

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Feast of St Mark

**Welcome to everyone today both in our church buildings and those who join us from their homes.**

This morning's services are **both** live-streamed on St Thomas' Facebook page. We hope that our dial-in will also work. You should be able to listen live, or later, by dialling **01706 599309**.

Some safety reminders now we're back in church:

- Please keep face coverings in place over nose and mouth during the service
- The hymns are sung by choir alone
- Please remain in your places until invited to move by a steward
- Please don't wander to chat to friends – sorry
- Please take service sheets with you at the end
- Please disperse quickly at the end of the service and **please don't congregate outside to chat**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
who enlightened your holy Church  
through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark:  
grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel,  
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **First Reading Acts 15.35-end**

But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, and there, with many others, they taught and proclaimed the word of the Lord.

After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

### **Gospel Reading Mark 13.5-13**

Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit

strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## The Week Ahead & Information

Monday-Saturday

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

Wednesday 12pm Lunch deliveries

Thursday 11am Frozen Meal deliveries

**Next Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9.15am Eucharist *at St Thomas'*  
10.45am Eucharist *at St James'*  
2pm Baptism of Lola *at St James'*

### Annual Meetings

St Thomas', Sunday 9 May, St James', Sunday 16 May following the morning services. There are vacancies on both PCCs and for Secretaries. Nomination forms are available at the back of church, today. Please keep this date in your diary and consider if you're able to offer some time to help lead our churches.

### Doorstep Joy

We want to help keep people occupied. Please see separate information about our new outreach programme to help those who continue to be isolated or restricted. We're offering to deliver jigsaw puzzles and reading books to your doorstep, and to collect them again in a week or two's time, and bring new ones, if you'd like. The first point of contact is Fr David –

07539 264279 – to get started. Please share this information with anyone you think might appreciate it.

## **Wednesday Lockdown Lunches**

Our final lockdown lunch will be delivered on Wednesday this week. We are offering two deliveries in May on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Please book with Fr Andrew **by the previous Saturday**. Absolutely **anyone** is eligible. No charge but donations of £5 welcome. Fr Andrew – [andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com](mailto:andrewinhaslingden@gmail.com), 07460 899451

*Our frozen main meals are available to order. Please let us know of anyone who might benefit from a delivery. The current menu includes: Lasagne, Cottage Pie, Chicken Korma & Rice, Tuna Pasta Bake, Macaroni Cheese, Chili & Rice. Suggested donation of £1.50 per meal.*

## **Church Flowers**

If you would like to make a gift to pay for flowers for a particular Sunday – in memory, in thanksgiving, for whatever reason, please sign up for your Sunday on the list at the back of each of our churches. You can pass your gift to one of the clergy, Julie Goodwin, Marjorie Charnley or Elizabeth Smart.

## **Prayers**

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. ([frdavidstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:frdavidstephenson@gmail.com), 07539 264279)

### **For your prayers**

For our Cathedral Church in Blackburn, for the Dean and Chapter, and ministry to the diocese and local community.

For the Queen and Royal Family; for the right use of the earth's resources and a sharing of its bounty.

In thanksgiving for gradual easing of lockdown restrictions and for all who work to vaccinate throughout the world and for all who work in the NHS

For our church community and for people to offer to serve on our PCCs; for the strengthening of bonds between our two churches

For the sick: Ian, Denzil, Edna, Charley, Rita, Mother Enid, Judith, Mandy, Wynne, Lizzie, Margaret, Tom, Allister, Betty

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.*