

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

**Weekly Notices**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Today's Collect**

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion+
6.30 pm	Harvington	Holy Communion*

*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.*

## **For Prayer**

We think of the saints who have served and shared the faith of God over generations. So we remember Pope Francis and give thanks to you, our God, for his gentleness and humility. We give thanks to you for his calm and wisdom in leading millions of worshippers across the world. We give thanks to you for the ways he worked with other churches to bring Christian unity, and we give thanks to you for his voice speaking out for peace, kindness and love in our world. Following his example, and knowing the joy of the risen Christ in our hearts, we pray that you will show us how we can follow the example of Pope Francis and other Christian leaders in our daily lives.

**May we be your witnesses, may we unlock your love.**

We think of our country and our community, for those in desperation and those in need. So we remember those who are facing homelessness, poverty and despair. We pray to you, our God, for those who seem on the margins, those who have been forgotten, and those who have not had the chances in life that we enjoy. We pray for those who have given way to addiction, or those who have developed lives of crime. We pray for those who are worried about cuts in benefits or losing their jobs. We pray to you that even those at the end of all hope will find hope in you. Following the example of Jesus, we pray that you will show each one of us what we can do to help those who seem beyond help, and how we as a church community carrying the name of the risen Christ can make a difference.

**May we be your witnesses, may we unlock your love.**

We think of those known to us who are in need right now, and we bring our own needs to God. So we remember those in our families and our church family who are sick, lost or lonely at this time. We pray to you, our God, for your love and comfort to surround them as a good parent protects their children. We pray that they would know the power of your Spirit in bringing healing, and the warmth of your love in bringing comfort. We pray to you that you would help with the decisions that people have to make, the hardships they face, and the mourning they endure. We remember ourselves, as we reflect on the Easter story and look back a week to the joyous resurrection of Jesus. Now, as we read of how the disciples and others met Jesus afresh and believed in him, we pray to you that we would meet Jesus in a new way. May we all be filled with the Holy Spirit to live and serve others.

**May we be your witnesses, may we unlock your love.**

## **This Week's First Reading: Acts 5:27-32**

<sup>27</sup>When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, <sup>28</sup>'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

## **This Week's Psalm: Psalm 150:1-6**

- 1 Alleluia. O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him upon the harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia.

## **This Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 1:4-8***

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-31***

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I

## *John 20:19-31 continued*

see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## **Next Week's First Reading: Acts 9:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' <sup>5</sup>He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 30:1-12***

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up and have not let my foes triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you and you have healed me.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.
- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- 6 In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'
- 7 Then you hid your face from me and I was utterly dismayed.
- 8 To you, O Lord, I cried; to the Lord I made my supplication:
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper.'
- 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;
- 12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 5:11-14***

<sup>11</sup>I, John, looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

## Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 21:1-19*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' <sup>6</sup>He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

<sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know

## *John 21:1-19 continued*

that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' <sup>19</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'