

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

Weekly Notices
9th March 2025
First Sunday of Lent

Today's Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's 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's Services: Sunday 16th March 2025

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

April issue of the *ARCH Messenger*

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

For Prayer

Lord, as we pause to pray, we ponder for a moment the meaning of wilderness... For some it will be a time of pain and travail. For others it will be a time of oasis and calm in a busy world. For others it will be a space for development and change. Lord, whatever shape our wilderness is taking in this season of our lives, help us to know your presence throughout the journey.

Lord, we acknowledge that we cannot live without you.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Lord, we first consider the wilderness as a place of pain and difficulty; a desert place where nothing seems to be growing and life is hard. We pray for those in that season right now. We particularly remember those who are sick, especially... We remember those who are sad because someone they love has died ... We pray for those who are just finding life tough for whatever reason. For each person we remember, we ask for your comfort and courage as they tread this difficult path.

Lord, we acknowledge that we cannot live without you.

Give us each day our daily bread.

We pray for those who are trying to find you but keep getting pulled in other directions and are tempted away from following your path. We pray for those struggling with addiction; those who are in and out of prison; those who are homeless and feel they have no future. Lord, draw close to them, we pray, and give them wells of living water.

Lord, we acknowledge that we cannot live without you.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Lord, help us this week, whatever our circumstances, to look for signs of hope and newness even in the tiniest of details. Help us to rejoice in the seemingly insignificant achievements: getting out of bed when life is hard; walking for that extra two minutes; getting an unexpected challenge sorted; smiling at the person on the checkout in the supermarket. Lord, you are with us in the big and small things of life, help us to recognise your presence in everything we do, in everyone we meet and wherever we go.

Lord, we acknowledge that we cannot live without you.

Give us each day our daily bread. Amen.

This 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.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 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.
- 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.

This 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

Romans 10:8b-13 continued

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.'

This 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.

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

¹The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ²But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' ⁸But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' ⁹He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 27:1-17*

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

Psalm 27:1-17 continued

- 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
- 5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.
- 6 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.
- 7 And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;
- 8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.
- 10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 11 Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
- 12 You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
- 14 Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.
- 15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.
- 16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- 17 Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:31-35*

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³²He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"