

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Second Sunday of Lent**



**Collect**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of  
Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**Post-Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to  
help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault  
and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**For our Community:**

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers  
Please pray for all victims of abuse

**For our Church:**

Pray for our Lent witness through facebook, through Lent groups, and as individuals.  
Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode.

**For the world:**

Please continue to for countries world-wide struggling with the effects of Covid pandemic

**For the Bereaved:**

**For the Sick:** Please pray for Molly (aged 2), Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, Sue Maggs (Chris Rostock's friend), Felicity Davies, and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.



**A prayer for the discernment process  
Appointment of new bishops**

Almighty God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom  
and calls us to follow him.  
Guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,  
to show humility, love and mercy as we seek your Kingdom.  
We pray for those you are calling  
to be the next bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead  
and for those discerning that call.  
Lead and strengthen them to answer your call;  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 17:1-7,15,16**

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

<sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

## **GOSPEL READING: Mark 8: 31-38**

### **All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

### **All: Praise to you, O Christ**



## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 5th March 2020 ZOOM SERVICE at 7.00pm**

**let Revd Jane know if you would like the joining details**

The Women of Vanuatu have recorded this service. It is 33 minutes long, so the plan is for us to join together on Zoom, "watch" and worship together with our microphones muted. The Zoom meeting will remain open until 8.00pm allowing us to reflect on the service and enjoy coffee and cake (bring your own!) together after the service. Depending upon numbers we may split out into breakout rooms for the latter part of the meeting.

The World Day of Prayer worship service has a special annual theme, which is developed by women of a different country each year. For Vanuatu this year it is – 'Build on a Strong Foundation'.

If you can't join with us on Friday at 7.00pm, the service can be viewed here:-  
<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2021/02/18/celebrate-wdp-2021-with-women-in-vanuatu/>

**IF you CANNOT do Zoom, Revd Jane has 5 paper copies of the service which she will happily give to the first 5 people who ask for them (they cannot be photocopied due to copyright permissions) so that you can read through the service at the same time, and be with us in spirit!**

This is particularly important for us this year - You might already know that the Diocese of Chester has links with the Diocese of Melanesia. But what some don't often realise is that Melanesia is not just the Solomon Islands, but two other countries - New Caledonia and Vanuatu.





Here – and there

Reflecting on the global pandemic  
in the context of Jesus' journey  
to the cross

ALL MEETINGS BY ZOOM  
Wednesday Evenings during Lent  
8.00-9.00pm

STARTED 24th FEBRUARY

It's not too late to join in!

contact Revd Jane

([rector@thurstatson.org.uk](mailto:rector@thurstatson.org.uk))

for joining details and an electronic  
copy of the resource booklet

## Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone 24 hour Helpline

0808 2000 247

**Irby Pharmacy is a safe space**

### How to access a Safe Space

- Walk into any participating pharmacy in the UK.
- Ask at the healthcare counter to use their Safe Space.
- A pharmacist will show you to the Safe Space. Which will be the consultancy room.
- Once inside, you will find displayed specialist domestic abuse support information for you to access, to make that call or access Bright Sky safely.

Safe Spaces are open and ready for you to use.

### Have you or your loved ones had your coronavirus vaccine?

Give thanks with a donation to Christian Aid to help protect the most vulnerable people across the world, while the vaccine is out of reach. Find out more:-  
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>



**HOPE FOR JUSTICE**

Change lives. End slavery.

**There are thought to be tens of thousands  
of slaves in the UK.  
Would you recognise a modern slave if you met one?  
What would you do  
if you had concerns about someone?**

Hope for Justice is a charity which exists to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society. A representative from Hope for Justice will be speaking at a zoom meeting on:

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. 7.30 - 8.30

Come along to learn practical ways you can make a difference in the fight against modern slavery. Email [wirralhopeforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:wirralhopeforjustice@gmail.com) to request an invite for the zoom session.

## PCC Decision for Church to go digital ONLY for the time being

The PCC meeting on 11-1-21 made the decision for church to not meet "in person" until Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3.

We will continue to provide a sermon via facebook, the weekly emails (including notice sheet, sermon, family together at home resource and other bits and bobs), and Evening Prayer via Zoom. We are also introducing a Wednesday morning Zoom - bring your coffee and chat meeting - 10.15-11.00ish for anyone that would be interested in seeing others and chatting.

We would encourage you again to connect with each other and use the phone contact groups from Lock down number 1. If you were not in a phone contact group back then and would like to be in one now, just let Revd Jane know and she'll get you linked up with some other folk.

Revd Jane is always available to you and please don't hesitate to pick up a phone and have a chat - about anything - even if you are just bored and need someone else to speak to.

Stay safe and please pray for the NHS who are under so much pressure in these challenging days.