

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

Weekly Notices

16th February 2025

Third Sunday Before Lent

Today's Collect

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 23rd February 2025

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Family Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Morning Service
3.30 pm	Harvington	Messy Church

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

Creator God with so many of our rivers and streams polluted, we pray for our world and for your living water to refresh, heal and revive all that is dying. For the deep roots of commitment, investment and positivity to shape our future and nurture growth.

Living Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for the political leaders of the world, that their decisions would be rooted in wisdom, justice and collaboration. We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine, at this crucial and nerve-wracking time. We pray for the people of America and for President Trump as he signs edicts and meets world leaders. We pray for the people of Russia and Ukraine and remember Alexei Navalny on the first anniversary of his death. We pray for all imprisoned for their beliefs and for those who are killed because of them.

Living Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all who are suffering from hunger and deprivation, that our response would be rooted in empathy, generosity and action. We pray for those places in the news and those areas where the cameras rarely go. We remember the people of Southern Africa where drought has never been worse

Living Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for our Church, our leaders and our congregations that our response to the challenges of our times might be rooted in faith, courage and honesty. We pray for all whose faith is fragile and all whose ministry is especially difficult; for all who have given up on the Church and all who have been hurt by it.

Living Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all who are struggling with illness or have been bereaved, that they would be surrounded by support rooted in compassion, respect and love. We remember especially those grieving the loss of a child to knife crime, those who have been bereaved suddenly and those who have watched over a loved one for many years.

Living Lord, hear our prayer

And we pray with all our hearts that the leaves of evil in the world would wither and fall and that the trees of peace, justice and joy would grow deep roots, stand firm and bear the fruit of your kingdom in our lives and in the lives of all we love and have prayed for.

Living Lord, hear our prayer Amen

This 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.

This 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.

Psalm 1:1-6 continued

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

This 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 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.

This 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

Luke 6:17-26 continued

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.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25*

⁴In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground ⁷then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 continued

good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

¹⁸The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.'¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.'²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 65:1-13*

- 1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
- 2 To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins; when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.
- 3 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there. We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple.
- 4 With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
- 5 In your strength you set fast the mountains and are girded about with might.
- 6 You still the raging of the seas, the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.

Psalm 65:1-13 continued

- 7 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels; the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.
- 8 You visit the earth and water it; you make it very plenteous.
- 9 The river of God is full of water; you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness and the hills be girded with joy.
- 13 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

Next Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 4:1-11*

¹I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' ²At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! ³And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. ⁴Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; ⁶and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. ⁸And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day

Revelation 4:1-11 continued

and night without ceasing they sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.' ⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ¹¹'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 8:22-25*

²²One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, ²³and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'