

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday

First Reading - Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19

A reading from the book of Daniel.

With Jerusalem lying in ruins,

I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God
to plead in prayer,
with fasting,
and in sackcloth
and ashes.

And I prayed
to the Lord my God,
making confession, and saying,
'O Lord, great and awesome God,
you keep your covenant, in steadfast love,
towards those who
love you, and keep your commandments.

But we have sinned, and done wrong.

We have acted wickedly, and rebelled.

We have turned aside
from your commandments and decrees.

We have not listened to your servants
the prophets, who have spoken in your name,
in every generation.

O Lord our God, hear the prayer of your servant;
and for your own sake, O Lord,
look with pity
upon the desolate ruins
of your holy temple.

Hear my cry, O Lord our God,
and look upon the desolation
of the people, and the city,
that bear your name.

In this our plea, we trust not
in our righteousness,
but in your great mercy.

Hear, O Lord, and forgive;
and for your own sake, O Lord my God,
act, and do not delay;
for the city, and the people,
bear your name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 2.12-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I know that you have
continued to trust
in all that I was able to teach you
while I was with you,
and that you continue
to commit yourselves
to walking in the way of salvation.

Always do so with humility, honouring
both the power
and the majesty of God.

For it is God who is
at work within you:

it is God who gives you
both the desire
and the strength
to do God's will.

So avoid
complaint and dispute,
and you will be innocent and uncorrupted
children of God,
shining as lights
in the darkness of this
wicked and corrupt
generation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 8.2-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Early in the morning,

Jesus came again to the temple.

All the people
gathered around him,
and he sat down, and began to teach them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees
brought to him

a woman who had been
caught in adultery;

and making her stand there,
in front of all the people,

they said to Jesus,

'Teacher, this woman was caught
in the very act
of committing adultery.

In the law, Moses commanded us
to stone
such women.

What do you say?'

They said this

to test Jesus,

so that they might have some charge
to bring against him.

Jesus bent down,

and wrote, with his finger, on the ground.

As they kept on questioning him,
he straightened up

and said to them,

'Let the one who is

without sin

cast the first stone.'

And once again,

he bent down

and wrote on the ground.

Having heard these words

they went away,

one by one,

beginning with the eldest,

until Jesus was left alone

with the woman standing there.

Jesus straightened up

and said to her, 'Where are they?

Has no one

condemned you?'

She said, 'No one, sir.'

And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you.

Go on your way,

and do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 9 March

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading - *Deuteronomy 26.4-10*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

When the priest

takes your harvest offering
of the first-fruits of the land,
and places it before the altar
of the Lord your God,
there you shall say:

'My ancestors
were homeless travellers
from Aram.

Few in number,
we lived in Egypt, as foreigners.

There, we grew in number, and in strength,
to become a great nation.

But the Egyptians
treated us harshly,
and afflicted us,
imposing hard labour upon us.

We cried to the Lord, the God
of our ancestors,
and the Lord heard our voice,
and looked upon our affliction,
our toil and oppression.

And the Lord
brought us out of Egypt,
with a mighty hand,
and an outstretched arm,
and acts of great power,

and brought us
to this place,
and gave us this land,
a land rich
with milk and honey.

So now I bring to you, O Lord,
the first-fruits
of the harvest
of the land
that you have given to me.'

And you shall bow down
before the Lord your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Romans 10.8-13*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Scripture says:

'The word is near to you;
it is on your lips,
and
it is in your heart'.

And this is now
the word of faith
that we proclaim -
that if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord,
and if you believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

Scripture also declares that no one
believing in the Lord
will be put to shame.

And in this, there is no distinction
between the descendants of Jacob
and all the other people of the world.

For the same Lord
is Lord of all,
and is gracious to all.

And everyone who calls on
the name of the Lord
will be saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 4.1-13a*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from his baptism in the river Jordan,
and was led, by the Spirit, into the wilderness.

There, for forty days,
he was tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing during those days,
and while he was experiencing great hunger,
the devil said to him,

'If you are the Son of God,
command this stone
to become bread.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,
"Life is not sustained
by bread alone."'

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place
and showed him, in one instant,
all the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil said to him, 'I can give you
the glory and the power
of all these kingdoms.

If you will worship me,
they will all be yours.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture says,
"Worship and serve
the Lord your God,
and no other."'

Then the devil took Jesus
to Jerusalem, and placed him
on the highest point of the temple,
saying, 'If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down from here,
for the scripture says, "The Lord Most High
will send angels to protect you,
to raise you up
in their hands,
so that you will not even
hurt your foot
against a stone."'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture also says, "Do not
put the Lord your God
to the test."'

And having completed all these temptations,
the devil departed from Jesus
until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 16 March
Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 15.12-14,18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

As the sun was going down,
Abram fell into a deep sleep,
and a terrifying darkness
fell upon him.

The Lord said to Abram, 'For four hundred years,
your descendants will live
as foreigners
in a land
that is not their own;
and they will be slaves there,
and they will be oppressed.

But I make this covenant with you this day:
that I will bring judgement
on the nation
that enslaves them,
and your descendants
will leave that place
with great possessions,
and I will restore them
to this land.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 3.18 - 4.1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, I write
with tears in my eyes,
as I say again
that there are many who live as enemies
of the cross of Christ.

Their minds are set
on earthly things.

Greed
is their god.

They
glory
in their shame.

And their end
is destruction.

But we belong
not to earth,
but to heaven.

And we look to the day
when our Saviour,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
with authority
over all creation,
will transform
our lowly bodies
to be like
his glorious body.

So, my beloved brothers and sisters -
my joy and crown -
stand firm
in the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 9.28-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus went up on the mountain to pray,
taking with him
Peter, James, and John.

And while he was praying,
the appearance of his face was changed,
and his clothes
became dazzling white.

And there with him, in glory,
were Moses,
and Elijah.

And they were speaking together
about his departure, which was
soon to be fulfilled
at Jerusalem.

Peter, James, and John
had been
weighed down
with sleep;

but became
fully awake
when they saw
his glory,

and Moses and Elijah
standing with him.

As Moses and Elijah
were preparing to depart,
Peter said to Jesus, 'Master,
it is good
for us
to be here.

Let us make three shelters,
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

He did not know
what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking,
a cloud came,
and covered them;
and they were
afraid.

And a voice
spoke
from the cloud,
saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen.
Listen to him.'

When the voice had spoken,
they looked,
and saw only Jesus, alone.

And in those days
they told no one
of what
they had seen.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 23 March

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Isaiah 55.6-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Turn away

from your wicked ways,
and turn to the Lord,
for the Lord is ready to welcome you.

Turn away

from your plotting for injustice,
and call upon the Lord,
for the Lord is near.

Return to the Lord your God,

for God will have mercy,
and freely forgive.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10.1-6,9-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul
to the Corinthians.

Our ancestors

passed through the Red Sea,
and were then
guided through the wilderness
by the cloud
that went before them.

It was as though they were

baptised into Moses,
first in the sea, and then in the cloud.

There in the wilderness, they ate spiritual food,
and they drank spiritual drink,
from the rock that was surely Christ.

And still, they rebelled against God,
and were struck down.

And this becomes a warning

for us, in our own time,
not to pursue evil as they did;
and not to put Christ to the test,
or complain, as they did,
for it led to their destruction.

So when you are

most confident
that all is well, and that you are standing firm,
it is then
that you should
take the most care
that you do not fall.

And when you are most fully aware
of your trials and your weaknesses,

it is then

that you can be reassured
that any temptation or adversity that comes upon you
has been suffered by others before.

God is faithful, and will not

let you be tested
beyond your strength;
but will ensure, in every situation,
that there is always a way through,
and that you will have the strength
to endure.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 13.1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

A report

reached Jesus
and the disciples
that some Galileans
had been killed,
by Pilate,
while they were
offering sacrifices
in the temple.

Jesus said, 'Do not be thinking
that these
were the worst sinners
in Galilee;

for unless

you repent,
you will all
surely perish
in the same way.

And you know about

the eighteen who were killed
when the tower of Siloam
fell on them.

Do not be thinking

that they
were the worst sinners
in Jerusalem;

for unless

you repent,
you will all
surely perish
in the same way.'

And he told them

this parable:

'The owner of a vineyard
had a fig tree,
and came looking for fruit on it,
but there was none.

The owner of the vineyard

said to the keeper
of the vineyard,

"For three years now, I have come
looking for fruit
on this fig tree,
but found none.

Cut it down!

It is a waste of good land!"

But the keeper of the vineyard

pleaded, "Allow it one more year,
while I dig around it,
and put manure on it.

If it finally

bears fruit,
let it be;

and only

if it then
still bears
no fruit,
cut it down."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 30 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Joshua 5.9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua.

After crossing the river Jordan,
to enter the promised land,
the people camped at Gilgal,
in the plains of Jericho.
And there, they kept the Passover, on the evening
of the fourteenth day of the month.
The next day, there was no
miraculous food on the ground;
because now, they were able to eat
the ordinary produce
of the promised land.
That first day, they ate the produce
of the promised land
as flat-breads, and roasted grain.
And the Lord said to Joshua: 'Today, I have taken away
the disgrace
you suffered in Egypt.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5.17-20

A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Corinthians.

By God's grace,
we have been reconciled to God, in Christ.
And now, God has entrusted to us
the message of reconciliation.
God has made us ambassadors for Christ,
to proclaim this message to the world:
'God no longer counts your trespasses against you!
Be reconciled to God!'
Anyone who is in Christ
is a new creation.
The old has passed away,
and everything is new.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were collectors of the Roman taxes,
and other notorious sinners.
Jesus welcomed them,
and would even sit and eat with them.
For this, the Pharisees and the scribes
complained against Jesus.
So Jesus told them this parable:
'There was a man who had two sons.
The younger son said to his father, "Give me
my share of the property."
So the father divided his property
between his two sons.
A few days later, the younger son
gathered his belongings,
and travelled to a distant country,
and there
began to squander all his wealth.

When he had spent
all that he had,
a severe famine spread throughout that country.
So he went and hired himself out
to one of the farmers in that country, who sent him
to feed the pigs.
And he was so hungry
that he would gladly have eaten
the waste
that the pigs were eating.
Eventually, he said to himself, "Here I am,
dying of hunger, while my father's
hired workers
have enough to eat, and more to spare.
I will go back to my father, and say, 'Father,
I have sinned against heaven, and before you;
I am no longer worthy to be called your son;
treat me as one of your hired workers.'"
So he set off, and went to his father.
While he was still far off, his father saw him,
and was filled with compassion.
His father ran,
and put his arms around him, and kissed him.
The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven,
and before you; I am no longer worthy
to be called your son."
But the father said to his servants, "Go quickly,
and bring, for my son, the finest clothes,
a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet!
Take the fatted calf, and kill it,
and let us celebrate with a feast,
for this son of mine was dead, and is alive again;
he was lost - and now he is found."
And the celebration began.
All this time, the elder son was working in the field.
When the elder son approached the house,
he heard music and dancing.
He called one of the servants,
and asked what was happening.
The servant explained, "Your brother
has returned, alive, and your father
has killed the fatted calf, to celebrate."
On hearing this, the elder son
became angry, and refused to go in.
His father came out and pleaded with him,
but he said, "For all these years,
I have worked for you like a slave,
and I have never disobeyed your command.
And you have never given me
even a young goat
to celebrate with my friends.
But this son of yours
has come back, having squandered your wealth
with the shameless, and you have killed
the fatted calf for him!"
His father said, "Son, you are always with me,
and all that I have is yours.
And we must celebrate,
because this brother of yours
was lost, and now he is found;
he was dead, and now he is alive again."
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 6 April
Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Isaiah 43.15-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord, your Redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel, says:

I am the Lord your God,
the Creator of Israel,
your King.

I made a path for you
through the mighty waters
of the sea.

I drew out the Egyptians behind you,
chariots and horses, an army of warriors;
but now they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished,
quenched,
like a wick.

Yet now I say:
recount this history no more,
nor dwell on events of the past,

for now I begin something new;
indeed, it is already begun.

Even the wild animals
will honour me.

I will make
a safe route
through the wilderness,
and rivers
will flow in the desert,
to refresh my chosen people,
the people I formed for myself;
and they will declare my praise anew.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philippians 3.4-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone
had reason
to be confident,
I had more.

I was a descendant of Jacob,
in the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew,
born of Hebrews.

In the observation of the law, I was a Pharisee.

In zeal, I was a persecutor of the church.

In righteousness according to the law,
I was blameless.

And yet I regard
all these things
as worthless now,

for nothing
has any value at all
compared to knowing
Christ Jesus as my Lord.

For the sake of Christ,
I have lost everything.

But I count this loss as nothing,
for what I have gained
is Christ.

United with Christ, I depend
no more
on a righteousness of my own,
derived from the law,
for I have instead
a righteousness
that comes from God,
through faith in Christ.
And so, leaving behind
all that has gone before,
I now press on towards the goal
of knowing Christ more fully,
and the power of his resurrection;
sharing in his sufferings, and even
becoming like him in his death,
if somehow then
I may share
in his resurrection from the dead.
All this I choose, just as Christ
has chosen me.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 12.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Six days before the Passover,
Jesus came to Bethany,
to the home of Lazarus.

Lazarus was the one
Jesus had raised
from the dead.

There, they gave a dinner for Jesus.

Martha served,
and Lazarus was at the table, with Jesus.

Mary took a pound
of costly perfume,
and used the perfume
to anoint
Jesus' feet,
wiping his feet with her hair.

And the house was filled
with the fragrance
of the perfume.

Judas Iscariot
(the disciple who was about to betray Jesus)
complained, saying, 'This perfume
could have been sold
for a whole year's wages,
and the money given to the poor!'

(He said this
not because he cared about the poor,
but because he was a thief.
He looked after the disciples' funds,
and would steal from them.)

Jesus said, 'Let her alone.

