



## Next Sunday before Lent

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
*St Andrew, St Paul & St Peter Blackley*

Dear Friends

### Welcome to this Week's Newsletter

As we continue our journey through the church year, we arrive at the radiant moment of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This powerful event calls us to reflect on Christ's glory revealed to the disciples on the mountaintop, a glimpse of His divine nature and the hope that awaits us. It's a reminder that even amidst the challenges of our earthly lives, we are invited to fix our eyes on the eternal.

Looking ahead, we approach the solemn yet transformative season of Lent—a time for us to turn inward, examine our hearts, and realign ourselves with God's will through prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy. Let this season be one where, like the disciples, we follow Christ down from the mountaintop and walk with Him through the valleys, seeking to grow in faith and holiness.

There are services on Ash Wednesday at St Andrew's and St Peter's to mark the start of Lent, and we begin our Lent Bible Study on Thursday too. I pray that we journey together, as a community of faith, supporting one another as we open ourselves to the transforming work of God's grace in our lives.

Come and join us for worship at St Andrew's and St Peter's at 9.30am, and St Paul's at 11.30am, or join us for Bible study at the Hub on Thursday (11am), at St Andrew's Parish Room Thursday 7.30pm or in the Parish Room or [online](#) at 5.00pm on Sunday.

With every blessing  
Pam

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

#### *Those grieving*

The families of  
George McLeod (St Peter's parish)  
John Roydes (St Andrew's parish)  
whose funerals fall in the next couple of weeks.

#### *Those exploring their faith*

Those who have contacted us recently about being baptised.

#### *Those getting married*

Lisa and Steven (Banns at St Andrew's and St Paul's)

#### *Those caring*

Oakbank Nursing Home

#### *Blackley residents and visitors*

Parkway, Pembridge Road, Pendrell Walk

#### *Community Partners*

Northward Housing

#### *Schools and Young People*

All our children and staff at  
E-Act Blackley Academy

#### *Worldwide Church*

The Anglican Church of Burundi

### Sunday's Readings:

[Exodus 34.29–end](#) or  
[2 Corinthians 3.12—4.2](#)  
[Luke 9.28–36 \[37–43a\]](#)

## NOTABLE CHRISTIAN EVENTS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

### **Ash Wednesday – 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of repentance, fasting, and reflection that leads up to Easter in the Christian tradition. On this day, many Christians attend church services where ashes—often made from the burned palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday—are applied to their foreheads in the shape of a cross. This act symbolizes humility, mortality, and the need for forgiveness, serving as a reminder of the phrase, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a solemn occasion that sets the tone for the Lenten journey.



The origins of Ash Wednesday can be traced back to early Christian traditions of penance and fasting. By the 7th century, the Church formalized the practice of beginning Lent with a day of repentance. The ashes used in the ceremony symbolize humility and mortality, drawing inspiration from biblical references that associate ashes with mourning and repentance. Initially, public penitents began their period of penance on this day, often marked by ashes and sackcloth. Over time, the ritual extended to all believers, serving as a collective reminder of the need for reconciliation with God.

### **7<sup>th</sup> March - Perpetua, Felicity and Companions, 203**



The moving, contemporary account of these early third-century African martyrs proved to be of great significance in the life of the early Church. Vibia Perpetua was a young, married noblewoman of Carthage and Felicity was her personal slave. Saturus was possibly a priest and there were two other men, Saturninus and Revocatus, the latter also a slave. Felicity was pregnant. It seems most of them were catechumens when arrested and only baptised later in prison, where Perpetua had a vision in which she climbed a great ladder into paradise. They were condemned as Christians by the Roman authorities and dispatched to the public arena, there to be mauled by wild animals. They all survived and were then taken to be executed by the sword. Before this, they exchanged the Kiss of Peace and affirmed their faith in Christ, the Son of God. The account of their martyrdom was widely circulated in secret throughout the Christian congregations and proved both to give renown to their courage and to give encouragement to their fellow Christians in the face of adversity. They were martyred for their faith on this day in the year 203.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship  
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship  
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship

### **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

- 9.00am Stay and Play reopens  
4.00pm Worship Leaders' Think Tank

### **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March**

- 3.00pm Funeral of George McLeod  
7.00pm St Peter's PCC Meeting

### **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday**

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Andrew's  
10.45am Morning Service at St Andrew's  
7.30pm Ash Wednesday service at St Peter's

### **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March**

- 11.00am Worship at the Hub  
12.00pm Community Café and Drop In at St Paul's  
7.30pm Lent Bible Study at St Andrew's Parish Room

### **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March**

- 10.00am Community Café at St Paul's  
10.00am Cleaning and Maintenance at St Paul's  
10.00am Cleaning and Maintenance at St Peter's

### **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March**

- 5.00pm Lent Bible Study (online and in person)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LENT SERVICES

- 5<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday  
30<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday  
16<sup>th</sup> April Tenebrae Service  
7.30pm St Andrew's  
17<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday  
7.30pm St Peter's  
18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday  
10.00am St Paul's  
20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday

### PCC MEETINGS

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm St Peter's *Parish Room*  
25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm St Andrew's *Parish room*  
*TBC* *St Paul's*

### DEANERY MEETINGS

- 25<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am Deanery Chapter  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm Deanery Synod

### WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

- 8<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm St Andrew's Parish Room

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March Join the Great British Spring Clean *details to follow*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact anyone in church, please use the following methods:

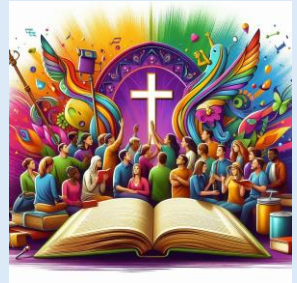
**Phone** 0161 264 9982 **Email** [clergy@blackleycofe.church](mailto:clergy@blackleycofe.church) **Website** <https://blackleycofe.church>

If you would like to receive this notice sheet by email, please contact us on [churchoffice@blackleycofe.church](mailto:churchoffice@blackleycofe.church) and we will add you to our mailing list.

## LENT STUDY

During Lent, we will be exploring the theme of Covenants and Promises.

- Week 1 – The Covenant with Noah
- Week 2 – The Covenant with Abraham
- Week 3 – God’s Promise to Israel
- Week 4 – God’s Promise of a Saviour
- Week 5 – Living in Covenant with God
- Week 6 – A New Covenant



For full details, please access the Study Materials on the website.

### CHURCH COMMUNICATION – WHAT’S WHAT?

Your first port of call is our website [blackleycofe.church](http://blackleycofe.church) where you will find pretty much all the information you need for week to week stuff going on in church.

Please use it to find [rotas](#), [service sheets](#), [calendar](#), [newsletter](#) and [study materials](#).

**ROTAS:** your up to date rota is on the website. You can also access your own serving rota via the iKnow app, and if you want training on this, please speak to me and I can show you separately.

**WORSHIP TEAM:** access to the worship resources is found by clicking on the “Team Login” button at the top of the homepage on the website. If you can’t get in, let me know – it may be that you are using a different email from the one I have on the system. We can fix it easily, but you will need to let me know.

**CONTACTS:** Our contact database is now on a system called “iKnow”, and over the next few weeks we will be contacting everyone to share access details and to check the accuracy of our data. Don’t worry if you are not tech savvy – we will do this for you if you are not confident of doing it yourself.