

Sunday 7 February 2021

2nd Sunday before Lent

Welcome to everyone today – wherever you are!

Although our church buildings are temporarily closed for public worship, the church is very much open! The decision to close was not an easy one to make but we want to protect everyone in our church family and help bring an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Parish Eucharist is at 10am live on St Thomas' Facebook page.

You can also *dial in* to listen live, or later, using our new phone number

01706 599309.

There are also hymns and prayers to listen to and these will change from week to week.

The Collect

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever.

First Reading *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 transgress 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.

Gospel Reading *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.

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.

The Week Ahead & Information

Today (and each Sunday)

Join us for coffee after the Sunday morning service, 10.45-11.15am on Zoom. You just need the email link to join in – if you've not received one please email Fr David (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com)

Monday - Saturday

9am Morning Prayer live on St Thomas' Facebook page
5pm Evening Prayer live on St James' Facebook page (not on Saturday)

Wednesday

12pm Lunch Deliveries see note below

Thursday

11.00 Funeral service for Eileen Atkinson RIP at St Thomas'

Friday

2.20pm Funeral service for Jack Brown RIP at Accrington crematorium

Next Sunday (14 February – Sunday next before Lent)

10am Eucharist from St Thomas' live-streamed on St Thomas' Facebook page & dial-in
10.45am After church coffee on Zoom

Archbishops' Call to Prayer

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Each day at 6pm we are asked to pray for all who suffer from the virus, who all care for this with it and for those whose lives have been taken by it. We will continue to offer prayers during Evening Prayer at 5pm each day online. You might like to use the following prayer as an addition to your daily offering.

Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Wednesday Lunches *continued*

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive a hot, homemade lunch on a Wednesday, please book in with Fr Andrew by the previous Saturday. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com, 07460 899451

Please note that we are also able to provide frozen main meals to keep you going during the rest of the week, for families or individuals. Please let us know of anyone who might benefit from a delivery.

Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on 17 February this year. There will be a *Service of the Word* on St Thomas' Facebook page at 10am and a Sung Eucharist live on St James' Facebook at 5pm (instead of Evening Prayer).

Lent booklets, *Read, Mark and Learn*, based on the Gospel of Mark, are on order from the Diocese of Blackburn. If you would like one, please let Fr David or Fr Andrew know. We've ordered 160 to help us reach as many people as possible. Lent prayer calendars will also be available and distributed.

The Lent Course will be on Thursday afternoons, 2.30-3.30pm, on Zoom. This course will guide us through some of the Psalms of the Old Testament in a course written by the Archbishop of York. Please **email** Fr David (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com) for a Zoom invite. 5 Thursdays beginning on 25 February.

Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539264279)

For your prayers

For the whole Church of God and for all who live out Christ's Gospel.

For all who work in our community to support the vulnerable and isolated.

For all health care workers and hospital chaplaincy teams.

For the sick: Ian, Alan, Denzil, Edna, Charley, Rita, Dorothy, Jim, Matthew, Jimmy, Jean, Mary, Mother Enid, Judith, Julie, Mandy, Alexander, Emily, Mandy, Rob, Jimmy

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*