She has kept this perfume
for the day of my burial.

You will always have the poor with you,
but you will not always have me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

■ **Sunday 13 April**
Palm Sunday

Palm Procession - *Luke 19.35-40*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The disciples
brought the foal to Jesus,
and threw their cloaks across it.

As Jesus set off,
riding the foal,
down the Mount of Olives,
people spread their cloaks
on the road
in front of him.

As they approached Jerusalem,
the whole crowd of disciples
began to praise God
joyfully

for all the deeds of power
they had seen,
shouting out,

'Blessed is the king
who comes
in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,
and glory
in the highest!'

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd
said to Jesus,
'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.'

Jesus said, 'I tell you,
if the people were silent,
the stones would shout out.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Main Liturgy

First Reading - *Isaiah 50.4-9a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God
has taught me wisdom,
so that I may speak
words of comfort
to the weary.

Morning by morning,
the Lord God awakens me,
so that I may learn wisdom
as a servant of the Lord.

When I face
persecution and violence,
I do not hide my face,
or turn away.

Let my accusers
confront me.

I will set my face like flint.

For I know
that the Lord God brings justice,
and I will not
be defeated
or ashamed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Philippians 2.5-11*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let Christ Jesus
be your example.
He did not regard
his equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant.

Born in human form,
he humbled himself,
in faithful obedience,
even to death on the cross.

And now, God has highly exalted him,
and has given him the name
that is above every name,

so that
at the name of Jesus,
all shall bow down,
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
and declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory
of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

Passion - *Luke 22.14 - 23.56*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

When the time came
for the Passover meal,
Jesus took his place, at the table,
with the apostles.

Jesus said to them, 'I have longed
to eat this Passover
with you
before I suffer;

for I will not eat it again
until it is fulfilled
in the kingdom of God.'

Then Jesus took a cup,
and after giving thanks,
he said, 'Take this,
and divide it amongst yourselves;

for I will not drink
the fruit
of the vine
again

until the kingdom of God
has come.'

Then Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke the bread,
and gave it to them,
saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

And in the same way, after supper,
he took the cup,
saying, 'This cup
is the new covenant,
in my blood, which is
poured out for you.'

And see,
the one who betrays me
is here with me.
His hand
is on the table
with mine.
For the Son of Man departs
as it has been
determined.
But woe
to the one who betrays him!

And they began to question
amongst themselves,
which one of them
it could be
that would do this.

They also began to dispute
amongst themselves,
which one of them
should be considered
the greatest.
But Jesus said to them, 'The rulers
of the nations
lord it over them;
and those
with great authority
are called
benefactors.
But it shall not
be so
with you.
The greatest amongst you
must become
like the least,
and the leader
must become
like one who serves -
just as I am amongst you
as one who serves.

You are the ones who have
stood by me
in my trials.
And I grant you
a kingdom,
just as my Father
has granted a kingdom
to me.
You will eat and drink
at my table
in my kingdom,
and sit on thrones,
and serve justice.

Now Simon, Simon, listen!
Satan has demanded
to sift all of you
like wheat,
but I have prayed for you, Simon,
that your faith
may not fail.
And when you return,
strengthen
your brothers.'
Simon Peter replied, 'Lord,
I am ready to go with you,
to prison, and to death!'
Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter,
the cock
will not crow
this day,
until you have denied three times
that you know me.'

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'You know
that when I sent you out
without purse, or bag, or sandals,
you lacked nothing.

But now,
take your purse,
and your bag.
And if you have no sword,
sell your cloak and buy one.
The scripture says, "He was counted
amongst the lawless";
and now this is being fulfilled
in me.'

The disciples said, 'Lord, here are two swords.'
And Jesus replied, 'It is enough.'

Then they went out
to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus leading, and the disciples following.

And when they had
reached the place,
Jesus said to them, 'Pray,
that you may not
have to enter
the time of temptation, testing, and trial.'
And Jesus withdrew from them,
about a stone's throw,
and knelt down, and prayed, 'Father,
if you are willing,
remove this cup from me;
yet not my will,
but yours,
be done.'

Then an angel, from heaven,
appeared to him,
and gave him strength.

And he prayed
with greater anguish;
and his sweat became
like great drops of blood,
falling to the ground.

When Jesus got up from prayer,
he came to the disciples,
and found them sleeping,
exhausted by grief.
Jesus said to them, 'Why are you sleeping?
Get up, and pray
that you may not
have to enter
the time of temptation, testing, and trial.'

While Jesus was still speaking,
a crowd appeared.
Amongst them
were the chief priests,
the temple guards,
and the elders.

And Judas,
one of the twelve,
was leading them.

Judas
approached Jesus,
as if to greet him
with a kiss.

And Jesus said,
'Judas,
do you betray
the Son of Man,
with a kiss?'

When those who were
around Jesus
saw what was happening,
they asked Jesus
whether they should
use their swords.

One of them
struck
the servant of the high priest,
cutting off
his right ear.

But Jesus said,
'No more of this!'

And Jesus
touched
the servant's ear,
and it was healed.

Then Jesus said
to those who had
come to arrest him,
'Day after day,
I was in your temple,
teaching,
and you did not
arrest me.

And now you come out
with swords and clubs,
to arrest me
like an outlaw.

But this is your hour,
and the power of darkness.'

Then they
seized Jesus,
and led him away
to the house
of the high priest.
Peter followed,
at a distance.

The guards lit a fire,
in the middle of the courtyard,
and sat down together.
Peter sat amongst them.
In the light
from the fire,
Peter was noticed
by one of the women who worked there.

She observed him carefully,
then said, 'This man
was with him.'

But Peter denied it,
saying, 'Woman,
I do not know him.'

A short time later,
another said to him, 'You are one of them!'
But Peter said, 'I am not!'

About an hour later, another was insisting,
'Surely this man was with him,
for he is a Galilean.'

But Peter said, 'I do not
know
what you mean.'

At that very moment,
while Peter was still speaking,
the cock
crowed.

And the Lord turned,
and looked at Peter.
And Peter remembered
that the Lord had said to him,
'Before the cock crows, today,
you will deny me three times.'

And Peter went out,
and wept bitterly.

The guards who were detaining Jesus
began to mock him;
blindfolding him,
and beating him;
and saying,
'If you are a prophet,
tell us who struck you;'
and many other
insults
against him.

When daylight came,
the chief priests and the scribes
assembled,
and they had
Jesus
brought before them.
They said to him, 'If you are
the Messiah, tell us.'
Jesus said, 'If I were
to tell you,
you would not believe.
And if I were
to question you,
you would not answer.
But soon,
the Son of Man
will be seated
at the right hand
of the power of God.'
They said, 'Then you are
the Son of God?'
Jesus said to them, 'You say that I am.'
They said, 'We need
no further witnesses.
We have heard it ourselves,
from his own lips.'

The assembly arose,
and they took Jesus
to Pilate.
There,
they made their accusations against him:
'We found this man
subverting our nation,
forbidding
the payment of taxes
to the emperor,
and declaring himself
to be the Messiah - the anointed king.'
Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you
the King of the Jews?'
Jesus replied,
'You have said it.'

But Pilate said,
to the chief priests, and to all those assembled,
'I find no basis
for an accusation against this man.'
But they were insistent,
saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching
throughout Judea,
from Galilee, where he began,
and now here, in Jerusalem.'
When Pilate heard this,
he enquired
whether Jesus was Galilean,
as this would place Jesus
under Herod's jurisdiction.
On hearing that Jesus was indeed Galilean,
Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, who was
in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was glad,
because he had been
wanting to see Jesus
for some time,
having heard about him,
and was hoping to see him
perform some sign.
Herod questioned Jesus at length,
but Jesus
gave no answer.
The chief priests and the scribes
continued
accusing Jesus.
Herod
and his soldiers
began
to treat Jesus
with contempt.
Mocking him,
they put an elegant robe on him,
and sent him back
to Pilate.
And Herod and Pilate
became friends that day,
where previously
there had been
hostility
between them.

Pilate now called together
the chief priests,
the rulers,
and the people,
and said to them,
'You brought me this man,
accusing him
of subverting the people.
I have examined him in your presence,
and I have found nothing
that makes him guilty
of the accusations
you have made against him.
Neither has Herod,
for he sent him back to us.
He has done nothing
deserving death.
I will have him
flogged,
and release him.'
But they all shouted out,
'Away with him!
Release Barabbas!'
(Barabbas
had been imprisoned
for insurrection,
and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus,
 appealed to them again;
but those who were gathered
 began shouting out
 that Jesus
 should be crucified.

A third time, Pilate said to them,
 ‘Why, what evil has he done?
 I find no reason for his death.
 I will have him
 flogged, and release him.’

But they continued
 shouting out their demand
 that he should be
 crucified.

And their voices prevailed;
 and Pilate declared
 that their demand
 should be granted;
and Pilate released Barabbas, as they had demanded -
 the one who had been imprisoned
 for insurrection and for murder -
and Jesus,
 he delivered up
 to their will.

As they led Jesus away,
 they seized
 Simon, from North Africa, who was
 travelling into Jerusalem.

And they
 laid the cross on him,
 and made him carry it,
 behind Jesus.

A great number of people
 followed behind,
 including women, who were
 weeping for him.

But Jesus turned to them
 and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem,
 do not weep for me,
 but weep for yourselves,
 and for your children.

For the days are coming
 when many
 will declare
 the childless woman
 fortunate, and blessed.

And people will long
 for the mountains and the hills
 to fall on them
 and cover them.

For if this is
 what they do
 when the wood is green,
what
 will they do
 when it is dry.’

Two criminals
 were also being
 led away,
to be put to death
 with him.

And when they came
 to the place
 called The Skull,
they crucified him there,
 with the criminals,
 one on his right, and one on his left.

Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them;
 for they do not know
 what they are doing.’

And they cast lots
 to divide his clothing.

The people
 stood watching.

But the rulers
 mocked him,
 saying, ‘He saved others;
let him save himself, if he is
 God’s anointed,
 God’s chosen one!’

The soldiers also mocked him,
 approaching him
 to offer sour wine,
and saying, ‘If you are
 the King of the Jews,
 save yourself!’
For the inscription, written above him,
 said, ‘The King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals
 crucified alongside him
 also
 mocked him,
saying, ‘If you are the Messiah,
 save yourself - and us!’

But the other criminal
 said to him, ‘Have you
 no fear of God?’

We are being
 punished for our crimes,
but this man
 has done
 no wrong.’

Then he said, ‘Jesus,
 remember me,
 when you come into your kingdom.’

Jesus replied, ‘Truly, I tell you,
 today
 you will be
 with me
 in Paradise.’

It was now about noon.

And for three hours,
darkness
came over
the whole land.

For the light
of the sun
failed.

And the curtain
of the temple sanctuary
was torn in two.

Then Jesus cried out, 'Father,
into your hands
I commit my spirit.'

And saying this,
he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing all that had taken place,
praised God, saying, 'Surely,
this was a righteous man.'

And all those who had gathered
to witness these things
now returned home, beating their breasts.

And all those who knew Jesus,
and the women who had followed him from Galilee,
looked on
at these things, from a distance.

Now there was a good and righteous man
named Joseph, from Arimathea, who was
waiting expectantly
for the kingdom of God.

He was a member of the Hebrew council,
but he had not consented
to their plan or action.

He went to Pilate
and asked
for the body of Jesus.

Then he took it down,
wrapped it
in a linen cloth,
and laid it
in an unused tomb,
which had been
carved out from the rock.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee
followed behind,
and saw the tomb
where the body was laid.

They returned,
and prepared spices and ointments;
but it was evening,
and the sabbath was beginning,
and for the sabbath day, they rested,
in accordance with the commandment.

The Passion of the Lord.

Thursday 17 April
Maundy Thursday

First Reading - Genesis 14.18-20a

A reading from the book of Genesis.
King Melchizedek of Salem
was a priest
of God Most High.
And he brought out bread,
and wine.
And he blessed Abram,
saying, 'Blessed be Abram,
by God Most High,
the maker
of heaven and earth.
And blessed
be God Most High, who has
delivered you
from the hands
of your enemies.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.
The teaching
I received
from the Lord
is the teaching
I pass on
to you:
that the Lord Jesus,
on the night
he was betrayed,
took bread;
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it,
and said,
'This is my body,
which is
given
for you;
do this
in remembrance of me.'
In the same way,
after
they had eaten,
he took the cup,
and said,
'This cup
is the new covenant
in my blood;
do this, whenever you drink it,
in remembrance
of me.'
So whenever
you eat this bread,
and drink
this cup,
you proclaim
the Lord's death,
until he comes.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 6.22-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Some from the crowd
stayed overnight, at the lakeside,
at the place where Jesus
had given thanks over the bread,
and the whole crowd had eaten.
In the morning, when they realised
that both Jesus and the disciples
had left, they went by boat
to Capernaum, to look for Jesus there.
When they found Jesus,
they asked him, 'Teacher, when did you come here?'
Jesus said, 'You have come to find me,
not because you understood the meaning
of the sign
that you witnessed,
but because you ate your fill of bread!
Do not work
for the food that perishes,
but work for the food
that endures
for eternal life -
the food
that the Son of Man will give you;
for it is on
the Son of Man
that God the Father
has set
his seal.'
They said to him, 'What must we do
to be doing
the work of God?'
Jesus said, 'This is the work of God:
that you believe
in the one
that God
has sent.'
So they said to him, 'What sign
are you going to give us,
so that we may see it,
and believe in you?'
Our ancestors
ate manna
in the wilderness;
it says, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."
Jesus said to them,
'It was not Moses who gave you
the bread from heaven;
it is my Father who gives you
the true bread from heaven -
the bread of God
that comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.'
They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'
Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me
will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me
will never be thirsty.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

■ **Friday 18 April**
Good Friday

First Reading - Isaiah 53.3-5

He was despised
and rejected.
He knew anguish
and pain.
We counted him as worthless,
as struck down
by God.
We turned our faces
from him.
Yet truly
he bore our anguish,
and carried our pain.
He was wounded
for our transgressions,
and crushed
for our iniquities.
He bore the punishment
that makes us whole.
And by his wounds,
we are healed.

