



THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS,
NORTH HILLINGDON UB10 9BT
+
~SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY~
+
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
(YEAR B)
& OUR 'THIRD' SUNDAY
+
21 FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to All Saints' on the First Sunday of the start of Lent. Please observe the following:

- Wear a face-covering in church, unless you are exempt.
- Take very **great** care, by maintaining **social-distancing** both inside and outside All Saints'.
- Say (not sing) the congregational responses and texts in a normal conversational tone, not in a loud voice.
- Sit on your own or with members of your household/bubble.
- Stay in your place throughout; Holy Communion will be brought to you.

A thought for this Sunday: We begin our first full week of Lent at the decisive moment of the flood, when God establishes his first Covenant (or Solemn Agreement) with mankind, in the person of Noah. Noah was saved from the waters, while we (as S Peter points out) are saved by the waters of Baptism. This is the Covenant in which we live, thanks to Jesus Christ, who came to establish this *new & eternal Covenant in his blood*. He is the only one who can do this, because he is without sin, despite *having been tempted in every way that we are*.

Introit: When he calls to me, I will answer; I will rescue him and give him honour. Long life and contentment will be his.

NB: During Lent the *Gloria* is omitted. This is to reflect the penitential nature of the season. We shall sing it again at the first Mass of Easter.

Collect: Let us pray (*that this Lent will help us to re-produce in our lives the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ*): Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection and teach us to reflect it in our lives. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

TO-DAY'S READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

A reading from the Book of Genesis (9:8-15): *God's Covenant with Noah; we have God's promise that he will never destroy the work of his hands. His promise is steadfast, as the rainbow reminds us.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you and with your descendants

after you; also with every living creature to be found with you: birds, cattle and every wild beast with you; everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

At 8 o'clock only, the response in the Psalm (24/25) is: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

A reading from the first letter of S Peter (3:18-22): *One with Christ by baptism: to discouraged Christians, Peter writes: 'Christ too has gone through suffering and death, but he is risen. You are one with him by baptism and he will save you'.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water' and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now and which is not the washing off of physical dirt, but a pledge made to God from a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Praise & honour to you, Lord Jesus! We do not live on bread alone, but on every word which comes from the mouth of God. **Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Praise & honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1:12-15): *Jesus sums up his mission in the words 'this is the right time... Repent and believe the Good News'. He speaks these words to us to-day.*



The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness

and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come,' he said, 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.'

AT THE INTERCESSIONS

Intercessor: Show us your ways, O Lord:

All: and teach us your paths.

We pray: for our parish and for its needs; for the grace and determination to persevere with our Lenten resolutions (*See my note 8 below.*); for our wise and careful use of the earth's resources; for local shop-keepers; for those who operate local food-banks; for the deaf and those suffering from ear complaints; for local children, teenagers and students and their early and safe return to full-time education.

We commend to God our Father the sick, the housebound and others in any kind of trouble or need: Peter Bennett, Lesley Carrington, Helen Dey, Mike & Evelyn Kirby, Brian Measures, Phil Parris, Steven Patrick, Rob Scoates, Sheila Scoates, Joyce Smith, Neil & Laura Thompson, Sarah Turk, Frank & Irene Wilkinson.
those whose anniversary falls at about this time: Noel Anderson, Kikelomo Ayandipo, 'Bob' Bell, Robert Brain, 'Hetty' Coleman, 'Val' Davies, Lucy Ellen Dufeu, Trevor Ford, Henry Hayward, Arthur Jones, Ian Stuart Marchant, Betty Mayer, Peter Morgan, Raymond Phillips (*former Incumbent of this parish*), John Smith. **May they rest in peace and rise in glory!**

We commend all that we have just prayed for, our families, our friends & those we love to the intercession of Mary (the mother of Jesus), S Joseph (her spouse), S Peter, S Polycarp & all the saints. *Hail, Mary...*

FATHER DESMOND'S NOTES THIS WEEK

1. For your sake (and all our sakes), you must not come into church, if you have (or have had within the last ten days) any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have been exposed (or think you may have been exposed) within the last ten days, you must also stay away from All Saints', even if you have no symptoms.
2. Don't forget that items for the March edition of *Saints Alive!* need to be received by to-morrow, **22/2**. Some new items are needed, please.
3. At the end of our time together in church, there is always some cleaning to be done; please volunteer. Your help is appreciated.
4. A final reminder that I commend to you two possible Lent books this year: (a) Rooted in Love; Lent Reflections on Life in Christ,

assembled by the London College of Bishops. *It consists of forty short sections, one for each day of Lent.* (b) Candles in the Dark; Faith, Hope & Love in a Time of Pandemic, by Bishop Rowan Williams. Both are obtainable through Amazon. If you would like me to get for you a copy of either of these books, please let me know.

5. The Eucharist this week at ASH

- a. Wednesday, 24/2; 1000: Weekday of Lent.
 - b. Saturday, 27/2; 1800: Vigil Eucharist of the Sunday
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6. Friday, 26/2; 1800: (Socially-distanced) Stations of the Cross

7. NEXT SUNDAY, 28/2: Lent II

- a. 0800: Said Eucharist
 - b. 1000: Parish Eucharist
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8. Someone asked me this week what we are supposed to give up for Lent this year, most of us having had to give up so much already! One suggestion I have heard is that we could resolve to accept, more patiently than we have up to now, the present restrictions on our lives. This is a good thing in itself, but it might also help to keep our blood pressure down! It would also be good if we made another Lenten collection of dry goods to go to the Food-bank at S Mary's, Hayes. The boxes are out now...
 9. Though, for obvious reasons, we have been unable to hold any of our usual social events over the last year, we are beginning to make some tentative plans going forward. So watch this space!

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*To enquire about **Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Baptisms or other items of parish business**, please come along to Vestry Hour on Saturday morning from 0930. No appointment is necessary. Alternatively, e-mail or telephone Father Desmond at the Vicarage.*

Parish Website:

www.allsaintsnorthhilligdon.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ASHillingdon

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