

FIRST READING (Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18)

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham', he called. 'Here I am', he replied. 'Take your son', God said, 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham', he said. 'I am here', he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy', the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son'. Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 115:10,15-19)

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted,"

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

SECOND READING

(Romans 8:31-34)

A reading from S Paul's Letter to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL

(Mark 9:2-10)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

This is the Gospel of the Lord



Amen! is the 'work' of the people, not the priest/officiant - it is the people's response to the prayer. Do not wait for the priest to say it before joining in - he may not!

Services this week

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 25th 9.00am Mass (St Aidan's)
10.30am Mass
6.30pm Evensong & Benediction

Mon 26th no mass

Tue 27th 6.15pm mass

Wed 28th 10.30am mass (St Aidan's)

Thu 29th 6.15pm mass

Fri 1st S DAVID: 10.00am mass

Sat 2nd 10.00am mass

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 3rd 9.00am Mass (St Aidan's)

10.30am Mass

6.30pm Evensong & Benediction

Be still: the ground on which you are standing is holy

Please maintain silence on entering the church;
speak to God before mass;
let God speak to you during mass;
speak to each other after mass.

WELCOME to our worship today, whether at St Augustine's or St Aidan's. Join us in speaking praise to God: join us also in keeping silence before mass, in listening to the voice of the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the members of General Synod, meeting until Tuesday.

Lenten Devotions Stations of the Cross, Fridays 7.30pm; Evensong & Benediction, Sundays 6.30pm.

Lent Course Fr Robert's Lent Course continues at St Matthew's on the Wednesdays of Lent, 7.30-8.30pm. Everyone's invited.

Lenten Appeal This Lent we are again supporting the **Additional Curates Society**, whose aim is to support assistant priests in poor and densely populated parishes. Please take a collecting box and contribute whatever you can to support this very worthwhile appeal. There are also "Count Your Blessings" sheets which you may find helpful. Boxes should be returned after Easter Sunday. Thank you.

Parish Walsingham Pilgrimage 2024 Everyone is welcome to join us on our annual Pilgrimage to England's Nazareth. Please put your name on the list at the back of church, place the deposit in one of the envelopes provided and hand it to Elsie or Linda. Thank you.

Social Events at St Matthew's Curry Night this Tuesday (27th Feb) 7.30pm; Tea Dance Friday 1st March 2.00pm; Lunch Club Friday 8th March 12noon; Mothers' Union Thursday 14th March 8.00pm.

Tonge and Haulgh Together is one of 7 trial groupings in Bolton seeking to bring together disparate groups within the area, with the aim of supporting and learning from each other. One of the 3 launch events is being held in St Augustine's Parish Hall tomorrow (Monday) between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Come along and see what is going on in our area. Everyone is invited.

The Real Easter Eggs These can be ordered on the form at the back of church. Made with fairly-traded chocolate and telling story of the Easter, proceeds go to charitable causes.

Litter Picking is this Saturday, meeting in the Parish Hall after the 10am mass

Mid Lent Social Mike Cheetham will again be treating us to a musical evening on Saturday 9th March at 6.00pm. The supper will be in the form of a Jacob's Join, see list at back of church, tickets from Elsie or Linda.

The Sick: Les Worthington, Stephen Haslam, His Majesty the King, Len Hunt, Fr David Schofield, Jan Brown, Adrian Rahmati, Maureen Johnson, Dawn Randle, Theresa Stott, Mel Cookman, Keith Schofield and Ted Hale.

Departed: Kathleen Smith, Peter Reiss, Sue Ball, Harry Rimmer, Liz Paver.

Anniversaries:

Sun 25th Robert Taylor, Edith Dyson, Lambert Turner, Elsie Marsh.

Mon 26th Thomas Higginbotham, David Shipperbottom, Alice Rawlinson, Betsy Gillard, Frederick Chadwick, Eliza Siddall, Joseph Lloyd, Thomas Davenport, Thomas Heaton.

Tue 27th Keith Hynes, Lillian Stringer, Hamish Beattie.

Wed 28th Samuel Entwistle, Sarah Walsh, Winifred Marshall, Norah Newton, Marion Parker, Clifford Wright, Elsie Hodson.

Thur 29th Roger Morris

Fri 1st Laura Hampson, Stanley Scott, Joseph Harwood, Edith Woodhead, Thomas Saunders, William Simm, Kenneth Bogle.

Sat 2nd Annie Baron, Florence Hesketh, Emma Cockshott.

Please take this Mass Sheet home with you.