Second Reading - Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-10a

We have
a great high priest, who has
ascended
into heaven,
Jesus, the Son of God.
And he is able to sympathise
with our weakness,
for he himself
has been tested,
in every way, as we are -
yet without sin.
So let us trust in him,
and approach the throne of grace
with confidence,
that we may receive
mercy,
and find
grace to help
in time of need.
In the days of his earthly life,
Jesus offered up prayers,
with loud cries, and tears,
to the one who was
able to rescue him
from death.
And his prayer was heard,
in his reverent submission
to the will of the Father.
Even as
the Son,
he grew
in devotion
through all
he learned
and endured.
And when he had
accomplished
and completed
all things,
he was declared by God
to be
the eternal high priest,
and has become
the source
of eternal salvation
for all who trust in him.

*Good Friday Passion Readings
begin on the next page*

Good Friday
Passion Reading Part 1

John 18.1-27

Jesus went
with his disciples
to a garden
on the far side
of the Kidron valley.
Judas
also knew the place,
because Jesus
would often meet there
with his disciples.
So Judas led
the soldiers and the temple guards there,
with weapons and torches.
Jesus, knowing what was happening,
stepped forward, and asked them, 'Who is it
that you are looking for?'
They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'
Jesus said, 'I am he.'
And they stepped back
and fell to the ground.
Jesus asked them again, 'Who is it
that you are looking for?'
And again they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'
Jesus replied, 'I say again, I am he.
Now let these others go.'
In this way,
he fulfilled the words
he had spoken earlier
in prayer:
'I have protected those
you entrusted to me.'
Simon Peter
now drew his sword,
and struck
the servant
of the high priest,
cutting off
his right ear.
Jesus said, 'Put your sword away,
for I must surely drink
from the cup
that the Father
has given me.'
Then the soldiers
and the temple guards
arrested Jesus,
and bound him.
They took him first to Annas,
the father-in-law
of Caiaphas, who was the high priest
that year.
Caiaphas
was the one who had said
that it was better
to have one person die
for the people.

Simon Peter,
and another disciple,
followed Jesus.
The other disciple
was known
to the high priest, and was able
to follow Jesus
all the way into the courtyard.
But Peter was left standing outside the gate,
until the other disciple
went out
and spoke to the woman who was
guarding the gate.
The woman said to Peter, 'Are you also
one of his disciples?'
Peter said, 'I am not.'
The temple guards and servants
had made a charcoal fire
in the courtyard,
and they were standing around it
to keep warm.
Peter went
and stood with them.
Inside, Jesus was being questioned
about his disciples
and his teaching.
Jesus said, 'I have always spoken openly.
I have taught
in the synagogue,
and in the temple,
where people gather.
I have said nothing in secret.
You do not need
to question me.
You can ask
those who heard me.'
One of the temple guards
struck Jesus on the face,
saying, 'That is not
how you answer
the high priest.'
Jesus said, 'If what I have said
is untrue, then say so;
but if it is true, why strike me?'
Annas now sent Jesus, bound,
to Caiaphas, the high priest.
Simon Peter
was still standing
with the temple guards,
by the charcoal fire, in the courtyard.
Those who were standing there
asked Peter, 'Are you also
one of his disciples?'
Peter again denied it,
saying, 'I am not.'
One of the servants of the high priest
(a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off)
said to Peter, 'Did I not
see you with him, in the garden?'
Again Peter denied it;
and at that very moment,
the cock crowed.

Good Friday
Passion Reading Part 2

John 18.28 - 19.16

At first light, they took Jesus
from the court of Caiaphas,
the high priest,
to the headquarters of Pilate,
the Roman governor.
But they did not go in,
as that would have been
a ritual defilement, preventing them
from eating the Passover.
So Pilate went out to them, and asked,
'What charges do you bring
against this man?'
They answered, 'If he were not
an offender, we would not have
brought him to you.'
Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves,
and judge him by your own law.'
They replied, 'It is not lawful for us
to put anyone to death.'
Pilate went back inside his headquarters.
There, he summoned Jesus,
and asked him, 'Are you
the King of the Jews?'
Jesus said, 'Do you ask this for yourself,
or is it something
that others have said?'
Pilate replied, 'I am a Roman, not a Jew.
Your own people, and their chief priests
have handed you over to me.
What is it
that you have done?'
Jesus said, 'My kingdom
is not
of this world,
or I would have guards,
fighting to protect me.
My kingdom is not here.'
Pilate said, 'So you are a king!'
Jesus said, 'You have said it.
I was born, and I came into the world,
to bear witness to the truth.
Everyone who seeks the truth
hears my voice.'
Pilate said, 'And what is truth?'
Pilate then returned
to those who were waiting outside,
and said, 'I find no case against him.
But you have a custom
that I release a prisoner for you
at Passover.
Do you want me to release to you
the King of the Jews?'
And they shouted, 'Not him,
but Barabbas!'
And Barabbas
was a common criminal.

Pilate took Jesus,
and had him flogged.
The soldiers made a crown, out of thorns,
and put it on his head; and they dressed him
in a purple robe.
They came up to him,
saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'
and struck him on the face.
Pilate returned to those who were waiting outside,
and said, 'I am bringing him out to you
to let you know
that I find no case against him.'
Jesus came out,
wearing the crown of thorns
and the purple robe.
Pilate said, 'Behold the man!'
As soon as the chief priests, and the temple guards,
saw him,
they shouted, 'Crucify!'
Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him.
I find no case against him.'
They said, 'By our law, he must die,
for he claims to be
the Son of God.'
When Pilate heard this,
he was greatly concerned.
He entered his headquarters again,
and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'
But Jesus gave no answer.
Pilate said, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?
Do you not see
that I have the power to release you,
or to crucify you?'
Jesus said, 'You would have had
no power over me,
had it not been given to you.
The one who handed me over to you
is guilty of a greater sin.'
On hearing this, Pilate again
sought to release Jesus,
but the chief priests
and the temple guards
said, 'If you release him, you are no friend
of the emperor,
for he sets himself against the emperor,
by calling himself a king.'
Pilate took Jesus outside,
and sat on the judgement seat,
at the stone pavement.
It was about midday
on the day of preparation
for the Passover.
Pilate said, 'Here is your king!'
They cried out, 'Away with him!
Crucify him!'
Pilate asked them, 'Shall I
crucify your king?'
They answered, 'We have no king
but the emperor!'
And Pilate handed Jesus over to them,
and they led him away
to be crucified.

Good Friday
Passion Reading Part 3

John 19.17-end

With Jesus carrying his own cross,
they led him out
to The Place of the Skull
(which in Hebrew is Golgotha).
There, they crucified him,
between two others,
one on his right, and one on his left.
Pilate had an inscription
placed on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth,
the King of the Jews.'
Many people were able to read this,
as the place of the crucifixion
was near the city,
and the sign was written
in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.
The chief priests complained to Pilate,
insisting that the inscription
should not be
'The King of the Jews',
but 'This man claimed to be
the King of the Jews'.
But Pilate said, 'What I have written,
I have written.'
The soldiers who crucified Jesus
divided his clothes
between them.
But his tunic was woven as a single piece,
so rather than tear it,
they cast lots for it.
As it says in the psalm, 'They divided
my garments
amongst themselves,
and for my clothing,
they cast lots.'
Standing by the cross of Jesus
were his mother,
and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene.
When Jesus saw the beloved disciple
standing beside his mother,
Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son',
and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'
And from that time on,
the disciple took her into his own home.
Knowing that everything was now completed,
and in order to fulfil the scripture,
Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'
From a jar that was standing there,
they filled a sponge
with sour wine,
fixed it
on a branch of herbs,
and lifted it to his mouth.
When Jesus had received it,
he said, 'It is finished,'
And he bowed his head,
and gave up his spirit.

The temple authorities
did not want the crucifixions
continuing into the sabbath,
so they asked Pilate to order
that the legs of the crucified
be broken,
and the bodies removed.
The soldiers came
and broke the legs
of the two who had been crucified
alongside Jesus.
But when they came to Jesus,
seeing that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,
but pierced his side with a spear;
and blood and water
flowed out.
This account is given
by one who was there, who
witnessed these things,
so that you may know it
to be true.
And so it is
that the scriptures
were fulfilled:
'Not one
of his bones
will be broken,'
and,
'They will look upon
the one they have pierced.'
After all these things
had taken place,
Joseph of Arimathea
sought and received
from Pilate
permission to take away
the body of Jesus.
Joseph was a disciple of Jesus,
but secretly, for fear
of the religious authorities.
Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus
by night,
brought linen cloths,
and ointment, with myrrh, and fragrant oils.
And together,
they anointed and wrapped
the body of Jesus
for burial.
In a garden,
close to the place of crucifixion,
there was a new tomb,
in which no one
had ever been laid.
And as the sabbath
was soon to begin,
and the tomb
was nearby,
they laid the body of Jesus there.

Sunday 20 April
Easter Day

First Reading - Isaiah 65.17-19

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will create
new heavens, and a new earth,
says the Lord.
And the former things
will be remembered
no more.
Be glad
and rejoice
for ever
in my new creation.
And I myself
will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people.
And the sound of weeping
will be heard no more.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15.20-26

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Christ
has indeed
been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits
of those who have died.
Just as death
came through
a human being,
so the resurrection
of the dead
has come
through a human being;
for all die
in Adam;
but in Christ,
all will be
made alive:
Christ
as the first fruits,
and at
the coming of Christ,
those who
belong to Christ.
And when all
is completed,
Christ will hand over the kingdom
to God the Father,
having overcome
every other
ruler, authority, and power;
for Christ will reign,
and all enemies
will be defeated;
and the final enemy
that will be destroyed
is death itself.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.1-18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb,
and saw that the stone
had been removed.
She hurried back to Simon Peter,
and the disciple Jesus loved, and said,
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know
where they have laid him.'
Peter and the other disciple
set off running
towards the tomb.
The other disciple outran Peter,
reaching the tomb first.
Bending down to look in, he could see
the linen wrappings, lying there,
but did not go in.
Then Simon Peter came, following him,
and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings; and he saw
the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,
rolled up separately, in a place by itself.
Then the other disciple also went in,
and saw, and believed;
(for until this point,
they had not understood the scripture,
that he must rise from the dead).
When these two disciples returned to their homes,
Mary stayed, weeping, outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
and she saw two angels, in white robes,
sitting one at the head, and one at the feet,
of where the body of Jesus had been.
The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you weeping?'
Mary said, 'They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him.'
When she had said this, she turned around,
and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know
that it was Jesus.
Jesus asked her, 'Why are you weeping? Who is it
that you are looking for?'
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
'Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him,
and I will take him away.'
Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'
Mary turned, and said to him, 'Teacher!'
Jesus said, 'Do not hold me,
for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go, and tell my brothers
that I am ascending
to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'
Mary Magdalene went
and said to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord';
and she told them the words
the Lord had spoken to her.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 27 April

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 9.1-11a,15,17-19a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul continued, with his every breath, to make murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord.

From the high priest, he obtained letters authorising him to go to the synagogues in Damascus, to search for disciples there, to arrest them, and to bring them to Jerusalem.

On this journey, as he was approaching Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly surrounded him.

He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

Saul asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

And the reply came, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Now get up, and enter the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless, because they heard the voice, but saw no one.

When Saul got up from the ground, though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so those who were travelling with him led him, by the hand, into Damascus.

And for three days, Saul was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

Now in Damascus, there was a disciple called Anan-ias.

The Lord directed Anan-ias, in a vision, to go to the place where Saul was staying.

The Lord said, 'Go to him, for I have chosen him to proclaim my name, to people of every nation, and to their kings, and to the people of Israel.'

So Anan-ias went, and entered the house where Saul was staying, and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me to you, to pray that you will regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

And when Anan-ias laid his hands on Saul to pray, immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes; and his sight was restored.

And Saul got up, and was baptised; and after taking some food, Saul regained his strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 1.9-13,17-19

A reading from the book of Revelation.

As your brother in Christ Jesus, I, John, share with you, with patient endurance, through suffering and persecution, in the promise of God's kingdom.

I was in exile on the island of Patmos, for speaking openly of Jesus, and for preaching the word of God.

I was in the Spirit, on the Lord's day, and I heard, behind me, a loud voice, like a trumpet, saying: 'Write, in a book, what you see, and send it, to the seven churches of Asia.'

I turned to see whose voice it was, that spoke to me. And on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands; and there, with them, one like the Son of Man, in a long robe, with a golden sash across his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet, as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for evermore; and I hold the keys of death and the underworld. Now write down all that you have seen, all that is now, and all that is still to take place.' This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 20.19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

The disciples met together, on the evening of the first day of the week, with the doors locked, because they were afraid.

And Jesus came, and stood amongst them, and said, 'Peace be with you.'

He showed them his hands, and his side.

And the disciples were filled with joy at seeing the risen Lord.

Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

And breathing on them, he said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone, they are forgiven.

If you fail to forgive, sin remains.'

Now one of the twelve, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came.

When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord,

Thomas said to them, 'Unless I see and touch the marks of the nails in his hands,

and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later, Thomas was with the disciples when they gathered.

And again, though the doors were locked, Jesus came, and stood amongst them, and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'See and touch my hands, and place your hand in my side.

Do not doubt, but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord, and my God!'

Jesus said to Thomas, 'You have seen me, and you have believed.

Blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe.'

Jesus did many other signs, in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

But these are written

that you may believe

that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,

and through believing, may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 4 May

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 9.19b-20,23,25-28

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After several days with the disciples in Damascus, Saul began to proclaim, in the synagogues there, that Jesus is the Son of God.

