



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

16th AUGUST 2020

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

READINGS FOR TODAY	PARISH OFFICE: Monday & Friday 9 – 30 am to 11 – 30 am TEL: 01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – phone for an appointment on 01252 321517 or 01252 331161 WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk
Revelation 11 v 19 to 12 v 6, 10	
Galatians 4 v 4 - 7	
Luke 1 v 46 - 55	



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – TRINITY 11

Isaiah 51 v 1 – 6; Romans 12 v 1 – 8; Matthew 16 v 13 - 20

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED, ESPECIALLY: IRIS DAY

There is a **free** national phone line 'Daily Hope' that offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like emergency prayer for yourself or somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252 323037 – this is a confidential service.

CARE AND SHARE

Our initiative to help those who may be short on food supplies in the current crisis. Food is being left outside church for people to take for themselves, or to share with others who they know are in need.

If you would like to donate any tins, packets, UHT milk etc. please leave it on the doorstep of the Rectory. Thank you.

JULY 100 CLUB WINNERS

First Prize (£79 – 50) – JOY SAVAGE

Second Prize (£33 – 13) – ANNA HUGHES-EVANS

Third Prize (£19 – 88) – PAULENE WEST

CONGRATULATIONS!

PCC MEETING – the next meeting (online) is on Thursday 17th September at 7 – 30 pm.

Bookings for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns can be made by appointment only on Wednesday evenings – phone the Parish Office on 01252 331161 or e-mail on:

office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk

'A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars'

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK – TRINITY 10

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CHURCH SERVICES

We are pleased to say that there are two services of Holy Communion once again, every Sunday. An 8 am Holy Communion in St Peter's Centre, and a 10 am Family Communion in church.

We are unable to have both services in the same building at present, due to issues relating to the cleaning that would be necessary between the services. (The usual second Sunday pattern of Morning Worship at 10 am followed by Parish Communion at 11 – 15 am will **NOT** be happening at present for the same reasons.)

On Wednesdays there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9 – 30 am in church. Unfortunately, there can be no coffee and chat after this service at present.

Social distancing and Public Health requirements will be met. Please see our website for details.

Morning Prayer at 10 am on Sunday Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Psalm and in the Canticles. Please have a Bible to hand. You may wish to light a candle.

(L) O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

(L) Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.'

Blessed is she who had faith
that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled.
All generations shall call her blessed.
So tenderly has he looked upon his servant.

All generations shall call her blessed.

Blessed is she among women

and blessed is the fruit of her womb.

All generations shall call her blessed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Holy is his name.

All generations shall call her blessed.

This hymn is said or sung:

Her Virgin eyes saw God incarnate born,
when she to Beth'lem came that happy morn;
how high her raptures then began to swell,
none but her own omniscient Son can tell.

As Eve when she her fountal sin reviewed,
wept for herself and all she should include,
blest Mary with man's Saviour in embrace
joyed for herself and for all human race.

All saints are by her Son's dear influence blessed,
she kept the very fountain at her breast;
the Son adored and nursed by the sweet Maid
a thousandfold of love for love repaid.

Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,
next to his throne her Son his Mother placed;
and here below, now she's of heaven possessed,
all generations are to call her blessed.

(L) The night has passed, and the day lies open before
us; let us pray with one heart and mind:

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

(L) We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight
and chosen what displeased him.
Yet as a mother comforts her child,
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.
So let us come to him who knows
our every deed and thought.

Pause to call to mind our sins

(L) Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father;
Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us Lord, forgive us our sins and bring us
to everlasting life, we pray. Amen.

All say The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We now say this collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:
grant that we, who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Read Revelation 11 v 19 to 12 v 6 & 10 followed by Psalm
45 v 10 to end concluding with:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as
it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Read Galatians 4 v 4 - 7

(L) Alleluia, alleluia.
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

All: Alleluia.

