

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

**Weekly Notices**

**5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Today's Collect**

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations  
to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Next Week's Services**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Ascension Day**

11.00 am Harvington Holy Communion+

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

10.00 am Harvington Rogation *at HBC*  
11.00 am Abbots Morton Holy Communion+  
11.00 am Church Lench Morning Service

**June issue of the ARCH Messenger**

The stop date for the June issue of the *ARCH Messenger*  
is **tomorrow, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **For Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your Church in these times of change when it would be easy to become entrenched. May we always be open to new ideas; may we never fear the challenges brought by new people, because their insights might surprise us and inspire us to try new things; may we always seek your guidance and be alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

**Open our hearts and minds, O Lord – lead us forward**

Lord Jesus, we pray for your world, where age-old conflicts continue to fuel wars in Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere, and where conflict between individuals and groups with different ways and ideas has never been greater. We pray for openness of heart, mind and spirit, in order to find solutions to enable peace and harmony; meanwhile, may the hungry be fed, the sick receive the care they need, and the grieving be comforted. May the humanity shown in acts of bravery, self-sacrifice and kindness in these troubled times and places continue to surprise us, O Lord.

**Open our hearts and minds, O Lord – lead us forward**

Lord Jesus, we pray for our own community, especially for any new neighbours who have come among us. May we welcome them with open hearts, minds and doors and encourage the contributions they bring.

**Open our hearts and minds, O Lord – lead us forward**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit; for all who lack shelter, or food, or other basic necessities of life; and we pray for all those who seek to help them, especially those who explore new ways to ensure better lives where all needs are met. Guide and inspire them, Lord, in their scientific endeavour, or their policy making, or in whatever field they labour to improve the lot of those in need. May we always be amazed by what can be achieved.

**Open our hearts and minds, O Lord – lead us forward**

Lord Jesus, with knife crime dominating the headlines again this week, we pray for all who have been personally affected; please comfort the grieving and heal the injured, and give strength to those whose professions bring them into contact with its consequences. We pray, too, for those who work to change hearts and minds, so that the lives of many may be changed for the better, and many lives may be saved.

**Let knives be laid down, O Lord; let lives be changed, and spared.**

**Open ALL hearts and minds, O Lord – lead us forward. Amen**

## **This Week's First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## **This Week's Psalm: Psalm 98:1-10**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.

## *Psalm 98:1-10 continued*

- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

## **This Week's Second Reading: *1 John 5:1-6***

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## **This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 15:9-17***

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>9</sup>'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said

## *John 15:9-17 continued*

these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

## **Next Week's First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, <sup>16</sup>'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – <sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 1:1-6***

- 1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper.
- 4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *1 John 5:9-13***

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 17:6-19***

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: <sup>6</sup>'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and

## *John 17:6-19 continued*

know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'