

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

Weekly Notices

7th July 2024

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you
in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 14th July 2024

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Morning Service

Baptism and Confirmation Candidates

Pray for our baptism candidates Teddy Thompson, Wilfred Hugo
McBennet-Southern and confirmation candidate Rosalind Brotherton,
all being baptised or confirmed this month.

Give thanks for Luke Sutton and Czarina-Vielle Go Reinante
who were married yesterday.

For Prayer

God of truth, on this day when we are reflecting on leadership, we pray for those newly elected to Parliament and for our new Prime Minister Keir Starmer: may he and all who will serve as MPs use their strengths well, be mindful of their weaknesses, and be blessed with the gifts of courage, wisdom and integrity **for the good of all.**

We pray for all leaders in our churches and communities, for the leaders in industry and for leaders in countries around the world, particularly where the acquisition of power has corrupted and the pursuit of more power has led to injustice, suppression and war. May all who lead and all in power be held accountable for their actions and be blessed with the gifts of humility, empathy and truthfulness **for the good of all.**

We pray for the people of Union Island, left with so little after the devastation of Hurricane Beryl, and for the leaders of the neighbouring islands as they organise supplies and support. We pray for all those impacted by extreme weather, and for the leaders of all the nations to unite and invest in the future of our planet and for one another as we seek to live more sustainably **for the good of all.**

We pray for those facing storms in their personal lives, those who have been devastated by sudden tragedy, by the actions of others, and those who regret their own actions and the impact they have had on those around them. We pray for those whose long term situations have left them with little energy and little hope. Lord Jesus, lead and guide them and us by your Spirit **for the good of all.**

We pray for ourselves and one another, for those on our hearts and minds, for those who have shaped our lives and guided us, and for those we have the joy and the privilege of being alongside. Bless each of us with compassion, openness and discernment **for the good of all.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, servant, shepherd, king who died and rose again **for the good of all. Amen**

This Week's First Reading: *Ezekiel 2:1-5*

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. ¹He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 123:1-5*

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, to you that are enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, or the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until he have mercy upon us.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- 5 Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of the arrogant, and of the contempt of the proud.

This Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows – ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 6:1-13*

¹Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given

Mark 6:1-13 continued

to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Next Week's First Reading: *Amos 7:7-15*

⁷This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise

Amos 7:7-15 continued

against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" ¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 85:8-13*

- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ ⁴before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people to the praise of his glory.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Mark 6:14-29*

¹⁴King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and

Mark 6:14-29 continued

he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the Baptist.' ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.' ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.