The leaders of the synagogues in Damascus began to plot against Saul, even to kill him, but the disciples took Saul, by night, and let him down through an opening in the city wall, lowering him in a basket.

Saul returned to Jerusalem, and there he attempted to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was now a disciple.

So Barnabas took Saul to the apostles, and described for them how, on the road, Saul had seen the Lord, and the Lord had spoken to Saul,

and how, in Damascus, Saul had spoken boldly, in the name of Jesus.

So Saul was accepted by the disciples in Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 5.11-14

A reading from the book of Revelation.

As I looked, I heard the voices of thousands of angels, all around the throne, and the four living creatures, and the elders, all singing in full voice:

'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive all wisdom, and power; all glory, and honour, and praise!'

Then I heard every creature, in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea,

singing to the one who was seated on the throne, and to the Lamb:

'Blessing and honour and glory and power, be yours for ever and ever!'

And the elders fell down and worshipped.

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 21.1-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Some of the disciples gathered by the sea of Galilee:

Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee, and two others.

Simon Peter decided to go fishing, and the others went with him - but all night, they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus asked them whether they had any fish, and they said 'no'.

He said to them, 'Cast your net to the other side of the boat, and you will find some.'

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because there were so many fish.

'The disciple Jesus loved' said to Simon Peter, 'It is the Lord!'

On hearing this, Peter jumped into the lake, and headed towards the shore.

The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.

Going ashore, they saw a charcoal fire, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have caught.'

So Simon Peter went back to the boat, and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them;

and even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'

None of the disciples doubted; they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus took the bread, and gave it to them; and then the fish.

This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me, more than these?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

Then a second time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'

Simon Peter said to Jesus, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Take care of my sheep.'

Then a third time, Jesus said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'

Peter was distressed that Jesus asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?'

Peter replied to Jesus, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to Peter, 'Feed my sheep.

Truly, I tell you,

when you were young, you would fasten your own belt, and go wherever you wished.

But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you

where you do not wish to go.'

(Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.)

Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Follow me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 11 May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 11.19-23,25-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The disciples who fled
from the persecution in Jerusalem
travelled as far as Lebanon,
Syria, Antioch, and Cyprus,
preaching the word,
at first, only in the synagogues.
But amongst these disciples
were some who came originally
from Cyprus, and from North Africa.
On arriving in Antioch,
these disciples proclaimed the Lord Jesus
not only in the synagogues,
but also
amongst the wider population.

The hand of the Lord was with them,
and a great number became believers,
turning to the Lord.

News of this
reached
the church in Jerusalem;
and they sent Barnabas,
from Jerusalem, to Antioch,
to report back to them.
On arriving in Antioch,
Barnabas was delighted to see
the grace of God at work,
and Barnabas encouraged everyone in Antioch
to remain committed and faithful to the Lord.

Then Barnabas travelled on to
Tarsus,
to look for Saul.
And when Barnabas found Saul,
Barnabas brought Saul
back to Antioch.
And so it was, that for an entire year,
Barnabas and Saul
stayed with the church in Antioch,
and taught a great many people.

And it was in Antioch
that the disciples
were first called Christians.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 7.9-13a,14b-17

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I looked,
and saw a great multitude,
that no one could count,
from every nation, tribe,
people, and language,
standing before the throne,
and before the Lamb,
robed in white,
waving palm branches,
and declaring, with one voice,
'Salvation belongs to our God,
and to the Lamb!'

The angels
around the throne
bowed down
and worshipped God,
singing, 'All blessing and honour,
all glory and power,
all majesty, virtue, wisdom and praise,
belong to our God for ever!'
One of the elders said, 'These, in white robes,
are the ones who have come out
of the great ordeal.
They have purified their robes
in the life-blood of the Lamb.
Now they are before
the throne of God,
serving continually in God's temple.
And God will protect them:
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
and they will hunger and thirst no more.
The Lamb, on the throne, will be their shepherd,
and will guide them
to the spring
of the water of life.
And God will wipe away
every tear from their eyes.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 10.22-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

It was the time of the winter festival
of Hanukkah,
and Jesus was in the temple.
The religious leaders gathered around Jesus,
and said to him, 'How long
will you keep us in suspense?
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus said, 'I have told you already.
And you have seen
all that I do
in my Father's name.
And yet, still, you do not believe -
because you do not
belong to my sheep.

My sheep listen to my voice.
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life,
and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them
out of my hand.
My all-powerful Father
has given them to me.
No one can snatch them
out of the Father's hand -
and I and the Father
are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 18 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 16.9-15a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night, Paul had a vision

of someone standing

and pleading with him, saying,

'Come over to Macedonia, and help us.'

We immediately tried

to cross over

to Macedonia, convinced

that God had called us

to proclaim the gospel there.

We sailed direct from Troas

to the island of

Samo-thraki;

then the following day

to the coastal port

of Neapolis.

From there, we went inland

to Philippi, which is

the largest city

in Macedonia, and

a Roman colony;

and we remained there

for several days.

On the sabbath,

we went

out of the city,

to a place of prayer,

by the river,

and we sat down,

and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

Amongst them was Lydia,

a worshipper of God;

a dealer in purple cloth

from the city of Thya-tira.

The Lord opened

Lydia's heart

to receive

Paul's message.

She

and her entire household

were baptised.

And she invited us

to stay

at her home.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 21.1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I saw

a new heaven, and a new earth;

for the first heaven, and the first earth,

had passed away.

And I saw the holy city,

the new Jerusalem,

coming down, out of heaven, from God,

prepared as perfectly

as a bride

adorned

for her husband.

And I heard

a loud voice, from the throne, saying,

'See, the home of God

is amongst mortals.

They will be my people,

and I will dwell amongst them.

I will wipe away

every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning

and crying and pain

will be no more.

See, I am making all things new.

Write this,

for these words

are trustworthy and true.

It is done!

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty,

I will give water,

from the spring

of the water of life.

Those who conquer

will inherit these things,

and I will be their God,

and they will be my people.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 13.31a,33-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

As soon as Judas had left the supper,

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The time has come

for the Son of Man

to be glorified.

I will be with you

only a little longer;

and where I am going,

you cannot come.

And now I give you a new commandment:

that you love one another

as I have loved you.

It is by this

that all will know

that you are my disciples -

if you have love

for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 25 May
Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 16.16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
On one occasion, on our way to the place of prayer,
we met a slave-girl who was possessed by a demon.
She brought her owners a significant income
by fortune-telling, and casting spells.
She followed us around, crying out,
'These men are servants of God Most High!
They proclaim the way of salvation!'
This went on for many days,
until Paul, in exasperation, turned and said,
'I order you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
to come out of her;' and the spirit that had
possessed her immediately left her.
When her owners saw
that their hope of making money was gone,
they seized Paul and Silas,
and dragged them into the market-place,
and before the magistrates,
saying, 'These men are disturbing our city.
They are Hebrews, and they are promoting customs
that are not lawful for us, to accept or to practice,
as Roman citizens.'
The crowd joined in the protest, until the magistrates
had Paul and Silas flogged, and imprisoned,
ordering the jailer to keep them securely.
The jailer put Paul and Silas in the innermost cell,
and fastened their feet in chains.
About midnight,
Paul and Silas were praying, and singing hymns,
and the other prisoners were listening to them.
Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent
that the foundations of the prison were shaken;
and all the doors of the prison were opened,
and everyone's chains came undone.
The jailer awoke,
and saw that the prison doors were wide open.
Assuming that the prisoners had escaped,
he drew his sword, and was about to kill himself.
But Paul shouted out,
'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.'
The jailer called for lights, and rushed in,
falling down trembling before Paul and Silas.
Then he led Paul and Silas outside,
and asked them, 'What must I do to be saved?'
Paul and Silas answered, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved - you, and all your household.'
The jailer took Paul and Silas
to his house,
and washed their wounds, and set food before them.
And Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord
to the jailer,
and to all who were in his household.
And the jailer, and all his household,
were baptised, that very night,
and were filled with joy
in their new faith.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 21.10,22-27; 22.1-2

A reading from the book of Revelation.
In the spirit, the angel carried me away
to a great high mountain,
and showed me the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down, out of heaven, from God.
I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty,
and the Lamb, are themselves its temple.
The city has no need for light
from sun or moon,
for the glory of God
and the glory of the Lamb
are its light.
All nations will walk
by the light of that holy city.
The kings of the earth
will bring to that city
the glory and honour of all nations.
The gates of the city
will always be open by day
to receive those gifts of glory and honour -
and there will be no night.
There will be
no evil or falsehood there,
for the ones who enter will be
those whose names are written
in the Lamb's book of life.
Then the angel showed me
the river
of the water of life, as bright as crystal,
flowing through
the centre of the city,
from the throne of God, and of the Lamb.
And by the river, I saw the tree of life,
with its fruit
for every month of the year,
and its leaves
for the healing of the nations.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.23-27

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Jesus said to his disciples:
'I speak only the words
of the Father who sent me.
Those who love me
will live by my words.
And my Father will love them,
and we will come to them,
and make our home with them.
I say these things
while I am still with you.
But the Father will send to you, in my name,
the Holy Spirit, to be with you, who will
teach you all things, and remind you
of all that I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you -
a peace that the world cannot give.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not be afraid.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thursday 29 May
Ascension Day

First Reading - Acts 1.3-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his suffering
and death,

Jesus

presented himself alive
to the apostles,

with many

convincing proofs,

appearing to them

during forty days,

and speaking

of the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them,

‘Do not

leave Jerusalem,

but wait here

for all that is promised

by the Father.

John baptised with water,

but you will be

baptised

with the Holy Spirit

not many days from now.’

The apostles

asked Jesus, ‘Lord, is this the time

when you will restore

the kingdom of Israel?’

Jesus replied, ‘You cannot know

every time or season

in the purposes

of the Father.

But you will receive power

when the Holy Spirit

comes upon you.

And you will be my witnesses

in Jerusalem, in all Judea,

in Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth.’

Then, as they were watching,

he was taken up,

and a cloud

hid him

from their sight.

And as they looked intently

into the sky,

two figures in white robes appeared,

saying, ‘Men of Galilee,

why do you stand here

looking into the sky?’

This Jesus

has been

taken up

from you

into heaven,

and will return

in the same way

you saw him go.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 1.17-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

The power of God

has raised Christ

from the dead,

to God’s right hand on high,

far above all earthly powers -

above every other name,

in this world, or the next.

God has made Christ

the head of the church;

and has made the church

the body of Christ.

So now may your hearts be filled

with the same power of God, which is

the gift of God

to all who believe.

May your hearts be filled

with all the glorious riches

that God gives to you, and to all the saints;

and with confidence

for the future

to which God has called you.

And may the God of glory,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

give you a spirit of wisdom

and insight,

that you may continue to grow

in the knowledge of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 24.44-53

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples

to understand the scriptures, saying to them:

‘Everything that is written about me,

in the law of Moses, in the prophets,

and in the psalms, must be fulfilled:

that the Messiah must suffer,

and rise from the dead on the third day;

and then repentance, and forgiveness,

will be proclaimed, to all nations,

in his name, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses to these things.

And now I am sending you

the gift that my Father promised;

so stay here in the city

until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out of Jerusalem

to Bethany,

and there, lifting up his hands,

he blessed them.

And while he was blessing them,

he withdrew from them,

and was taken up into heaven.

And they worshipped him.

They returned to Jerusalem

filled with joy.

And they were continually in the temple,

praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 1 June

Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 17.16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On arriving in Athens, Paul was disturbed to find that the city was full of idols.

Daily, in both the synagogue and the market-place, he set out the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

Some of the philosophers accused him of speaking nonsense, or promoting foreign gods, but some wanted to hear more.

Indeed all those who gathered in Athens were keen to hear all that was new.

So Paul stood before them, and said, 'People of Athens,

I see how extremely religious you are, in every way; for as I walked through the city, and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found amongst them an altar with the inscription: "To an unknown god."

That which you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you.

The God who made the world, and everything in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in any shrine made by human hands, or depend (like your idols) on human care, but is the one who gives to us life, and breath, and all that we have.

From just one ancient ancestor, God made all nations, to inhabit the whole earth, determining their various times and places in history; so every nation equally can search for God, reach out for God, and find God; and indeed God is not far away from any one of us.

For, as your own poets have said, "we are all children of God," and "it is in God that we live, and move, and have our being".

As children of God, we should not think of God as an image, in gold, or silver, or stone, created by human art or imagination!

God has graciously overlooked the times of human ignorance,

but God now calls upon all people everywhere to repent.

And God has set the date on which the world will be judged, in righteousness, by a human being God has appointed - and has raised from the dead, so that all may believe.'

Some now mocked, when Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead.

But others said, 'We will hear you again, about this.'

And some followed Paul, and became believers,

including at least one member of the council, and a woman, named Damaris, and others with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying: 'See,

I am coming soon, bringing my reward for each, according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Blessed are those who wash their robes, and enter the city by its gates, and find the tree of life.

I, Jesus, sent my angel to you

with this vision, and this message, for the churches.

I am both the root and the branch of David, and the bright morning star.

And now, the Spirit and the bride say, "Come".

Let everyone who hears them say, "Come".

Let all who are thirsty

come to receive

the free gift

of the water of life.

See, I am coming soon.'

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

And may the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 17.20-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven, and said, 'Father, I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word.

May they all be one.

As you live in me, and I live in you, may they live in us.

And through this, may the world come to believe that you sent me.

The glory that you gave to me, I have given to them.

May they be one, as we are one.

As I live in them, and you live in me, may the world know

that you sent me,

and that you have loved them as you have loved me.

Father, I pray also

that those you have given to me will continue to be with me,

to see the glory that you have given to me, having loved me

since before the foundation of the world.

Most Holy Father,

the world does not know you,

but I know you;

and these know

that you have sent me.

