

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

Weekly Notices
30th March 2025
Mothering Sunday



Today's Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 6th April 2025

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	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.*

May issue of the ARCH Messenger

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

For Prayer

Father, we rejoice that we are welcomed into your presence today and every day. Thank you for taking the first steps, making the first move, rushing towards us with open arms of forgiveness, love and joy. Help us never to take your love for granted. Instead, give us the grace and the courage to be as welcoming to others as you are to us. Father, we thank you for welcoming us into your family.

Help us to welcome others too.

Father, on this Mothering Sunday, we turn our thoughts and prayers to our families. We thank you for all those who behave as mothers towards us whether we are related to them or not. We pause for a moment to think about what we can do to show kindness and care to them too... We pray for everyone who lives in the same house as us, as well as those who are our neighbours, or who we long to see face to face but can only speak to over the phone or the internet. Thank you for the technology that can bring us closer. We think of a particular special moment with our loved ones this week. Help us to hold it in our hearts and minds so it brings a smile when things get tough. Father, we thank you for welcoming us into your family.

Help us to welcome others too.

Lord, thank you for this church congregation. We think back to the first time we came here... what or who was it that encouraged us to return? We pray for the people around us today; for those behind and in front of us; our friends and those whose names we do not know. We pray for those who will come into this church for the first time this week: as a visitor; as someone enquiring about you; those who want time alone with you to pray; for those who may come to a funeral or a wedding or just want to look and see. Father may our welcome be as warm as your welcome is to us. May those who come through our doors meet you in a deeply meaningful way and may they leave here rejoicing that they have had an encounter with a Father who loves them. Father, we thank you for welcoming us into your family.

Help us to welcome others too.

As we go forward into the week ahead may we know the loving Father-heart of God in us and all around us. May we take that love to everyone we meet and into everything we do. And may we return next week refreshed by God's love ready to praise him for all that he has done for us.

Amen.

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 2:1-10*

¹A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 34:11-20*

- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20 He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.

This Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 continued

your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:33-35*

³³The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 43:16-21*

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.

Next 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.

Next 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 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

Philippians 3:4b-14 continued

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.

Next 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.'