

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

**Weekly Notices**

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

**Pentecost Sunday**

**Today's Collect**

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next Week's Services**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Trinity Sunday**

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

**Home Groups**

The home groups are going well and have excellent discussions and many developing friendships. The groups are open to more members joining so if you would like to deepen your knowledge of the Bible or the Christian faith in a convivial way, then get in touch.

Contact me, Richard Thorniley, on [rector@archbenefice.org.uk](mailto:rector@archbenefice.org.uk) or **01386 870527** and we will find a group which meets either in the day or evening

## **For Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit to guide and invigorate the work of your Church in our day and age. We pray for a renewed vision of what it means to be the Church today, and for the grace and courage to work towards making that vision reality.

**May your Holy Spirit stream down upon us, like Northern Lights in the darkness.**

Heavenly Father, your Holy Spirit inspires Christians to work for a better world. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are involved in improving conditions among the poor of the world, and in war-torn nations where lives have been turned upside down; may the Holy Spirit guide and encourage them. We pray, too, for those who work to make things better in our own country – for those who volunteer in charities that help those in need. May Christians never lose sight of the vision which inspired them. May their example inspire others to learn more about your vision for the world.

**May your Holy Spirit stream down upon us, like Northern Lights in the darkness.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, will be with those who are in need of light in their darkness, warmth in the coldness of an indifferent world, healing for mental or physical pain, and encouragement to continue. Lead us to know when a kind word or deed might make a difference to their lives.

**May your Holy Spirit stream down upon us, like Northern Lights in the darkness.**

Heavenly Father, may we never let go of our ability to dream in the power of the Holy Spirit. May we never be afraid of the visions we behold; may we never dismiss them. We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to strive for what we see in dreams and visions, and to make them reality.

**May your Holy Spirit stream down upon us, like Northern Lights in the darkness.**

## **This Week's First Reading: Acts 2:1-21**

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and

## *Acts 2:1-21 continued*

women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

### **This Week's Psalm:** *Psalm 104:26-36, 37b*

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.

*Psalm 104:26-36, 37b continued*

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

**This Week's Second Reading: *Romans 8:22-27***

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15***

Jesus spoke to his disciples: <sup>26</sup>'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. <sup>4</sup>I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world

## *John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 continued*

wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. <sup>12</sup>I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

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

<sup>1</sup>In 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. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs 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.

<sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And 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!'

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The 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.' <sup>8</sup>Then 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!'

## **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 29:1-10***

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## **Next Week's Second Reading: *Romans 8:12-17***

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ— if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

## Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 3:1-17*

<sup>1</sup>There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'