

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

**Weekly Notices**

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

**Trinity Sunday**

**Today's Collect**

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Today's Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever.

**Next Week's Services: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

8.30 am	Rous Lench	Holy Communion*
9.30 am	Harvington	Morning Service
11.00 am	Church Lench	Holy Communion+
6.30 pm	Harvington	Holy Communion*

**Pray for the General Election**

Let's pray for the candidates who are putting themselves forward and for us as a people as we make decisions on who is best placed to govern the nation with wisdom and justice. Pray that the election hustings will be conducted with respect and courtesy towards all.

## **For Prayer**

Lord God, we pray for all who seek you in the Scriptures, and for all who desire to come closer to you through your Son, Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we journey deeper into our relationships with you. In a world which demands certainty and proof, please help us to share unashamedly the mystery that is you.

**Lord, we live and love in the mystery that is you.**

Lord God, we pray for a world that, despite increasing knowledge, remains so much of a mystery. We haven't come close to fathoming all the mysteries of the universe; even the deepest seas of our beautiful planet retain secrets we are yet to discover. We pray for all who probe the wonders of inner and outer space, for the scientists who seek certainties and truths; may they never be dismissive of the great mystery which holds it all together, the mystery that is you. May they find ultimate truth in your mystery, O Lord. May we, your children, as seekers in a world of uncertainty, never fail to feel awe and wonder before your mystery.

**Lord, we live and love in the mystery that is you.**

Lord God, the demands of daily life leave little time for understanding mysteries. Many of us lack the time to ponder the little mysteries of life, let alone the spiritual dimension; and so we pray for all who are living quietly and decently, trying to do their best. We pray especially for those known to us who light up our own small corner – those who make our communities better places to live by their actions and attitudes.

**Lord, we live and love in the mystery that is you.**

Lord God, we pray for all who struggle to find meaning in the sufferings of loss and grief, or of serious illness - physical or mental. We pray especially at this time for those whose lives have been blighted by infected blood, and for all caught up in the awful conflicts around the world. Lord, your mystery is infused with love; it is the mystery of light in the darkness, of meaning and hope found in deepest despair, of new purpose when all seemed lost. It is the mystery of survival, of resilience and ultimately of Resurrection. Lord, may those in need today be surprised by the touch of your mystery.

**Lord, we live and love in the mystery that is you. Amen.**

## **This 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!'

## **This Week's Psalm: *Psalms 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.

*Psalm 29:1-10 continued*

- 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.

**This 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.

## **This 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

## *John 3:1-17 continued*

the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

### **Next Week's First Reading: *Deuteronomy 5:12-15***

The LORD says this: <sup>12</sup>Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labour and do all your work. <sup>14</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work - you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

### **Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 81:1-10***

- 1 Sing merrily to God our strength, shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- 2 Take up the song and sound the timbrel, the tuneful lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.
- 4 For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob,
- 5 The charge he laid on the people of Joseph, when they came out of the land of Egypt.
- 6 I heard a voice I did not know, that said: 'I eased their shoulder from the burden; their hands were set free from bearing the load.
- 7 'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you; I answered you from the secret place of thunder and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

## *Psalm 81:1-10 continued*

- 8 'Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- 9 'There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not worship a foreign god.
- 10 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.'

## **Next Week's Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

<sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

## **Next Week's Gospel Reading: Mark 2:23-3:6**

<sup>23</sup>One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?'

<sup>25</sup>And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? <sup>26</sup>He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup>so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

## *Mark 2:23-3:6 continued*

<sup>1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill? But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.