I have made you known to them,

and I will continue to make you known to them,

so that the love, with which you have loved me, may be in them, as I live in them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 8 June
Pentecost

First Reading - Acts 2.1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
On the day of Pentecost, the disciples
were all together in one place,
when suddenly, all around them,
there was a sound
like the rush of a violent wind,
filling the entire house
where they were meeting.
Flames, or tongues of fire, appeared amongst them,
and rested on each of them.
And they were filled with the Holy Spirit,
and began to speak in many languages.
At this sound,
a crowd began to gather,
made up of Jewish believers who were
staying in Jerusalem -
from Asia and Arabia,
Egypt and North Africa,
Judea, Turkey, Syria,
Greece and the Balkans,
Crete, and Rome,
both Hebrews and converts.
They said, 'Surely, these who are speaking
are all from Galilee.
And yet we hear them
declaring the greatness of God,
each
in our own language.
What can this mean?'
But others mocked and said, 'They have had
too much wine.'
Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice,
and addressed the crowd, saying:
'People of Judea,
and all who are here in Jerusalem:
these are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
No; this is what was spoken
through the prophet Joel,
when God declared: "In those days,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
The young will see visions,
your elders will dream dreams,
and your sons and your daughters
will receive and proclaim my word.
There will be wonders and signs
in the heavens, and on the earth:
blood, and fire, and clouds of smoke,
the sun turned to darkness
and the moon blood red,
before the coming
of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord
will be saved.'"'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 8.14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
Now that you are led
by the spirit of God,
you are adopted
as children of God.
God receives you
not as slaves, to fall back into fear,
but as adopted children,
able to address God
as 'Abba' and 'Father'.
And being adopted
as children of God,
we inherit all things,
alongside Christ Jesus himself,
including
both his suffering
and his glory.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 14.8-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord,
show us the Father.'
Jesus said, 'Philip,
have I been with you, all this time,
and still, you do not know me?
Whoever has seen me
has seen the Father,
for I am in the Father,
and the Father is in me.
The words that I speak
are the words
of the Father
within me.
And now, those who
trust in me
will do all that I have done,
and more,
because I am returning
to the Father.
And I will do
whatever you ask
in my name;
and in this way also,
I will bring glory
to the Father.
And if you love me,
and live by all
that I have taught you,
I will ask the Father,
and he will send you
the Holy Spirit,
to be with you -
the Spirit of truth,
unknown to the world,
but known to you,
to be alongside you,
amongst you,
and within you.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 15 June

Trinity Sunday

First Reading - Proverbs 8.1-3, 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.
Wisdom calls out,
and Understanding raises her voice.
On the hills, along the road,
and at the meeting of the ways,
she takes her stand.
At the city gates,
she declares: 'I was created
as the first
of the works of the Lord.
Before the beginning
of the earth,
I was established.
Before the mountains and the hills
had been formed,
before there were springs of water,
before there was even
dust
upon the ground,
Wisdom
was brought forth.
When the Lord established the heavens,
I was there.
When the Lord drew a circle
on the face
of the deep,
made firm the skies above,
and set the boundaries
of the oceans,
I was the skilled apprentice
at the Master's side.
I was daily
the Lord's delight,
rejoicing
in the presence of the Lord,
and rejoicing
in the whole of creation,
and the whole human race.
So now, my children, hear me -
for blessed are those who walk
in the ways of Wisdom.
Hear my teaching, and be wise;
do not refuse it.
For those who lack wisdom
do themselves harm,
but blessed
are those who learn Wisdom,
attending every day to my teaching.
To hate Wisdom
is to love death -
but those who find Wisdom
find life,
and the favour of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 5.1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
We have been reconciled with God, by faith,
in our Lord Jesus Christ.
And now we stand, with joyful confidence,
in the grace,
and the peace,
and the glory of God.
We rejoice even in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and character produces confidence.
And we know
that this confidence
will not be disappointed -
because God's love
has been poured into our hearts
through the gift
of the Holy Spirit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 16.12-15

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Jesus said to his disciples:
'I still have
many things
to say to you -
more
than you can know.
But the Spirit of Truth
will come to you,
and guide you
into all truth;
honouring me,
by taking
what is mine,
and making it known to you;
disclosing to you
the things
that are to come.
All that the Father has
is mine;
and the Spirit of Truth
will take
what is mine,
and make it known to you.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 22 June

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *Isaiah 65.2-5,8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I call out, even to a people
that does not call to me, says the Lord.
I hold out my hand to them, even though
they are a people in rebellion against me.
They walk in wicked ways; they provoke me continually,
sacrificing in gardens, burning incense on bricks,
dwelling amongst the tombs, eating forbidden foods,
then claiming to be
so holy
that others
must not come near.
They irritate like smoke in my nostrils
from a fire that burns all day long!
And yet, for the sake of the good that remains in them,
I will not destroy them, says the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Galatians 3.21,23-29*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The law can bring neither life, nor righteousness.
Yet the law served as our guardian, until the time
when Christ came to reconcile us to God
not by law, but by faith.
And now, we are no longer subject to the law
as a guardian,
for by faith in Christ Jesus,
we are made children of God.
And indeed, all those who are baptised into Christ
are equally adopted as children of God.
There is neither Hebrew nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female;
for all are one in Christ Jesus.
And all become inheritors, together,
of the promises made
to Abraham.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 8.1-3,26-39*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
Jesus travelled on, through towns and villages,
proclaiming the good news
of the kingdom of God.
Amongst those travelling with Jesus and the twelve
were some women who had been healed,
or freed from tormenting spirits.
The women included
Mary Magdalene, who had been
freed from seven demons,
and Joanna, who was the wife
of a leading member of Herod's court.
There was also Susanna;
and there were many others.
These women helped to provide for Jesus,
and all the disciples,
out of their own resources.

Jesus and the disciples
travelled by boat
to the eastern side
of the sea of Galilee.
As Jesus stepped ashore,
he was met
by a man from the city who was
tormented by demons.
The man was kept under guard, and in chains,
but he would break out,
and live wild amongst the tombs.
When Jesus commanded
the unclean spirit
to come out of him,
the man fell down at Jesus' feet,
and shouted out, 'Why are you here, Jesus,
Son of God Most High?
I beg you, do not torment me!'
Jesus asked, 'What is your name?'
And the man replied,
'Legion';
for many demons had entered him;
and they begged Jesus
not to order them
into the abyss.
A large herd of pigs
was feeding on the hillside,
and the demons begged Jesus
to let them enter these instead,
and Jesus permitted them.
So the demons
came out of the man,
and entered
into the pigs.
And the entire herd
rushed down
the steep bank
into the lake,
and was drowned.
When those who were responsible for the pigs
saw what had happened,
they fled,
telling everyone,
in the city,
and in the surrounding countryside,
what had happened.
When people came to see,
they found the man,
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and calm.
Overcome with fear,
they asked Jesus to leave.
Jesus returned to the boat
in which he had arrived.
The man who had been freed from the demons
begged to join those
travelling with Jesus,
but Jesus said, 'Return to your home,
and tell them there
of all that God has done for you.'
And he went and told, throughout the city,
of all that Jesus had done for him.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 29 June

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 1 Kings 19.15a,16b,19-21

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord said to the prophet Elijah,
'You are to go
to the wilderness of Damascus,
to anoint Elisha to be my prophet, in your place.'
So Elijah travelled to the wilderness of Damascus,
and found Elisha, ploughing in a field,
with twelve pairs of oxen
working ahead of him.
Elijah walked past Elisha,
and as he did so, he threw his cloak over him.
Elisha left the oxen,
and ran after Elijah,
saying, 'Let me bid farewell
to my father and mother,
and then I will follow you.'
Elijah replied, 'Go back to them then.
I have done what I had to do.'
Returning to the field,
Elisha slaughtered the oxen, and used
the wooden equipment
to light a fire,
on which he cooked the oxen.
Elisha gave
the cooked meat
to the people,
and they ate.
Then Elisha
set out, and followed Elijah.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Galatians 5.17-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

The works of the flesh,
in opposition to the spirit,
are hatred and conflict, jealousy and anger;
arguments, rivalries, and factions;
sexual immorality, drunkenness, idolatry,
sorcery, and excesses of all kinds.
I say again: those who live in this way
are not inheriting the kingdom of God.
By contrast, the fruit of the spirit is
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
There is no law
against
these fruits of the spirit -
so if you are truly led by the spirit,
you are not
subject
to any law!
Those who belong to Christ Jesus
have crucified the flesh,
with its passions and desires,
and live now,
not by the flesh, but by the spirit.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 9.51-62

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The time was drawing near
for Jesus
to be lifted up,
and he set his face
towards Jerusalem.
He sent
messengers
ahead of him.
And the messengers
entered a village
in Samaria.
But the villagers
would not receive him,
because
his face was set
towards Jerusalem.
The disciples James and John
said, 'Lord,
do you want us
to call down
fire
from heaven
to destroy them?'
But Jesus turned and rebuked them,
and they went on
to another village.
As they were travelling along the road,
someone said to Jesus,
'I will follow you
wherever you go.'
Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes,
and birds have nests,
but the Son of Man
has nowhere
to lay his head.'
When Jesus called another
to follow him,
the reply was, 'Let me first go
and bury my father.'
But Jesus said, 'Let the dead
bury
their own dead;
you,
go and proclaim
the kingdom of God!'
Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord;
but let me first
bid farewell
to my household.'
Jesus said, 'If you put your hand to the plough,
and then look backwards,
you are not yet ready
for the kingdom of God.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 6 July

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Isaiah 66.10-14a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Sing for joy with all Jerusalem!

All who love her, rejoice!

Mourn no longer,

for she will be great once again!

And you will be comforted,

like a child in a mother's embrace!

For the Lord will grant her

peace like a river,

and the glory of the nations!

As a mother comforts her child,

so the Lord will comfort you, in Jerusalem.

You will be carried on her arm,

and held in her lap.

When you see it,

your heart will rejoice,

and you will flourish like the tender grass.

And all who serve the Lord

will know

that the hand of the Lord

is with them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.3-4,9-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

We joyfully give thanks to God,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

whenever we pray for you,

for we have heard

of your great faith in Christ Jesus,

and the love that you have

for all the saints.

We pray that God will fill you

with the knowledge of God's will,

and with spiritual wisdom and understanding.

And we pray that God will fill you

with all of the glorious power of God:

with strength, and endurance,

with patience, and with perseverance

to lead lives which are worthy of the Lord,

and fully pleasing to the Lord,

so that you can bear fruit,

in every good work, as you grow

in the knowledge of God;

and so that

with us

you can

joyfully give thanks

to God the Father, who has

rescued us

from

the power of darkness

to dwell, forgiven,

with the saints, in light,

in the kingdom

of his beloved Son.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.1-11, 17-20, 23-24

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy

to go ahead of him, in pairs, to every

town and place

where he himself

intended to go.

As he sent them on their way,

he said to them,

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few -

so ask the Lord of the harvest

to send more workers for the harvest.

And yet I send you out

like lambs amongst wolves.

Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes, as you go.

Do not delay your journey

by greeting all those

you meet along the way.

When you enter a house,

offer a greeting of peace.

If your hosts

are people of peace,

your peace

will rest upon them -

and if they are not,

your peace

will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking

whatever they provide,

for a worker

deserves to be paid.

When you enter a town, and they welcome you,

eat whatever they offer you,

heal the sick,

and say to them, "The kingdom of God

has come near to you."

When you enter a town, and they do not welcome you,

stand in their streets and say,

"We wipe the dust of this place off our feet

in protest against you.

But still know this: that the kingdom of God

has come near to you."

But the seventy returned with joy,

saying, 'Lord, even the demons obey

when we speak in your name.'

Jesus said, 'I watched Satan fall

like a flash of lightning; for I have given you authority

over all the power of the enemy,

and nothing can harm you.

But the greatest joy

is this: that your names

are written in heaven.

And blessed are the eyes

that see

what you see.