*Now read Luke 1 v 46 – 55 Here are some thoughts on
today's readings from Fr Keith:*

*When I was a curate in Liverpool, I was always on pilgrimage
at Walsingham in Norfolk at this time of year. Members of
our parish joined with one of our neighbouring parishes for
a week there, during which the Feast of the Assumption of
Mary was celebrated at the shrine. Like all pilgrimages it was
a combination of relaxation and spirituality. There were days
out as well as services, but the 15th August was always the
highlight, as we gathered to give thanks for Mary's role in
God's plan of salvation, and then her place in heaven for
having said yes to God and for doing His will.*

*In medieval times Walsingham attracted thousands of
pilgrims from all over England and beyond. A great abbey
church was built and people from all walks of life made their
way there to be spiritually uplifted and renewed. Even King*

Henry 8th went to Walsingham, before greed got the better of him and he had the Abbey destroyed, (along with many others across the country) and its' wealth confiscated. It was the local vicar in the 1930's who had the current shrine built and pilgrimages were revived. It was a controversial move, as many people in the Church of England then, and now, are deeply suspicious of any devotion to Mary. They confuse honouring Mary with worshipping her. Even today placard carrying protesters sometimes appear in the village denouncing the shrine as idolatrous. Worship Jesus only, they shout, completely missing the point of what Walsingham is all about. It really is about Jesus!

A popular name for the shrine at Walsingham is 'England's Nazareth', and at the heart of what goes on there is not worship of Mary, but an acknowledgement of the mystery of the Incarnation. Nazareth is where the story begins, of how Almighty God was prepared to come and experience life as a human being in order to save us from our sins. Walsingham is about recognising that fact and how God involved a humble, faithful young woman in his plan of salvation.

So, we, today, give thanks for Mary's involvement and look to her as an example of how, we too, should be open to God. As with Mary, no matter how poor or lowly we are, God can still use us to do great things for the sake of his Kingdom. Mary is one of us, and just as we can ask our friends on earth to pray for us, we can ask her to pray for us too from heaven.

The festival we are celebrating, is known, by millions of Christians as the 'Assumption' meaning that she was taken body and soul up to heaven – a bit like Elijah in the Old Testament. It is a reassurance of where we can be, if, like Mary, we keep our faith and believe in her Son as Saviour. Mary stood by Jesus even through her great sorrow as she witnessed His pain on the cross. She showed bravery when most of Jesus' followers had fled in fear, and she challenges us to be just as brave today. Mary was among those who first received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and she reminds us that we have received the same gift. Mary challenges us, I believe, to think about what we are doing with that gift now – are we as faithful as her?

Our Gospel reading today is what is known as the Magnificat. It is Mary's song of celebration during her visit to her cousin Elizabeth after saying yes to God at the annunciation. It is said or sung daily at evening prayer and so is a constant reminder of the nature of the God that we worship.

Mary sings that God lifts up the poor and lowly, has mercy on all who fear him, scatters the proud and brings down the powerful, who do not fear him. He feeds the hungry, but sends away those whose wealth sets up barriers between them and God. He is always faithful and remembers His promises from the past, to have mercy on his people. He chooses the most unlikely people to work with Him, showing that His ways are different from our ways.

All generations have called Mary blessed, because she epitomises all these things about God's priorities, and is a shining example for us to follow on our journey of faith, towards eternity. When we think of Mary, we always think of her in the context of Jesus, it's not an either/or. Mary had a vital part to play in our salvation story, but only Jesus is God. Where Mary is now, at the side of Jesus, is where we too can be if we do the things that her Son told us to do – repent and believe in his sacrifice for us.

Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells in the late seventeenth century, wrote a hymn in celebration of Mary and her role in the Christian Faith which I have included in

this weeks' Morning Prayer service on the website. It begins 'Her virgin eyes saw God incarnate born, when she to Bethl'em came that happy morn' and ends with the verse:

Heaven with transcendent joys her entrance graced,
next to his throne her Son his Mother placed;
and here below, now she's of heaven possessed,
all generations are to call her blessed.

That's what today is all about, obedience on earth and joy in heaven. Let us pray for help to keep faithful, that, one day we may by God's grace, be with Mary there. Amen.

Now pause for your own reflections.

We say the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

We now say together:

All: You have set us free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight.

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the
Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All: You have set us free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight.

