

Sunday 22nd February

First Week of Lent

Today's Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week Services: Sunday 1st March

8:30am	Rous Lench VH	Holy Communion
9:30am	Harvington	Morning Service
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion
6:30pm	Harvington	Holy Communion

Mid Week Eucharist: 11:00 am Wednesday, St James, Harvington

World Day of Prayer - Friday 6th March

1:45 Service in St James' Church, Harvington

Written by the Christian women of Nigeria, all are welcome!

This Week's First Reading: *Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7.*

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 32.*

1 Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

2 Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For I held my tongue; my bones wasted away
through my groaning all the day long.

4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide.

6 I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.

8 You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.

9 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

10 'Be not like horse and mule which have no understanding;
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.'

11 Great tribulations remain for the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 5.12-19,*

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the

one man, Jesus Christ abounded for the many.¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 4.1-11.*

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Next Weeks Readings: *Genesis 12.1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4.1-5, 13-17, John 3.1-17.*

Prayer of Intercession

God of love these are testing times for our country. Many people are still really struggling with the cost of living. We pray for people who are finding day-to-day life hard. Thank you for those who are trying to help, for the foodbanks, advice centres and community interventions bringing some relief and hope. Give volunteers the energy and funds they need to keep going and help us as your people, to look after those in need within our community.

Lord Of All Mercy **Hear Our Prayer**

We thank you for the NHS and all those who are still working extra house to get through the winter crisis. We think also of those who are caring at home, those who share a load so big they are struggling to cope. Please help to show your love and make us more aware of where we can be more than just visitors.

Lord Of All Mercy **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for our children as they navigate the complexities of social media and the internet. Please protect our children and young people. As a church may we work hard to safeguard all of the young people in our care and create safe spaces in which children can flourish and grow in their faith.

Lord Of All Mercy **Hear Our Prayer**

God of love these are testing times for some of our friends and family. We want to ask you to be with people in our communities who are suffering now, with illness, grief or situations that are very difficult. We pray for friends and family struggling with mental health issues and depression. Help us when we are tested to do the right thing. Help us to make decisions that are full of grace and love. Help us to put our trust in you and be people others can trust.

Lord Of All Mercy **Hear Our Prayer**

Amen.