For prophets and kings

longed to see

what you now see,

and to hear

what you now hear.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 13 July

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Return to the Lord your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul.
Trust in the Lord your God,
and observe the commandments and decrees
that are written
in this book of the law.
The commandment of the Lord
that I bring to you, today,
is not
too hard for you.
Neither is it
too far away,
as though you would
need someone
to cross the ocean, or go up to heaven,
to bring it to you.
No, for the commandment of the Lord
is very near to you;
it is already
on your lips, and in your heart.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ,
and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things,
in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.25-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus.
'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do
to receive eternal life?'
Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law?
And what is your understanding of it?'
The lawyer answered, 'You shall love
the Lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
And you shall love your neighbour
as yourself.'
Jesus said to him, 'You have given a good answer.
Do this, and you will live.'
Still wanting to justify himself,
the lawyer asked Jesus, 'But who is my neighbour?'
Jesus replied,
'A man was travelling on the road
from Jerusalem to Jericho,
when he was set upon
by robbers, who took everything he had,
and beat him, and left him for dead.
Now by chance, a priest
was going down the same road;
and when the priest saw the wounded man,
he passed by on the other side.
In the same way, a Levite
came to the place, and seeing the wounded man,
he also passed by on the other side.
But a Samaritan, travelling that way,
saw the wounded man,
and was moved with pity.
The Samaritan
went to the wounded man,
and poured oil and wine
on his wounds,
and bandaged them.
Then the Samaritan
put the wounded man
on his own horse,
brought him to an inn,
and took care of him.
The next day, the Samaritan took out
two silver coins,
and gave them to the innkeeper,
saying, "Take care of him;
and whatever more you spend,
I will pay you
when I return."
Which of these three, do you think,
was a neighbour,
to the man who was set upon
by the robbers?'
The lawyer said,
'The one who showed him mercy.'
Jesus said to the lawyer,
'Go and do likewise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 20 July

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.1-10a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

This is how the Lord
appeared to Abraham
at Hebron.
As Abraham sat
at the entrance to his tent
in the heat of the day,
he looked up
and saw three figures
standing near by.
He ran to them,
and bowed down,
saying, 'My Lord,
if I have found favour in your sight,
do not pass by,
but rest here
in the shade,
and let me bring water
to wash your feet,
and bread,
that you may eat,
and be restored,
before you continue
on your way.'
Abraham hurried back to the tent,
and asked Sarah
to prepare three measures
of the finest flour,
and knead it quickly
to make bread.
He went out
to the cattle,
and took the best calf,
and gave it to the servant,
to prepare it.
Then he took butter,
and milk,
and the meat of the calf,
and set it before the three visitors.
And he stood by them,
in the shade of the tree,
while they ate.
They said to Abraham,
'Where is Sarah, your wife?'
Abraham said, 'She is there,
in the tent.'
And one of them said,
'I will surely return to you
when the time is right,
and Sarah, your wife,
will have a son.'
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 2.12-14, 3.1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Once, we were dead
in our trespasses.
But now, we have been raised up
to new life in Christ.
All our trespasses are forgiven;
the account that stood against us
has been erased;
all of its demands have been
nailed to the cross.
In our baptism, first we were
buried with Christ;
then, we were raised up
to new life with Christ;
and all this
through our faith in the power of God, who
raised Christ from the dead.
So now that we have been raised up
to new life in Christ,
let us set our minds no longer
on the things of earth,
but on the things of heaven, where
the risen Christ
is in the presence of God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 10.38-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus and his disciples
entered a village
as they continued on their way.
In that village, a woman called Martha
welcomed Jesus into her home.
Martha had a sister called Mary,
and Mary sat at the Lord's feet,
listening
to his words.
But Martha was distracted
by her many tasks;
and she said to Jesus, 'Lord,
do you not care
that my sister
has left me
to do all the work
by myself?
Tell her
that she is
to help me!'
But the Lord answered her, 'Martha,
you are anxious
and distracted
by many things,
but there is need
of only one.
Mary has chosen
that one good thing,
and it will not
be taken away from her.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 27 July

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 18.23-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham approached the Lord and said,

‘Will the Lord destroy the righteous
along with the wicked?’

If there are fifty righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the whole city,
including the fifty righteous
within it?

Surely the Lord will not
do such a thing,
to slay the righteous
along with the wicked.

Surely the Judge of all the earth
will do what is right.’

And the Lord said, ‘If I find fifty righteous
in the city,
I will spare the whole city
for their sake.’

Abraham said,
‘Let me dare to speak again to the Lord,
even though I am but dust and ashes.
If there are only forty-five righteous in the city,
will the Lord destroy the city
for the lack of five?’

And the Lord said, ‘I will not
destroy the city,
if I find forty-five righteous there.’

Again, Abraham spoke to the Lord, for forty,
and thirty, and twenty, righteous.

And Abraham said, ‘Oh do not
let the Lord be angry,
if I speak one more time.

If only ten righteous are found,
will the Lord destroy the city?’

And the Lord answered, ‘For the sake of ten
righteous, I will not
destroy the city.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 3.12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

You are now

God’s chosen ones,
holy, and loved by God.

So clothe yourselves
with compassion, and kindness;
and with humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be gentle with one another.

And if any one amongst you
has a complaint against another,

forgive one another,
as the Lord has forgiven you.

Above all, let there be love, which is
the bond of perfect unity.

And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,

for to this we are called,
as one body in Christ.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly within you,
so that in wisdom
you may teach and encourage one another.
And with grateful hearts, sing to God
with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
always giving thanks to God the Father
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 11.1-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

One of the disciples
said to Jesus, ‘Lord,
teach us to pray,
as John
taught his disciples.’

Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, say:
Father, holy is your name;
may your kingdom come.

Give us, each day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we ourselves forgive
everyone who trespasses against us.

And do not bring us
to the time of trial.’

Then he said to them, ‘If you go to a friend,
at midnight, saying, “Lend me some bread,
for a guest has arrived,
and I have nothing prepared,”

your friend may answer, from within,
“Do not bother me;

for the door is locked, and we are all in bed.”

But I tell you, while your friend may not
get up and give you anything
because of your friendship,
eventually, because of your persistence,
your friend will get up and give you
whatever you need.

So I say to you:

ask, and it will be given;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened.

For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.

If your child asks
for a fish, or an egg,
you do not
give a snake, or a scorpion.

Even the wicked
know how to give
good gifts
to their children.

How much more
will our heavenly Father
give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask!’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 3 August

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *Ecclesiastes 1.12-14; 2.18-26a*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

When I, the Teacher,
was king, over Israel, in Jerusalem,
I applied my mind
to understand, by wisdom,
all that is done
under heaven.
I saw all the deeds that are done
under the sun.
And look, this is what I saw: that it is
a tiresome burden
that God has given
to occupy humankind;
that all of it
is vanity,
like chasing after the wind.
I came to despise
all that I had done,
and all that I had laboured to achieve,
seeing that I must leave it all
to those who come after me,
not knowing
whether they will be
wise, or foolish.
Yet they will be master
over everything
for which I laboured -
everything to which
I applied my wisdom.
So I gave up my heart to despair
concerning all my work,
because even one who has laboured
with wisdom, and knowledge, and skill,
must leave it all
to be enjoyed
by another, who did not work for it;
and this is a great injustice.
For mortals gain nothing
for all their labour under the sun.
Their days are full of pain,
and each task is a burden.
Even at night,
their minds do not rest.
But then I saw this,
from the hand of God:
that there is nothing better for mortals
than to eat, and drink,
and find enjoyment in their work;
for no mortal
can eat,
or drink, or find joy,
without God.
And while the sinner labours
to store up wealth
that will only be taken away,
to the one who pleases God, God gives
wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Hebrews 10.32-36*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When you first received the light of Christ,
you endured great suffering,
with public slanders, and persecutions.
And you supported
those who were suffering in the same way.
You had compassion
on those who were in prison.
And you cheerfully accepted
the loss of your possessions,
knowing that you have
a greater possession
that does not pass away.
Never let go
of that faith and confidence,
for it holds a great reward.
And then, when you have persevered
in doing the will of God, you will receive
all that God has promised.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 12.13-21*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd
said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother
to divide his inheritance with me.'
But Jesus said, 'Watch out,
and be on your guard,
against every kind of jealousy and greed!
For the richness of your life
is not found
in the quantity
of your worldly possessions!'
And Jesus told them this parable.
'After another great harvest,
a wealthy land-owner
said to himself,
"I have run out of space
to store all my crops.
I will have to
pull down my barns,
and build larger ones,
to store all my grain,
and all my possessions.
Then, having enough
to last many years,
I will relax,
eat, drink, and be merry."
But God said
to him, "You fool!
This very night, your life
is being taken from you.
And all the things you have acquired -
whose will they be?"
And Jesus said to them, 'This is how it will be
for those who store up
treasure for themselves on earth,
but in God's eyes
have no riches at all.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 10 August

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *Genesis 12.1-7*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'You are to leave
your country, your people,
and your father's house,

and go to the land
that I will show you.

And I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you.

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing to many.

I will bless
those who bless you.

and I will rebuke
those who dishonour you.

And in you,
all the nations of the earth
will be blessed.'

So Abram set out,
as the Lord had directed.

And Abram departed from Haran,
with his wife Sara,
and his nephew Lot,
and all their household,
and all their possessions,
as the Lord had directed.

They came to the land of Canaan;
and they passed through the land,
and its people,
to a great oak, in the centre of the land.

There, the Lord appeared to Abram,
saying, 'To your offspring,
I will give this land.'

And Abram built an altar there,
to the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Hebrews 11.1, 8-10*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith

is the assurance of things hoped for;
and confidence, in things not yet seen.

It was by faith

that Abraham trusted, and obeyed,
when he was called to set out to a place
that would become his inheritance.

It was by faith

that he set out
before he even knew the destination.

It was by faith

that he lived there,
like a stranger in a foreign land,
without any settled home;
as did Isaac, and Jacob, after him.

For by faith,

they could look forward, in confident expectation,
to the city with a sure foundation,
designed and built by God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 12.22-34*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,

'Do not worry
about what you will eat,
or what you will wear,
for life is more than food,
and the body is more than clothing.

Look at the birds:

they do not plant
or harvest;
they have no storehouse, or barn,
and yet God feeds them.

And you are more valuable
than the birds.

Look at the wild flowers,
how they grow:

they do not
weave or sew,
and yet

not even Solomon
in all his glory
was clothed
as finely as these.

If this is how

God clothes
the grass, which is alive today,
and dried up tomorrow,
then how much more
will God clothe you!

So have faith!

Do not worry, as others do,
about what you will eat,
or what you will drink.

Worrying

will not add
a single hour
to your span of life.

And your heavenly Father knows
that you need these things.

So work instead

for the kingdom of God,
and all these other things
will be given to you
as well.

Do not be afraid,

for your Father longs
to give you
the kingdom.

So sell what you have,
and give
to those in need.

Store up your treasure in heaven,
where nothing decays,
and no thief
can come near.

And where your treasure is,
there
your heart will be
also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 17 August

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 23.25-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

I have heard
the false prophets, who speak
lies and delusions
in my name,
says the Lord.

Like those who went before them,
they make my people
forget my name,
by the lies
that they tell
one another.

Let the prophets who have delusions
tell their delusions -
but let the prophets who have my word
proclaim it with confidence.

They differ
like straw
from grain,
for my word
is like fire,
or like a hammer
that breaks a rock
into pieces,
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12.1-3

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Inspired by these people of great faith,
from every generation,
let us run with perseverance
the race that is now set before us,
throwing off
every burden
that would hold us back,
and looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Confident in the greater joy
that lay beyond,
Jesus endured the cross,
disregarding its shame.
And now he is seated in glory,
at the right hand of God.
May his patient endurance
of such hostility from sinners
be our inspiration,
that we may never
grow weary
or lose heart.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 12.49-56

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I have come
to bring fire
to the earth,
and how I long
to see it burning.
I have a baptism
to undergo,
and I am distressed
until
it is completed.

You think
that I have come
to bring peace
to the earth.

But I tell you -
not peace
but division.

Even households
will be divided,
three
against two,
and two
against three;
father
against son,
mother
against daughter,
members
of the household
against
each other.

When you see
clouds
in the west,
you know
that
rain
is on its way.

And when you see
wind
from the south,
you know
there
will be
scorching heat.

You know
how to interpret
the appearance
of earth
and sky,
and yet
you do not know
how to interpret
this present time!

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 24 August

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *Isaiah 58.9-14*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the heavy burdens
from the weary amongst you,
if you offer food to the hungry,
and address the needs
of those who are suffering,
and if you refrain from pointing the finger
and speaking wickedness,
then
your light
will rise in the darkness,
your gloom
will become
like the brightness
of the midday sun,
and when you cry for help,
the Lord will answer.
Then the Lord will guide you,
provide for you, and strengthen you.
Then you will flourish
like a garden, by a stream that never runs dry.
Then you will rebuild the city from its ruins,
restoring its walls
and its homes.
If you honour the sabbath,
and call the Lord's day
a delight,
not trampling its dignity
by serving your own interests,
or pursuing your own affairs,
then
you will find your joy in the Lord,
and in all the gifts
that the Lord has given.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Hebrews 12.22-24, 28-29*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We come now
to Mount Zion,
the city of the living God,
the heavenly Jerusalem.
We come to the place
where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice;
the place where those who have gone before us
are welcomed into heaven,
and the spirits of the righteous
are made perfect.
We come to God, the judge of all;
and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant;
and to redemption by his blood.
As we enter now
into a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
let us offer our worship
with thanksgiving, reverence, and even holy fear,
for our God is still 'a consuming fire'.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 13.10-17*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching
in one of the synagogues
on the sabbath.
A woman was there, who had suffered
a disabling weakness
for eighteen years.
She was bent over, unable
to stand upright.
Jesus saw her, and spoke to her,
saying, 'You are set free
from your illness.'
As he spoke,
he laid a hand upon her;
and immediately,
she stood fully upright;
and she began
praising and glorifying God.
But the leader of the synagogue
was indignant
because Jesus had healed her
on the sabbath.
The leader of the synagogue
said to the crowd,
'There are six days
on which work should be done.
Let healing be done
on those days,
not on the sabbath.'
But the Lord answered him,
saying, 'You hypocrite!
Every one of you, on the sabbath,
would untie your donkey,
and lead it to water.
This woman
is a daughter of Abraham,
kept bound
by Satan
for eighteen years.
And you would refuse to release her,
just because
it is the sabbath!'
All his opponents
were put to shame
by these words.
And the entire crowd
was rejoicing
at the wonderful things
that he was doing.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 31 August

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 16.9-12

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Seven weeks after the first cut of the harvest,
you are to keep a festival to the Lord your God.
From the bounty of your harvest,
you are to make
a free-will offering,
and celebrate,
in the presence of the Lord,
with your sons and daughters,
and your servants,
and the Levites in your towns,
and also the foreigners,
and the orphans,
and the widows, who are amongst you.
You are all to celebrate together
in the place
that the Lord your God
will choose
as a dwelling for God's holy name.
You must carefully
observe these commands,
for you must never forget
that you were once, yourselves,
in slavery, in Egypt.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Hebrews 13.1-9a,15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
Keep on loving one another
as brothers and sisters in Christ.
And show hospitality
to whoever comes to you,
for by doing this, some have hosted
angels, without knowing it.
Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were
in prison alongside them.
Remember all who are
mistreated, as though you yourself
were suffering with them, as one body.
Let marriage be held in honour
by all.
Keep your lives free
from the love of money.
Find contentment
in what you have.
For God has said, 'I will never
leave you, nor forsake you.'
So we can say with confidence:
'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'
Remember the leaders who
first brought
the word of God to you,
and the good
that they achieved
by their way of living,
and follow their example of faith.

