

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

Weekly Notices
6th April 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Next Week's Services
Sunday 13th April 2025: Palm Sunday

10.00 am	Church Lench	Benefice Family Service with Procession
6.30 pm	Abbots Morton	Benefice Communion & Reading the Passion

May issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

The stop date for the April issue of the *ARCH Messenger*
is **tomorrow, Monday 7th April.**

For Prayer

Lord of all time, we thank you for the great things you have done for us and your creation over generations. We thank you for all those saints of faith who have worshipped here, running the race of life and faith you called them to. We thank you for the great things you have done in many individual lives: people healed, given new hope, supported through troubles and helped to grow in faith. We thank you for calling our leaders and those who work quietly behind the scenes to serve others, and their commitment to make a positive difference to our church community. We thank you for being with us in our own joys and challenges, helping us at school, at work, in our homes, and in all we do. We thank you for the great things you have done as we have served and continue to serve and help those in our area, shining the light of Jesus in the darkness of the world. The Lord has done great things for us, **The Lord has done great things.**

Lord of peace, we join with the psalmist in thanking you for filling us with the joy of knowing you. We thank you for our homes, our safety, our privileges, our peace and our security. So we pray for all those across your created world that do not have those things that we rely on and take for granted. We pray for the millions of refugees who have had to flee their homes in the Sudan as civil war continues and the true horror of brutality is normal. We pray for people whose homes in Gaza and the West Bank have been destroyed, who have nowhere to go, and whose lives are filled with fear and darkness. We pray for the thousands of people in Myanmar who have lost their lives, and the many more who are bereaved, homeless and feeling hopeless. We pray for all the people of Ukraine who look for peace and justice in our ever-changing, confusing world. We pray that you, Lord, will do great things to comfort, heal and bring peace.

The Lord has done great things for us, **The Lord has done great things.**

Lord of salvation, we thank you that as we look forward to Easter we think of your son who came to save us and all people. We thank you that you do the great thing of knowing and loving each one of us, offering us forgiveness, a way through life and the hope of eternal life. We pray for those we know who are suffering loss, illness or sadness, that they will have the strength to look to you for their help. We pray for those who are struggling on their journey of faith, and reaching out, that you would take

For Prayer (continued)

their hand and pull them onto safe ground. We pray that we would have the strength and determination to put everything else aside that the world offers, and focus only on you. May our desires, hopes and passion always look to you, so that we may know Jesus fully and serve others as he served. You have done great things, so we look for your greatness to renew us again.

The Lord has done great things for us, **The Lord has done great things.**

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave.*

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-9*

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 126:1-7*

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

This Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

⁴If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, ⁹not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to

Philippians 3:4b-14 continued

know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 12:1-8*

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Liturgy of the Palms

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, 'His mercy endures for ever.'
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 The Lord is God; he has given us light; link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.
- 29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 19:28-40*

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks

Luke 19:28-40 continued

you, “Why are you untying it?” just say this: “The Lord needs it.”’³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them.³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’³⁴ They said, ‘The Lord needs it.’³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,³⁸ saying, ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!’

