

Sunday 21 February, 2021



If a household are praying together,  
one person may act as leader and the  
others as the congregation and they  
join in the words in bold type.

If alone, read all the words aloud.

You may want to light a candle before you begin,  
and have a Bible,  
cross or crucifix to look at.

You might prepare for this act of worship by  
listening to some music, or by being still.

## THE GATHERING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of  
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is here.  
**His spirit is with us.**

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Round about us  
Here among us  
**God of promise and love**

Good and faithful  
Strong in mercy  
**God of promise and love**

Calling our names  
Bidding us welcome  
**God of promise and love**

Coming together as God's family, with confidence  
let us ask the Father's forgiveness for our failure  
to respond fully to his grace, for he is full of  
gentleness and compassion.

*A time of SILENCE - for reflection*

Lord, your grace is boundless and free;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Jesus, you made yourself poor,  
that we might become rich;  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, you came to transform us into graceful  
people; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us  
our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and  
prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

**FIRST READING** Genesis 9.8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with  
him, <sup>9</sup>'As for me, I am establishing my covenant  
with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and  
with every living creature that is with you, the  
birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of  
the earth with you, as many as came out of the  
ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never  
again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a  
flood, and never again shall there be a flood to  
destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>God said, 'This is the sign of  
the covenant that I make between me and you

and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

<sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

### **GOSPEL READING**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark* 1.9-15

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us**

**with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all whom we remember with love and affection....*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

**Our Father....**

Or

**Our Father in heaven....**

### **THE GRACE**

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

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 71	Matthew 25.31-end
Tuesday	Psalm 73	Matthew 6. 7-15
Wednesday	Psalm 77	Luke 11.29-32
Thursday	Psalm 42	Matthew 7.7-12
Friday	Psalm 22	Matthew 5. 20-26
Saturday	Psalm 63	Matthew 5. 43-end

*Please remember in your prayers: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 The First Sunday of Lent*

<b>Church community</b>	We give thanks for Taste and Open Table, praying for all those who help with food donations and food production, processing and distribution. Supporting the most vulnerable and in need within our community.
<b>Parish Streets</b>	Thinking of those within our Parish Community –Queen's Grove, Queen's Road, Ravenhill Drive, Ravensthorpe and Rectory Close.
<b>In Chorley</b>	We pray for all local businesses, food outlets and sports facilities as they live in fear of loss of livelihoods and businesses during the prolonged length of time they are unable to open and serve the local community. Give them hope and strength, wisdom in their decision making.
<b>Schools:</b>	We pray for all our schools and colleges, for the teachers, the pupils and students and the support staff, as they continue to strive to find ways to ensure they provide the best education that they can and praying for a workable solution to allow pupils and students back into school safely.
<b>For The Sick:</b>	Thinking of Jackie Burton, Trevor & Irene Jenkinson, Hilda Rouse, Lisa Ruocco, Amelie Ruocco, Joan Puddy, Betty Huggett, Cece, Derek Draper and family, Brenda Ditchfield, Paul Montalvo, Meryl Thursby, Susan Clarke, Anna and Stuart, Thandi.
<b>RIP:</b>	Francis Malcome Pretten, Bex Lewis & Ange
<b>Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:</b>	Kenneth Haslam, Milner Cooper, Frank Smith, Bryan Gent.
<b>To Vision 2026</b>	Pray for all charged with the responsibility of discerning vocation in others in the local church and across the Diocese. Pray for our Director of Vocations, Nick McKee and everyone in our Vocations Team.

Please remember that the members of the Prayer Chain are always willing to pray for any requests in confidence.

**Please contact Doris Smethurst on 410829**

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Joshua 1.9**

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

**Church is Closed for Public Worship and Private Prayer until further notice.**

Services will continue to be live streamed.

**Lent booklets.** In your delivery there is a Devotional Booklet for you to use on each of the days in Lent. We hope you will find this helpful.

**Public worship.** The PCC recently met and discussed when we might return to church for worship. However, we were minded to wait and see what the Government will say on 22<sup>nd</sup> February before making any plans to change the current situation. We will keep everyone informed.

**Eradicating Digital Poverty.** Chorley Catholic Community Network, Chorley Buddies, Chorley United Reformed Church and St Laurence's, with the support of Chorley Council, are working with the Chorley Repair Café to try to help eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley. From Ash Wednesday onwards, they need surplus laptops or tablets so that they can give them to the children who desperately need them. If you have any laptops/tablets that you no longer need please drop them off at the Rectory.

**Meryl Thursby** is very keen to communicate her thanks to people for their kindness and their prayers. She is still in hospital but grateful for your messages and prayers.

**Emergency Food parcels.** If you are able to help by donating any **rice (plain, not microwave sort) biscuits, crisps or milk** please drop these at the Rectory or call the Parish Office.