Do not be led astray
by every new idea,
for Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and for ever.
And now, let us be
continually
offering to God, through Christ,
worthy and acceptable sacrifices
of both words and deeds,
by praise and proclamation of God's name,
and by doing good works - including
sharing all that we have.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.1,7-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.
One sabbath day, Jesus was dining
in the house
of one of the leaders of the Pharisees.
He saw
how the guests
chose the places of honour,
and he told them this parable.
'When you are invited
to a wedding feast,
do not sit down
straight away
at the highest table,
for you may then be told
to give up that place
to another guest,
and the only place left
might be
the furthest away.
But go and sit first
in a humble place,
and your host
might say, "Friend, come up and sit closer,"
and in this way, you will be honoured
in front of all the other guests.
For those who place themselves
above others
will be brought down.
But those who choose to be humble
will be lifted up.'
And to the one who had
invited him, Jesus said:
'When you host a meal,
do not invite your friends, or your relatives,
or your wealthy neighbours,
for they will invite you
in return, and you will be repaid.
But when you host a banquet,
invite the poor, and the weak,
the lame, and the blind;
and you will be blessed, because
they cannot repay you.
And you will be repaid
at the resurrection
of the righteous.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 7 September

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Today I set before you
life and prosperity,
or death and adversity.
If you love the Lord your God,
and keep the commandments of the Lord your God,
you will live, and become numerous,
and the Lord your God will bless you,
in the land that you are entering to possess.
But if your heart turns away,
and you do not
hear and receive these words,
but instead
allow yourselves
to be led astray,
to bow down to other gods, and serve them,
I declare today
that you will perish;
that you will not
live long
in the land that you are crossing the Jordan
to enter and possess.
I call on heaven and earth
to serve as witnesses today,
as I set before you the choice of
life or death, of
blessing or adversity.
Now choose life,
for yourselves, and your descendants,
by loving, trusting, and holding fast
to the Lord your God.
For the Lord is your life.
And so may you
live long
in the land
that the Lord promised to your ancestors -
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Philemon 10,12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

I am writing to appeal to you
regarding Onesimus, who has
become like a son to me
during my imprisonment.
In sending him back to you,
I am sending my own heart.
I wanted to keep him with me,
so that he could be of service to me,
while I remain in chains for the gospel;
but I preferred
not to make
any such decision
without your consent,
so that your goodness
could be voluntary,
and not imposed upon you.

Perhaps Onesimus was even
separated from you
for a while
so that you could receive him back
for ever;
and receive him back
no longer as a servant,
but as a dear brother,
both as a fellow human being,
and as a brother in the Lord.
As he has been very dear
to me,
may he now be
even more dear
to you.
I ask you to welcome him
as you would welcome me.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 14.25-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Large crowds
were now following Jesus.
He turned
and said to them,
'If you come to me,
to be my disciple,
you must be ready
to give up
all that you have;
ready
to forsake
your father and mother,
your husband or wife, your children,
your brothers and sisters,
even life itself;
ready
to carry your cross,
and follow me.'
And he told them
two parables.
'Before you start to build a tower,
you must work out
whether you can afford to complete it;
for if you abandon it, incomplete,
all who see it
will mock.
And a king
will not go to war
if his army is unprepared
for the forces of the enemy;
instead, he will send
a delegation
to ask the terms for peace.
In the same way, you cannot
become my disciple
unless you are ready
to give up
all that you have.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 14 September

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Exodus 32.7-8,10-11,13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

At the top of Mount Sinai,
the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down
at once
to your people,
the people you brought
out of Egypt,
for they have corrupted themselves.
They have already turned aside
from the way that I commanded them.
They have made for themselves
an image
of a calf;
and they have worshipped it,
and made sacrifices to it.
They have even declared
that this is the god who
brought them out of Egypt.
Now let my anger
burn hot against them
to destroy them.
And from you alone
I will make a great nation.'
But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God,
saying, 'O Lord,
do not let your anger
burn hot against your people,
the people you brought out of Egypt
with great power
and with your own
mighty hand.
Remember your promise
to your servants
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
that you would multiply their descendants
like the stars of heaven,
and give them this land
as their inheritance.'
And the Lord heard
Moses' plea,
and drew back
from anger
at the rebellion of the people.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1.12-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I give thanks
to Jesus Christ our Lord
for showing the utmost patience
in strengthening me, raising me up,
and appointing me into his service;
and so demonstrating in me, the worst of all sinners,
the truth I now proclaim,
that it might be heard and received, in every nation:
that Christ Jesus
came into the world
to save sinners.

For in my ignorance and unbelief,
I was surely
the worst of all sinners,
persecuting,
slandering, and abusing the church.
But the saving mercy and grace of our Lord
overflowed for me
even more,
that with the faith
and love
that are in Christ Jesus,
I myself
might be an example
of God's saving mercy and grace
for all who will come to believe
in Christ Jesus
for eternal life.
To the King
of the ages,
immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory for ever.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 15.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were collectors of the Roman taxes,
and other notorious sinners.
Jesus welcomed them,
and would even sit and eat with them.
For this, the Pharisees and the scribes
complained
against Jesus.
So Jesus told them this parable:
'If you have a hundred sheep, and lose one,
you surely leave
the ninety-nine, feeding in the pasture,
and go searching
for the one that is lost.
And when you find it, you carry it home,
and you call your friends and neighbours,
"Come, celebrate with me!
I have found the sheep that was lost!"
In the same way,
there is more joy in heaven
over one sinner who repents,
than over ninety-nine righteous, who need
no repentance.
And if a woman has ten silver coins, and loses one,
she lights a lamp,
sweeps the house,
and searches until she finds it.
Then she calls her friends and neighbours, "Come,
celebrate with me!
I have found the silver coin that was lost."
In the same way,
when one sinner repents,
all the angels of God rejoice.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 21 September

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 8.4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Hear this,
you that trample
on the needy,
and bring the poor of the land
to ruin!
You long
for the new moon holiday
to be over,
you long
for the sabbath
to end,
so that you can return
to trading
in wheat and grain,
with your dishonest
balances, measures, and weights,
and the chaff
still in
with the wheat.
With your silver
you buy the poor;
and you enslave the needy
for a single pair of shoes.
The Lord has sworn,
by the honour of Jacob: I will not
forget your deeds.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2.1-7

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

Pray,
and give thanks,
for everyone;
including kings,
and all in authority;
that there may be peace,
so that we can live
with godliness,
and dignity.
For God our Saviour
longs for everyone
to be saved,
and to know this truth -
the truth I was called to proclaim
to all nations
as an apostle -
that there is
one God,
and there is
one mediator
between God and humankind -
Christ Jesus,
himself human, who gave himself
as a ransom for all.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 16.1-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said, 'A rich man's manager
was accused
of wasteful spending.
So the rich man told the manager
to finalise his accounts, and leave.
The manager said to himself, "What can I do,
now that my master
is dismissing me?
I am too weak to dig,
and too ashamed to beg."
So the manager devised a plan,
to ensure that when he left his employment,
people would welcome him
into their homes.
He summoned his master's debtors, one by one,
and asked them how much they owed.
One owed a hundred sacks of wheat;
the manager told him
to sit down, take his account, and quickly
change it to eighty.
Another owed a hundred jugs of oil;
the manager told him to take his account,
and change it to fifty.
And the rich man
was actually impressed
to see just how expertly
the dishonest manager
could work
to protect his own interests.
For the children of this age
are more expert
than the children of light
in dealing
with their own generation!
So I tell you,
use your worldly wealth
to make friends for yourselves,
so that
you have
friends who will
welcome you
into their homes
when all your worldly wealth
is gone.
Now only
those who do what is right
with minor things
will be trusted
with greater things.
So do what is right with your worldly wealth,
and you will be entrusted with true riches.
Do what is right for others,
and they will do what is right for you.
You cannot serve two masters,
for you will love one, and hate the other:
you cannot serve
both God
and worldly wealth.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 28 September

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Amos 6.1,4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Leaders of the nation -
all of Israel looks to you!
In Jerusalem you take your rest;
in Samaria you feel secure.

You lounge
on your couches
made of ivory.

You feast
on veal and lamb.

You make music,
and sing your idle songs.

You anoint yourselves with oil,
and drink wine by the bowl.

And you are unmoved
by the destruction
that has come upon
the tribes of the north.

So hear this, you leaders of the nation:
your revelry
will end
when you are
the first
to be taken away into exile!

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Timothy 6.6-12a,17-19

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

We brought nothing into the world,
and we take nothing out.

So if we have food, and clothing, let us be
content with that.

For true riches are to be found
in godliness
combined with
contentment.

Those who long to be rich in this world
fall into temptation,
and are trapped
by many foolish and harmful desires
that plunge them
into ruin and destruction.

The love of worldly wealth
is the root
of all manner
of evil;

pulling people
away from the faith,
and repeatedly causing them
pain and distress.

So flee from all this,
and instead
seek righteousness, godliness,
faith, love,
patience, and gentleness.

Work always to be strong in the faith,
holding fast to the eternal life
to which you are called.

As for those of you who are
wealthy
in this present age:
do not be arrogant,
and do not look for security
in the uncertainty of riches;
but find your security in God,
for it is God who richly provides us
with all things
to enjoy.

By generosity, and sharing,
be rich in good works;
and from this foundation, hold fast
to the life
that is truly life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 16.13b-15,19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The Pharisees loved their worldly riches.
They mocked Jesus, when they heard him say
that you cannot serve
both God and worldly wealth.

Jesus said to them, 'You make yourselves
look righteous to others,
but God sees your heart;
and the things that you value, God despises.

And he told them this parable.

'There was a rich man,
dressed in purple, and fine linen,
feasting, and living in luxury, every day.
At his gate lay a poor man, called Lazarus,
hungry, and ready to eat whatever scraps
fell from the rich man's table;
and the dogs would come, and lick his sores.
Now the poor man died, and was carried away
by the angels, to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died, and was buried;
and from his great suffering, in the place of the dead,
he looked up, and saw Abraham, far away,
and Lazarus at his side;

and he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me!
I beg you, send Lazarus, to dip
the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue;
for I am in agony in these flames!"

But Abraham said, "My son, you received good things
in your life, while Lazarus knew only suffering.
And now, he is comforted here, while you suffer.
And a deep chasm lies between there and here,
that no one can cross."

He replied, "Then I beg you, send Lazarus
to warn my five brothers, so that they will not
come to this place of torment."

Abraham said, "They have Moses, and the prophets.
They should listen to them."

He replied, "But father Abraham, they will listen
if someone is sent to them from the dead."

But Abraham said, "If they do not listen
to Moses and the prophets, they will not believe
even if someone rises from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 5 October

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - *Habakkuk 1.2-4; 2.2-4*

A reading from the book of the prophet Habakkuk.

I cried out to the Lord,

'How long, O Lord,

must I cry to you

for help?

All around, there is destruction,

violence, conflict, and distress.

Justice and law have broken down,

and the wicked

overpower the righteous.'

And the Lord answered me, saying,

'Write this message

in letters so large

that even a runner can see:

"Keep the faith!

For there will be justice at the appointed time.

The arrogant, and the powerful, will fall.

But the righteous, and the faithful, will live!"

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *2 Timothy 1.1-14*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

From Paul,

by God's grace, an apostle,

proclaiming the promise of life in Christ Jesus.

To Timothy.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you,

from God our Father

and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy, you are like a son to me,

and I give thanks to God,

as I remember you always, in my prayers,

recalling

the tears that you shed

as we parted,

and longing

for the joy

of seeing you again.

I give thanks to God

for your sincere faith -

the faith

that lived first

in your grandmother Lois,

and your mother Eunice,

and now, I know, lives in you.

Keep the flame

of the gift of God

burning brightly within you -

the gift that you received when I was with you,

when I commissioned you to God's service.

For God did not give us

a spirit of cowardice,

but a spirit of power, endurance, and love.

So do not be ashamed

to speak

of our salvation in Christ,

And do not be ashamed

of me, a prisoner for Christ.

But be ready to suffer with me,

for the sake of the gospel,

trusting

in the power of God.

For God saved us, and called us

to new life in Christ,

not because of anything we had done,

but by God's grace -

and for God's purposes.

This grace of God

was established in Christ Jesus

before the foundation of the world.

It is by this grace of God

that our Saviour Jesus Christ

has broken the power of death

and shown us

the way to eternal life.

It is for this message of God's grace

that I was appointed apostle, and teacher.

And it is for this message of God's grace

that I also suffer many trials.

But I have nothing to fear,

for I know

that the one I trust

will protect me

to the very end.

So hold fast

to all that you learned from me.

Hold fast to the faith and love

that you know in Christ Jesus.

And by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us,

treasure the gift that you have received.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Luke 17.5-10*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

And the Lord said to them, 'If you had faith

the size of a mustard seed,

you could tell this tree

to go and plant itself

in the middle of the sea,

and it would be done.'

And the Lord said to them,

'When a servant comes in,

from ploughing the field, or tending the sheep,

he does not sit down to eat

with his master,

but at his master's command,

he prepares and serves

his master's supper,

before making his own.

And he expects no thanks.

In the same way,

when you have done all

that you are commanded to do,

you should have

the humility of a servant,

and say, "We have only done

what we ought to have done."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 12 October

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - 2 Kings 5.1-3, 5, 9-15b

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman

was the highly-respected commander
of the Syrian army, which had
won many victories
under his command.

And yet Naaman, this mighty warrior,
suffered from leprosy.

On one of their raids,
the Syrian army
had taken a young girl captive
from the land of Israel,
and she was now a servant
to Naaman's wife.

This servant girl
told her mistress
that there was a prophet in Samaria
who could cure Naaman of his leprosy.

So, taking with him a letter from the king,
Naaman travelled to Samaria
with his horses and chariots,
taking silver, gold, and fine garments.