Our prayers, today, are from Common Worship:

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we say with Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Your prophet of old foretold a day
when a virgin would conceive
and bear a son who would be called God-with-us.
Help us to look forward to your deliverance
and to seek the fullness of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be
the mother of the Saviour.
Help every Christian person to be open to your word
and obedient to your will.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang your praise,
'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.'
Help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Mary bore a son of David's line,
a king whose reign would never end.
Bless all the nations of the world
with Christ's gift of peace.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

The child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature
in the home of Mary and Joseph.
Strengthen our homes and families,
and keep under your protection all those whom we love.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

At the foot of the cross of Christ stood his mother,
and from the cross she received
his lifeless body in her arms.
Give comfort and healing to all who suffer
and all who watch the suffering of those they love.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

The apostle John saw a vision of a woman in heaven,
robed with the sun.
Bring us with Iris Day and all those
who have died in the faith of Christ
to share the joy of heaven with Mary and all the saints.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Almighty and everlasting God,
your handmaid Mary magnified your name
and rejoiced in your saving love:
trusting in that same love,
we ask all these our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

As Jesus taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven....

This hymn may be said or sung:

1 Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angels word,
And obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the Joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

2 Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning from the awful tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

3 Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

4 Sing the greatest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May thy Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

Let us pray:

(L) Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: May the love of the Holy Family surround us.
May the joy that was Mary's refresh us.
May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage us.
May the peace of the Christ-child fill our lives.
And may the grace of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be
with us and remain with us now and always. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace, and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

Evening Prayer for this week

O Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

- 1 I love you, O Lord my strength. ♦
The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer.
- 2 In my distress I called upon the Lord ♦
and cried out to my God for help.
- 3 He heard my voice in his temple ♦
and my cry came to his ears.
- 4 He parted the heavens and came down ♦
and thick darkness was under his feet.
- 5 He rode upon the cherubim and flew; ♦
he came flying on the wings of the wind.
- 6 He made darkness his covering round about him, ♦
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.
- 7 From the brightness of his presence, through the
clouds ♦ burst hailstones and coals of fire.
- 8 The Lord also thundered out of heaven; ♦
the Most High uttered his voice
with hailstones and coals of fire.
- 9 For you will save a lowly people ♦
and bring down the high looks of the proud.
- 10 You also shall light my candle; ♦
the Lord my God shall make my darkness
to be bright.
- 11 As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord is tried in the fire; ♦
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Glory to thee, my God, this night,
for all the blessings of the light:
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done;
that with the world, myself, and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed;
teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awful day.

O may my soul on thee repose,
and with sweet sleep mine eyelids close;
sleep that shall me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
we pray with one heart and mind:

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever. Amen.

*A Psalm is said: Mon 72; Tue 74; Wed 119 v 81 to 104;
Thurs 78 v 40 to end; Fri 69; Sat 84, ending with:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

*Two Scripture Readings now follow (see below). Between
the two readings we say:*

All Rejoice and be glad
for you are the light of the world,
and great is your reward in heaven.

- 1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, ♦
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 2 Blessed are those who mourn, ♦
for they shall be comforted.
- 3 Blessed are the meek, ♦
for they shall inherit the earth.
- 4 Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst after righteousness, ♦
for they shall be satisfied.
- 5 Blessed are the merciful, ♦
for they shall obtain mercy.
- 6 Blessed are the pure in heart, ♦
for they shall see God.
- 7 Blessed are the peacemakers, ♦
for they shall be called children of God.
- 8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution
for righteousness' sake, ♦
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All Rejoice and be glad
for you are the light of the world,
and great is your reward in heaven.

Readings:

Monday: Proverbs 1 v 1 - 19; Mark 2 v 23 to 3 v 6
Tuesday: Proverbs 1 v 20 - end; Mark 3 v 7 - 19a
Wednesday: Proverbs 2; Mark 3 v 19b - end
Thursday: Proverbs 3 v 1 - 26; Mark 4 v 1 - 20
Friday: Proverbs 3 v 27 to 4 v 19; Mark 4 v 21 - 34
Saturday: Proverbs 6 v 1 - 19; Mark 4 v 35 - end

Gospel Cantic: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

All Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on
his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the
Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his
name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy.

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

All Remember your promise of mercy, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Prayers of thanksgiving are made for the day that is ending. Intercessions are offered for the church, the world and for individuals, the sick and the departed.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The Collect for this week (see first page)

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
