

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing Sunday February 14th 2021, Transfiguration Sunday (1st before Lent)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. Mark 9 v2-3

Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar
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The online provision for worship is as follows:

- The Church of England's national service on Sunday mornings can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services>

- Fr Glenn is streaming Evening Prayer each Sunday evening at 6pm on our Facebook page. Please ask him for a link for the Order of Service.

- Mthr Victoria continues to offer Compline on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9pm. Just click ctrl+ and the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/victoria.barlow.750>

- You can also watch Rev Ruth Wilson offer **5.00pm Prayers**, Monday to Thursday on YouTube. Just click Control + [here](#) to view

This coming Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, Mthr Victoria will be leading an additional Compline at 9.30 pm, nb the later time.

Lent Zoom Course: A 5 week Lent course using Zoom is currently being planned for Wednesday mornings starting at 11am on 24th February. Fr Glenn writes "We will be using a York Course written by Brian Davis called 'Caring for Creation'. The human race is facing its greatest challenge: the threat to the environment and climate change. Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening. If you would like to join this course, everyone is most welcome, **please telephone or email me to express your interest so that resources can be ordered.**"

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner on February 17th and **Mthr Victoria** writes "As we are unable to gather for worship this year, we shall be sending out ash cross prayer cards to everyone, using ash made from burning the blessed palm crosses from previous years, to help us in our Lenten journey. It would be wonderful if anyone would like to hand in blessed palms from previous years to be part of the ash; they could be dropped off through the door of Mthr Victoria or Fr. Glenn, or Mthr Victoria will happily collect from a doorstep if you drop her an email.

On Ash Wednesday as our Lenten journey of honesty and hope begins, we remember how God created us from dust and loves us, (the same dust as the stars), how he walked the dust of our earth with

We pray for those who are sick: Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, Margaret Andrew, Bishop John, Brian Richards.

Sunday Stars: Results for the Christmas quiz can now be found online in the Sunday Stars section of the church website - as can a **new February letter from Irene**. Please make sure any young people you know are aware of this.

Coffee and chat: Many of us have been missing the opportunity to talk with each other during the time of this pandemic and the need to stay home and stay safe. Fellowship is really important and beginning on Tuesday **23rd February at 10am** there will be an opportunity to gather online using Zoom for fellowship, coffee and a chat. Make yourself a coffee or tea (biscuits are optional) and join us online for some time together. The coffee breaks will be weekly for 5 weeks, and you are free to drop in and out as you are able and share coffee and conversation from our homes. If you would like to join us then please let **Rev'd Ruth or Mthr Victoria** know and the invite links will be shared with you closer to the time

World Day of Prayer; 5th March: Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this year's service. People of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity

Alpha Online: Alpha online is an opportunity to explore the Christian Faith and share one's point of view, regardless of one's background. It's a series of sessions that explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning like "who is Jesus?" and "why and how should I pray?"

Alpha Online takes place on **Monday evenings at 7:30pm, over Zoom**. You can say whatever you think, or nothing at all. The course is 11 sessions long, plus a Saturday morning. There's no pressure, no follow up, and no charge. What have you got to lose? Though the course started on January 18th new members are welcome as the course proceeds. Should you wish to join then please contact Rev. Paul Lawlor at <http://www.holytrinityredditch.org.uk/contact-us/> or on **T: 01527 62375 M: 0780 761 1090**

us, and how he gathers the ashes and embers of our broken dreams and hopes, and lifts all these, redeeming and breathing into kindling life and light. Later in the year, on Palm Sunday, we will be distributing new blessed Palm Crosses, so don't worry that you shall be without one forever."

CTiR is asking for our prayers in February for Our Lady of Mount Carmel R.C. Church. It continues to meet for services in accordance with government guidance, as well as an online service at www.eventcast.uk/live. Please pray for:-

- The pastoral needs of the wider congregation.
- Those in the church who have limited access to technology, and who may not want to attend Mass.
- The two CAFOD initiatives in which the church is involved: a Lenten challenge to walk 10,000 steps per day for the 40 days of Lent; and a national Big Walk for Water on Saturday 20 February 2021. Both relate to the provision of water where water is scarce.
- ACN, Aid To Church In Need which supports Nuns and Priests in war zones such as Syria, Iraq, former Communist bloc etc. (<https://acnuk.org/>)
- SVP, Saint Vincent de Paul which works with local poor families (<https://www.svp.org.uk/>)
- The several schools to which Mount Carmel is linked.
- The Polish and Keralan communities linked to the church
- Father Anthony Rohan the parish priest, Father Jason Mahoney (assistant priest), the permanent deacons Reverend Desmond Chilton and Reverend Peter Griffiths, plus the other parish staff
- Father Tony asked that the many souls who have died as result of Covid 19, and those who are sick be mentioned.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk Log onto our website for more information www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Archbishops' invitation to prayer

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of, now over, 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer.

"We invite you to set aside a short time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love." You may wish to pray the following two prayers

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick,
give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

Attributed to St. Augustine

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands
who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your
strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Today is Valentine's Day!

Valentine of Rome is said to be a Christian martyr, killed on February 14, 496 under the direction of Emperor Claudius II of Rome. Several stories about his persecution exist. One is that during general persecution of Christians, Valentine of Rome was interviewed personally by Emperor Claudius II for sentencing. Evidently Claudius II was impressed by Valentine and offered that if Valentine converted to paganism his life could be spared. Rather than convert, Valentine is said to have attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity, thus earning himself the death penalty. Prior to his execution, Valentine is thought to have performed a healing miracle for the jailer's blind daughter, Julia. In some renditions, Valentine wrote a letter to Julia prior to his execution, signed "Your Valentine."