When Naaman arrived in Samaria,
at the house of Elisha the prophet,

Elisha sent out a messenger,
to say to Naaman, 'Go and wash, seven times,
in the river Jordan; and your flesh will be restored,
and you will be clean.'

But Naaman became angry, and went away,
saying, 'Surely the prophet could at least have
come out of his house,
called on the name
of the Lord his God,
and waved his hand over the leprosy, to cure it!
We have rivers of our own,
better than any in Israel!'

But his servants said, 'Sir,
if the prophet had commanded you
to do something difficult, you would have done it.
So surely you can do as the prophet commands,
when all he says
is to wash, and be clean.'

So Naaman went,
and washed, seven times,
in the river Jordan,
as Elisha the prophet had instructed.

And Naaman's flesh was restored
like that of a child; and he was clean.

Then Naaman returned, with all his servants,
and stood before Elisha, and said,
'Now I know
that there is no God in all the earth
except in Israel.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 3.11b-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have endured

so many persecutions;
but the Lord has rescued me from all of them.

All those who aim to live a godly life in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted;
and wickedness, and deception,
will increase.

But hold fast

to all that you have learned and believed,

trusting

those who taught you,

and trusting

in the holy scriptures

that you have known

from childhood, which gave you

the wisdom

to be ready for salvation

through faith in Christ Jesus.

For all scripture, inspired by God,

is useful for teaching, and learning,

and for growing in righteousness,

strengthening

and equipping us

for all

that God calls us to do.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 17.11-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

On his way to Jerusalem,

Jesus passed through the region

between Galilee and Samaria.

As he entered a village,

he was approached

by ten people

suffering with leprosy.

Keeping their distance,

they called out, 'Jesus, Master,

have mercy on us!'

Jesus said to them, 'Go and present yourselves
to the priests.'

And as they went,

they were made clean.

One of them, seeing that he was healed,

turned back,

praising God with a loud voice.

And he fell at Jesus' feet,

and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Jesus said, 'Surely ten

were made clean?

Where are the other nine?

Has none returned,

to give glory to God,

except this foreigner?'

And he said to the Samaritan,

'Get up, and go on your way;

your faith has made you well.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 19 October

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Genesis 32.22-30

A reading from the book of Genesis.

While it was still dark,

Jacob led
his two wives, his two maids,
and his eleven children,
to the place
where they could cross
the river Jabbok.

Jacob sent them across
ahead of him,
with everything they had;
until only Jacob remained.

And there,
someone wrestled with Jacob
until daybreak.

And still failing
to overpower Jacob,
the one who was
wrestling with Jacob
finally struck Jacob
on the hip,
putting it out of joint,
and said,

'Let me go,
for it is nearly daybreak.'

But Jacob said, 'I will
not let you go,
unless
you bless me.'

The one who had wrestled with Jacob
asked Jacob
his name,
and then said,
'You shall
no longer be called Jacob,
but Israel,'
(which means 'wrestling with God'),
'for you have wrestled with God,
and with mortals,
and you have prevailed.'

And Jacob said,
'Now tell me your name.'

But the one who had wrestled with Jacob
said, 'Why is it
that you ask
my name?'

So Jacob called the place Peniel,
(which means 'the face of God')
saying, 'I have seen God,
face to face,
and yet I live.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.2-5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Preach the word of God,
with patience,
and persistence,
both when it is
received with joy,
and when it is not.

Teach and encourage,
persuade and challenge,
even argue and debate,
for there will be times
when people
turn away from the truth
to go chasing after fantasies,
listening to teachers who will say
whatever it is
they want to hear.

Continue then
all the more
in the work
that God has called you to do.

Keep a clear mind
in every situation;
endure through every hardship;
and proclaim the good news!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.1-8a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus said, 'In a city,
there was a judge, who respected
neither God
nor the people.

In the same city,
there was a widow, who kept on
coming to the judge, saying, "Grant me justice
against my opponent!"

At first,
the judge refused.

But eventually,
the judge said to himself, "I respect
neither God
nor the people,
but because this widow
keeps bothering me,
I will grant her justice,
before she wears me out."

And Jesus said
to his disciples, 'Keep on praying,
and do not lose heart.

For God will surely
grant justice, and quickly,
to God's chosen ones, who
call out to God,
night and day.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 26 October

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading - Jeremiah 14.7-8a,9b,21,22b

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Help us, O Lord, for you are
the hope of Israel,
our saviour
in time of trouble.

We know
that we have
rebelled against you.

Our trespasses are many,
and our offences
cry out to you.

But you, O Lord, are amongst us,
and we are
called by your name.

Do not reject us,
or dishonour your glorious throne,
but for the sake of your name,
remember the covenant
you made with us.

We set our hope
on you alone,
O Lord our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

I have fought the good fight.
I have completed the course.
I have kept the faith.

And now I am being poured out
like an offering,
and the time for my departure is near.

What lies ahead
is to receive
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will present to me
on that day,

alongside all who have
received the Lord's forgiveness,
and look with joy
for the day
of the Lord's appearing.

Having called me
to proclaim the good news
to all nations,
the Lord has stood by me,
rescued me,
and strengthened me;
and the Lord will surely continue
to protect me from every assault,
and bring me safely
to the heavenly kingdom.

To the Lord
be glory for ever!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 18.9-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Amongst those who came to hear Jesus
were some who had great confidence
in their own righteousness,
and regarded others
with contempt.

Jesus told them
this parable.

'Two men
went up to the temple
to pray.

One was a Pharisee;
the other
was a collector
of the Roman taxes.

The Pharisee
stood confidently,
and said: "O God, I thank you
that I am not like
all the other people -
thieves, liars, and adulterers -
or even that tax collector!
I fast twice a week!
I give a tenth of all my income to the temple!"

But the tax collector
stayed back,
at a distance,
and would not even
look up to heaven,
but, with his hand on his heart,
said, "God, have mercy on me,
a sinner."

I tell you,
it was the tax collector,
not the Pharisee, who
returned home
righteous
in the sight of God.

For those who
place themselves above others
will be brought down.

But those who choose
to be humble
will be lifted up.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 2 November

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday before Advent

All Saints Sunday

First Reading - Isaiah 25.6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain, the Lord God

will prepare for all people

a feast

of rich food

and fine wine.

The Lord will take away

the cloud of darkness

that hangs over peoples and nations.

The Lord God

will bring to an end

the humiliation of the people,

will wipe away

the tears from all faces,

and will destroy

the power of death

for ever.

And the people will say, 'This is the day

of the Lord our God.

Let us rejoice,

for we trusted in God,

and the day

of our salvation

has come.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul

to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy,

to the church at Thessalonika.

Grace to you, and peace,

from God our Father,

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters,

we give thanks to God

for your continuing growth

both in faith

and in love for one another.

We gladly tell others

in all the churches

about your faith

that remains steadfast

in the face of so many

hardships and persecutions.

And we always pray for you,

that God will strengthen you

in all your works of faith,

as you seek to fulfil your calling,

and rejoice in all that is good.

And so may the name of our Lord Jesus

be glorified in you,

and may you be glorified in him,

by the grace of God

and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus was passing through Jericho

on his way to Jerusalem.

Zacchaeus, a wealthy

chief tax-collector,

could not see over the crowds

to see who Jesus was.

So he ran ahead

and climbed into a tree

on the route that Jesus was following.

When Jesus saw him there,

he said, 'Zacchaeus,

come down at once,

for I must stay at your house today.'

Zacchaeus

came down quickly

from the tree,

and welcomed Jesus

into his home.

Those who saw this

began to complain,

saying that Jesus

had gone to be the guest

of someone

completely unworthy.

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus,

'My Lord,

half of all my possessions

I will give to the poor.

And if I have cheated anyone of anything,

I will pay it back

four times over.'

And Jesus said, 'Today,

salvation has come to this house.

For Zacchaeus also

is a child of Abraham.

And the Son of Man came

to seek out

and rescue

the lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 9 November

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday before Advent

Remembrance Sunday

First Reading - Job 19.23-27a

A reading from the book of Job.

Let this be written down, recorded in a book,
and engraved in stone:

'I know that my Redeemer lives;
and the day will come
when my Redeemer
will stand upon the earth.

And I know

that when the suffering
of this present age
is ended,

with my own eyes

I shall
see God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 2.16 - 3.5

A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

God our Father,

and our Lord Jesus Christ,
in their great love for us,

have always given us
courage

and joyful confidence
for the future.

May they continue
to strengthen you

in every good word
that you speak,

and in every good work
that you do.

And finally I ask you,

my brothers and sisters,
to pray for us.

Pray

that the word of the Lord
may continue to spread,
and be glorified everywhere,
just as it is
amongst you.

Pray also

that we may be protected
from any who would do us harm;
for not all have faith.

But the Lord is faithful.

And we are confident

that as you continue
in all

that we taught you,

the Lord will strengthen you,

and protect you from all harm,

and lead you on

in the love of God,

and in faithfulness to Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 19.41-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Jesus approached Jerusalem,
surrounded
by the crowds.

And when he saw the city,

he wept, and said,

'O Jerusalem,

if only

you had seen

and understood

the way of peace!

But the day will come

when your enemies

will surround you on every side!

They will crush you

to the ground -

you,

and your children within you!

Not one stone

will be left

upon another;

because you did not recognise

that the day would come

when God

would call you to account.'

When Jesus entered the city,

and entered

the temple courtyard,

he began to drive out

those who were trading there,

saying to them, 'The scripture says

"My house shall be a house of prayer" -

but you have made it

a den of thieves!'

Then, every day,

he was teaching

in the temple.

And the chief priests,

the teachers of the law,

and other

leaders of the people,

were looking

for a way to destroy him.

But they could find nothing

that they could do,

because the people were eager

to hear

his every word.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 16 November

*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Second Sunday before Advent*

First Reading - Malachi 4.1-2a

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

The day is coming, says the Lord,
when the arrogant,

and all evildoers,
will be burned up
like stubble.

Neither root nor branch
will remain.

But on those who honour my name,
the dawn will break,

the sun will rise -
the sun of righteousness -
and there will be healing
in its light.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3.7-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

We were not idle
when we were with you.

We did not
accept food from you
without paying for it.

Indeed we worked night and day,
so that we would not
be a burden
to any of you.

We could
have asked you
to support us.

But we preferred
to set an example
for you to follow.

Even while we were with you,
we were making it a rule
that those who will not work
should not eat!

And yet we hear
that some amongst you
are being
both idle
and

disruptive -
not doing any work, and
disrupting
the work of others!

Our instruction to any in that situation -
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ -
is to work quietly,
and earn the bread that you eat.

And for all of you, my brothers and sisters, I say:
do not grow weary
in always
doing good.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 21.5-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

The disciples
were admiring the temple,
with its fine stone-work,
and its many offerings
and gifts.

Jesus said, 'The day will come
when all of this
will be torn down.

Not one stone
will be left
upon another.'

The disciples asked Jesus, 'When will this happen?
And what will be the sign

that these things
are about to take place?'

Jesus said, 'Do not be misled.

Many will come
claiming
that the time is near,
even claiming
to speak in my name.

Do not follow them.

And when you hear of wars and rebellions,
do not be afraid.

All these things must happen,
but they do not mean
that the end is near.

Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom.

There will be earthquakes,
famines, and plagues.

There will be
terrifying sights
in the sky.

Even before all this,
they will persecute you.

They will arrest you,
and hand you over
to courts, and prisons,
and to kings, and governors,
because of my name.

And there,
you will be my witnesses.

Do not worry
in advance
about what you will say,
for I will give you words, and a wisdom,
that no one
will be able
to refute, or contradict.

You will be betrayed
by parents, brothers, and friends;
some of you will be put to death.

But even when you are hated by all
because of my name,
you will come to no harm.

And in your endurance,
you will find life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sunday 23 November

Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Sunday before Advent

Christ the King

First Reading - 2 Samuel 5.1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The elders of the tribes of Israel
came to David at Hebron,
and said, 'We are your own flesh and blood.
And even while Saul has been king over us,
you have been the one who has led us.
And we know that the Lord has spoken to you,
declaring that you will be
the shepherd and leader of Israel.'
So David made a covenant
with the elders of Israel,
in the presence of the Lord, at Hebron.
And there, the elders
anointed David
to be king over Israel.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Colossians 1.12-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image
of the invisible God;
and the firstborn
from before all creation.
In Christ,
all things were created,
both in heaven
and on earth,
both the visible
and the invisible (by which we mean
dominions, authorities, and powers).
All things were created
through Christ, and for Christ.
Christ existed
before all things;
and now it is in Christ
that all things
hold together.
Christ is then also
the head of the body
which is the church;
its beginning,
as the firstborn from the dead.
Christ has first place
in everything.
And so it is, that in Christ,
all things, in heaven and on earth,
can be reconciled, and at peace,
through the sacrifice of the cross.
So let us always, joyfully, give thanks
to God the Father, who has
rescued us,
from the power of darkness,
to dwell, forgiven, with the saints, in light,
in the kingdom
of his beloved Son.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Luke 23.33-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

When they came to the place
called The Skull,
they crucified Jesus there,
with the criminals,
one on his right, and one on his left.
And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them;
for they do not know
what they are doing.'
And they divided his clothing
between them.
And the people stood by,
watching.
The inscription above him
read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'
The soldiers taunted him,
saying, 'If you are
the King of the Jews,
save yourself!'
And they offered him bitter wine.
The religious leaders also mocked him,
saying, 'He saved others;
let him save himself,
if he is the Messiah,
God's chosen one!'
One of the criminals
crucified alongside him
also mocked him,
saying, 'If you are the Messiah,
save yourself - and us!'
But the other criminal
said to him, 'Have you
no fear of God?
We are being
punished for our crimes,
but this man
has done
no wrong.'
Then he said, 'Jesus,
remember me,
when you
come into your kingdom.'
Jesus replied, 'Truly, I tell you,
today
you will be with me
in Paradise.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.