, and his

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.

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

Prayer after Communion

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.
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:
Fanfare - J. Lemmens

This week's "Prayer for the Nation"

15th - 21st February:

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your
new life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

VALENTINE

**"For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That whosoever
Believes In Him
Should Not perish,
But have Everlasting life."
John 3:16**

14th February: St Valentine's Day



Confusingly, there seem to have been two different Valentines, in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with romance or courting couples.

So why has "Valentine" become the patron saint of romantic love? By the 14th century the link was assumed to be because by these saints' day - 14th February - birds are supposed to have paired. As Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in 1382: *'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.'*

Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman *Lupercalia* festival, which took place in the middle of February, when it was a popular custom for young people to be "paired off" by picking a name from a box. A bit like a Roman version of "Blind Date". The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine cards often feature Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

Shakespeare's Ophelia, in *Hamlet* (1600-1601), says the words:

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

And a classic Valentine's Day line may be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes going back to 1784:

The rose is red, the violet's blue, The honey's sweet, and so are you...



History Corner: the Third Church

Here are some shots of the third St John's Church. The final completion of the building was celebrated in May 1884, when the Bishop described it as "nearly perfect as a building, containing all that a church ought to contain, and nothing that it ought not". [Discuss! - Ed.] It boasted a "superb" three-manual organ by Foster and Andrews, a chancel roof painted with the *Benedicite* (in 1899), the Ortolano painting hanging over the altar, a total of 50 stained glass lights (windows), and a beautiful Baptistry with nine panel windows and massive font - the gift of the Rector as a thanksgiving for his children, whose initials were inscribed on the ceiling above.

The tower and spire constituted one of the principal landmarks of the Borough, visible from all directions. The four church bells were cast at Annecy in France, and given to the church in 1891.



Sadly, it became a casualty of the Second World War, being all but destroyed by two high-energy bombs in a raid in February 1943. Thankfully the church building took the brunt of the blasts, and no-one was killed or injured. It was said, rather poignantly, of the church "It saved others, itself it could not save".

Covid-19 vaccinations: If you are over 70, and have not yet had your Coronavirus vaccine, you are now being encouraged to contact the NHS to arrange this. A national booking system can be accessed online via:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination or you can phone 119, free of charge, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.

People who are registered as housebound with their GP are eligible for a home visit appointment for their vaccination, and will apparently be contacted in the next two weeks. If this applies to you - then Sussex Police, with your security in mind, stress that the person who contacts you will do so only to arrange an appointment time, and should not ask for personal details, and certainly not ask for payment. When they come, they will carry NHS ID, which you should ask to see.

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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Collect (Sunday next before Lent, Additional)

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Extended Preface (before Lent and after Trinity)

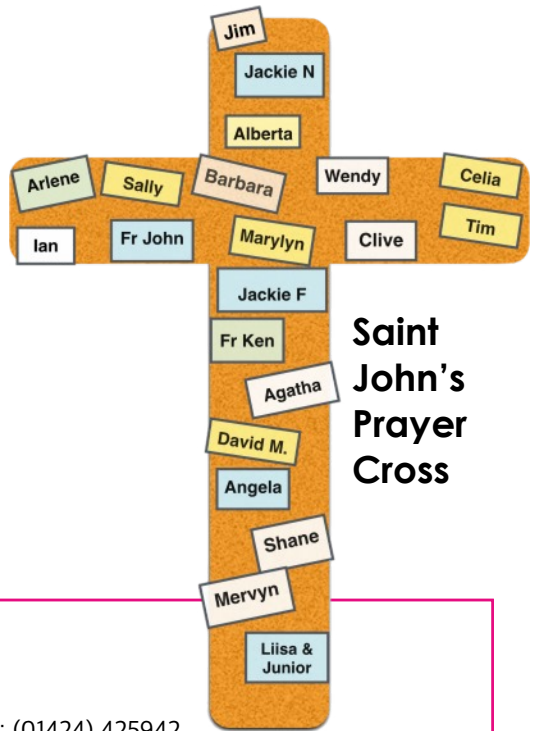
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Post Communion (Sunday next before Lent)

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Information for the History Corner is taken from "St John the Evangelist - the First Hundred Years" by W.H. Dyer, 1965



Saint John's Prayer Cross

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