

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

Weekly Notices

2nd March 2025

Sunday Next Before Lent

Today's Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Wednesday 5th March 2025: Ash Wednesday

11.00 am Harvington Holy Communion and Ashing*

Sunday 9th March 2025

8.30 am Rous Lench Holy Communion*

9.30 am Harvington Morning Service

11.00 am Church Lench Holy Communion+

6.30 pm Harvington Holy Communion*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 – A GLOBAL EVENT

I Made You Wonderful – Psalm 139:13

2:00 pm Friday 7th March at St James', Harvington

Prepared by the women of the Cook Islands. Join together with millions across the globe from 170 countries. All are welcome

Refreshments available before and after the service

For Prayer

Lord, we come to you now, recognising that you are the Lord of glory. Your glory is far beyond what we can see or imagine. You are so much greater than anything we can conceive. You are utterly beyond us. And yet, you delight to commune with us, your beloved people. Thank you for your love. Thank you for listening to us as we turn our thoughts and hearts to prayer. Thank you that you care about each person or situation we pray for. Although you shine in glory, nothing is beyond your loving, caring gaze.

Lord, as your glory shines upon us: **May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we continue to pray for Europe and the growing unrest after three years of war between Russia and Ukraine. We pray that you will bring your wisdom to the leaders of the nations, that they may focus on bringing a lasting peace.

Lord, as your glory shines upon us: **May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, as we go out from this place today, may we be transformed because we have met you. And may we take that transformation into our communities. We ask that your glory will shine in our community spaces this week: wherever we encounter others. Help us to bring words of encouragement and hope into every situation we face because we have a hope in you. May our actions reflect your goodness. Lord, may our first thought be kindness as we interact with all whom we meet.

Lord, as your glory shines upon us: **May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we pray for those who are hurting or sick or sad. We bring to you all who struggle to see your glory in their current situation. We name all those who are particularly on our hearts now... (*a pause*). Lord, help us to take your light into those difficult and painful places. Give us your compassion and help us to be peace-bringers.

Lord, as your glory shines upon us: **May we go from here and shine for you.**

We think about the week ahead, Lord, and wonder what it will bring. As we rehearse in our minds the places we expect to go and people we expect to see... help us to shine there for you. But we know that there may be unexpected moments where we are tested and troubled. Help us to shine for you there, too. In our times of celebration, may you be at the centre. Remind us, in our dark times, that you never leave us. Go before us into every situation, shining as a beacon to guide the way ahead.

Lord, as your glory shines upon us: **May we go from here and shine for you and bring us back next week to share the story of your glory as we have seen it in our lives and the lives of others. Amen.**

This Week's First Reading: *Exodus 34:29-35*

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 99:1-9*

- 1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble; he is enthroned upon the cherubim: let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion and high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome; the Lord our God is holy.
- 4 Mighty king, who loves justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- 5 Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.

Psalm 99:1-9 continued

- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests and Samuel among those who call upon his name, they called upon the Lord and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.
- 8 You answered them, O Lord our God; you were a God who forgave them and pardoned them for their offences.
- 9 Exalt the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

This Week's Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

¹²Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ¹Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 continued

truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 9:28b-36*

²⁸Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

April issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

The stop date for the April issue of the *ARCH Messenger* is **next Monday 10th March.**

Next Week's First Reading: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

Moses spoke to the people, saying: ¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 91:1-11*

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

Psalm 91:1-11 continued

- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Romans 10:8b-13*

⁸What does scripture say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 4:1-13*

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' "

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", ¹¹and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "

¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.