

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.
Week commencing Sunday February 28th 2021, 2nd Sunday in Lent

Jesus said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." Mark 8 v 34-35

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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

Lent Zoom Course: There are 4 sessions left of the Zoom Lent Course which starts at 11am each Wednesday. 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. 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 and Zoom details sent.”

CTiR: - This is the final week we shall be holding Our Lady of Mount Carmel R.C. Church in our prayers. 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. • a Lenten challenge to walk 10,000 steps per day for the 40 days of Lent; which relates 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 dePaul 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 • We pray for the

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: The February letter from Irene is still available online. **Next week you'll be able to read her new March one.** Please make sure any young people you know are aware of this.

Calling Young Disciples: The two Churches of The Bridge Headless Cross and Ss. Matthias & George Astwood Bank have been asked by Worcester Diocese if we would like to be a part of the 'Calling Young Disciples' project and be supported by one of the Mission Enablers for a 12 month period. The project aims to help churches develop their engagement with young people and their families. Anne Batchelor is to be our Mission Enabler and will help facilitate our thinking and planning and be a guide for us. See attached letter from Anne.

Coffee and chat: Many of us have been missing the opportunity to talk with each other during 'lockdown' with the need to stay home and stay safe. Fellowship is really important and on **each Tuesday in Lent at 10am** there is an opportunity to gather online using Zoom for fellowship, coffee and a chat. Make yourself your favourite and join us online for some time together. The coffee breaks will be weekly for the next month, 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 to get the invite Zoom links.

Archbishops' invitation to prayer

In response to the very sad numbers of COVID-19 deaths, the Archbishops have invited 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.”

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angel 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*

souls of those who have died as result of Covid 19, and those who are sick

St David, whose Saint's Day is tomorrow, was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.

St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water—which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

He died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of St Davids Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout, the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.

He is the only British Patron Saint to have been born in the country they represent.

Pam Emery would like to say 'a huge thank you' for all the kind wishes, cards, chocolates, flowers, cakes she received on her 90th birthday last week. She says she was quite overwhelmed by all the kindness shown. (*Only another 10 years and you'll be getting the telegram' Pam!*)



And there's another birthday coming up! **Margaret Andrew** will be weighty heaven on Monday, March 1st, St David's Day. Margaret is still in hospital at present but is making progress and we wish her a lovely day. We pray that she will be even happier for knowing that we're all thinking of her.

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

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