



Sunday before Lent 11 February 2024 Racial Justice Sunday



Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life

This morning's hymns

349 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
198 For the healing of the nations (*Tune 424, Picardy*)
579 O thou, who at thy Eucharist did pray
91 Brother, sister, let me serve you
777 To God be the glory!

This morning's readings and prayers

2 Kings 2:1-12 (reader: Peter Knight); Psalm 50;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (reader: Roger Nichols);
Mark 9:2-9 (Gospeller: Opal Walsh)
Intercessor: Helen Reid

Prayer in the silence after Communion

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect for Racial Justice Sunday

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Post Communion: Sunday before Lent

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Sunday, First Sunday of Lent

Helen and Josh will lead us in Morning Prayer
Genesis 9.8-17 (Reader: Chris Ashfield); Psalm 25; **1 Peter 3.18-22** (Reader: Judy Fletcher);
Mark 1.9-15 (Gospeller: Helen Reid), Intercessor: Opal Walsh

Tuesday 13 February	10.00am in the Hall: Holy Communion 11.00am – 12.30pm Chatty Tuesday – all welcome
Wednesday 14 February	10.00am Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 21 February	3.00pm in the Community Hall: First meeting of Lent Group, based on <i>The Things He Carried</i> by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell. It will be a joint group with St Paul's with sessions alternating between the two locations. Pick up a flyer for more details.
Friday 1 March	7.30pm at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury: Service for the World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical event held on the first Friday in March each year. The service is shaped and its materials prepared several years in advance by Christian women from a particular country of the world; the focus this year is the people of Palestine.
Food Bank	... urgently needs cereal, UHT milk & juice as well as tinned soup, curry & pasta sauces (but no more pasta for now please), tinned meat, baked beans, sugar & coffee, nappies & baby wipes.

Big changes in mission and ministry in Ladybarn, Withington and Didsbury

You may have heard about a “team ministry” bringing together Emmanuel and St James, Didsbury, St Paul’s Withington, St Nick’s and St Chad’s. After years of discussion and planning each PCC is to be consulted about the changes. Assuming they all agree, the team ministry will become a reality, hopefully some time in the next few months.

The parishes will continue with their own churchwardens and PCCs but will not have their own rector in the way they have in the past. The five churches will be served by

three full-time priests plus, from time to time, one or more curates (apprentice priests). Changes to service patterns are inevitable.

We have already seen a trial run of this at St Chad’s with Cate Allison here last Sunday and Josh Gaskell next Sunday. This will be the pattern for the next few months but further changes are likely after that.

This is happening all over Britain due to falling church attendances and severe financial problems in every denomination.