

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

Weekly Notices

9th February 2025

Fourth Sunday Before Lent

Today's Collect

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 16th February 2025

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

On **Friday 7th March** over 3 million people will be praying and worshipping together using an order of service prepared by the Christian women of ***the Cook Islands*** on the theme ***I made you wonderful***. We will be joining them at **St James** at a time to be confirmed — *details to follow*.

March issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

The stop date for the March issue of the *ARCH Messenger* is **tomorrow, Monday 10th February**.

For Prayer

Compassionate God we bring to you in our prayers those whose calling sends them to places of danger. We remember those in our emergency services and those around the world who are first at traffic accidents, at plane crashes and crime scenes. We pray for those responding to the shootings in Orebro in Sweden, for the injured and bereaved.

Lord be with them.

We pray for those whose calling sends them to places of desperation: for aid workers and medics working where there is hunger and starvation. Especially we remember the people of Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Gaza and all those living in refugee camps around the world, and for journalists and reporters on the front line.

Lord be with them.

We pray for those in the armed forces of their nation, for veterans struggling to adapt to civilian life, and for all with PTSD.

Lord be with them.

We pray for those whose calling is to remain in their local communities to serve together, worship together and to be people of faith, hope and integrity. We pray for those exploring a vocation in your Church, for those whose responsibility it is to discern vocations, and for those called to shape the future of your Church.

Lord be with them.

We pray for young people who face decisions about careers and study choices.

Lord be with them.

We pray for those whose work has sent them to places where they are unhappy, exploited or a long way from family.

Lord be with them.

We pray for one another and those we know who are low on confidence and for those who feel they have lost their role in life and their sense of purpose through age or illness or a change of circumstances.

Lord be with them and us today and everyday. In Jesus' name Amen

This Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 6:1-8*

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.'

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 138:1-8*

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise to you.
- 2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- 3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul.
- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Psalm 138:1-8 continued

- 5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me; you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.
- 8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

This Week's Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 continued

what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 5:1-11*

¹While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' ⁵Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Next Week's First Reading: *Jeremiah 17:5-10*

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse – who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 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 Corinthians 15:12-20*

¹²If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 continued

raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 6:17-26*

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.'