

Prayers

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

The Canticle – A SONG OF REPENTANCE

This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you:
that God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true.

But if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

And the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, cleanses us from all our sins.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, the One who is faithful and just will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father.....

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.
May it be a lantern to our feet,
a light to our paths,
and a strength to our lives.
Take us and use us
to love and serve
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

**CHRIST CHURCH, WALMERSLEY
ST.JOHN with ST.MARK, BURY**

28 February 2021

Second Sunday of Lent:

Service at Home

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3: 16

Opening Prayer – Collect for the day

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 8: 31-38

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

REFLECTION – The Vicar

Peter the disciple is known in the Gospels for his impetuous acts and at times engaging his mouth before his brain. It is a trait that I am sure we have all experienced during our lives! In the gospel passage above, Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes him. Fancy that! This is such a radical and uniquely recorded event. I imagine Peter playing a kind of protective big brother role – consulting Jesus as a precocious boy would discuss his younger siblings with his dad. He might have said “Lord, must you talk like this? You know how upset they get”. The way Jesus was talking about suffering and death caused others to be distressed. But Jesus in turn rebukes Peter. Telling him that it was important to reflect on divine events not human ones. The past year has caused us all to reflect more on issues of life and death. Coronavirus has changed the world in a way that we could not have imagined 12 months ago. People across the globe have experienced a great deal of soul searching about the role of faith in their lives. At times as Peter experienced, the truth might be hard to bear but no matter how distressing it sounds, as we face the truth, God gives us the means to cope with it. He is our anchor.

Benedictus (the Song of Zechariah)

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

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.