

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

Weekly Notices

23rd February 2025

Second Sunday Before Lent

Today's Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 2nd March 2025

10.00 am	Abbots Morton	Benefice Communion+
6.00 pm	Harvington	Taizé

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 – A GLOBAL EVENT

I Made You Wonderful – Psalm 139:13

Friday 7th March, 2.00 pm 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

We pray for a generous spirit for the leaders of the world, that their decisions would be shaped by wisdom, justice and courage. We pray for those whose are hugely impacted by these decisions; those who feel helpless, those who feel afraid, angry or betrayed; those who are affected financially and those whose lives are endangered. We remember especially the people of Ukraine and Russia, of Israel and Palestine, and we pray for those people suffering in places of extreme violence, especially those in DR Congo.

Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.

We pray for a generous spirit for the faith leaders of the world, for integrity, prayerfulness and action, and particularly for those who guide and shape our worship and life together in this place. We pray for a passion to serve, a willingness to listen, a commitment to change and a dependence on you to live as your kingdom people.

Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.

We pray for a generous spirit for those in the media: journalists, film makers and influencers, that their headlines, stories and images would be truthful, challenging but fair. We pray for those whose lives have been ruined by the press, but give thanks and also pray for those who risk their lives to bring hidden suffering and injustices to the eyes of the world. We pray for those killed in war zones and those silenced by imprisonment.

Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.

And we pray for all those in need of receiving your generous spirit of hope, healing and love: those under great stress at work, at home; those surviving on minimal resources; those battling trauma and anxiety; those we know and name now... *(have a short pause)* and those with no-one to name them in prayer.

Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer. Amen.

This 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 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

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

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.

This 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.
- 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.

Psalm 65:1-13 continued

- 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.

This 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 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

Revelation 4:1-11 continued

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.'

This 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?'

Next Week's First Reading: *Exodus 34:29-35*

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished

Exodus 34:29-35 continued

speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 99:1-9*

- 1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble; he is enthroned upon the cherubim: let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion and high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome; the Lord our God is holy.
- 4 Mighty king, who loves justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- 5 Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests and Samuel among those who call upon his name, they called upon the Lord and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.
- 8 You answered them, O Lord our God; you were a God who forgave them and pardoned them for their offences.
- 9 Exalt the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

Next Week's Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2*

¹²Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 continued

aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ¹Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Luke 9:28b-36*

²⁸Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.