

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

Weekly Notices
12th January 2025
Baptism of Christ

Today's Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 19th January 2025

8.30 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion*
11.00 am	Rous Lench VH	Morning Service
4.00 pm	Harvington	Christingle Service

Christingle Preparation

Volunteers sought to assemble Christingles
next **Saturday 18th January at 2.30 pm in St James**

Bring small knives and scissors, nimble fingers and the ability to count

Let me know if you can help

Richard Thorniley

For Prayer

When we walk through the flood and the world seems dangerous and unpredictable May we not be afraid! Help us to know that you are with us and will never leave us.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When social media spreads misinformation, mistrust and hate and where many voices compete for our loyalty and attention; give us wisdom in choosing where we place our trust. Help us to challenge lies with facts.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When the vulnerable go cold and many children live in poverty but others enjoy luxury and plenty and close their eyes and hearts to the need all around: help us to hear your call to build a more equal world.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When leadership fails and there is dissatisfaction with political responses and insurgency seems appealing in the name of change; give us wisdom and patience for the long-term work that is needed. Help us to pray continually for all with leadership roles in church and in society.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When people are in danger and homes and businesses are destroyed by wildfire, floods or earthquakes, may we remember our true security in you. Give courage to emergency and rescue services, hospital staff and all who seek to mend broken bodies and lives. Help us to show compassion to all in need.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When suffering comes and we walk through the dark, not knowing if we have enough strength for tomorrow; give to us what we need to manage this day and be close to those we know who are in need. Help us not to lose hope.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

When the way ahead is uncertain, go ahead of us and lead us always onwards deeper into the love that made us and that will bring us home. Help us to hear you day by day calling us by name.

Strengthen your people, O Lord. **Surround us with your peace.**

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

¹Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 29:1-10*

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

Psalm 29:1-10 continued

- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

This Week's Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This Week's Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.)

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 continued

is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 62:1-5*

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 36:5-10*

- 5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.
- 7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! All mortal flesh shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; they shall drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.
- 10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

Next Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

¹Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 2:1-11*

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ¹⁰'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.