

# LECTIONARY 2021

## Part 1

from

**Advent Sunday 29 November 2020**

to

**Easter Day 4 April 2021**

for use in the United Benefice of **Hornby** with Claughton  
and **Whittington** with **Arkholme** and **Gressingham**

## ADVENT 1

Sunday 29 November

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 64.1-9*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens,  
and come down like a raging fire.

The mountains will quake,  
and the nations will tremble at your presence.

All your enemies will know your name  
when they witness your wondrous deeds.

From ancient times, no eye has seen,  
and no ear has heard,  
any God but you.

You rescue those who trust in you.

You welcome those  
who gladly do what is right,  
observing your ways.

But now our sin has aroused your anger,  
how can we be saved?

Even our most righteous deeds  
are like a filthy garment before you.

We fade like a fallen leaf,  
and our iniquities  
sweep us away  
like the wind.

There is no one left who calls on your name,  
or pleads with you for mercy;  
so you have turned your face away from us,  
and abandoned us to our iniquity.

And yet, O Lord, you are our Father.  
You are the potter, and we are the clay.  
You made us;  
we are the work of your hands.

We are your people, O Lord.  
Do not be angry with us  
beyond measure,  
or remember our iniquity for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18

### SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 1.3-9*

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

Grace to you, and peace,  
from God our Father,  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God  
for all that God is doing amongst you;

for in Christ,  
you have been enriched in every way,  
growing in confidence in the message Christ,  
and in every spiritual gift,  
as you look for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has called you into the fellowship  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and will surely continue to give you strength,  
to keep you in holiness  
for the day of our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Mark 13.24-37*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Finally,  
after all this persecution and suffering,  
the day will come  
when the sun and the moon will give no light,  
and the stars will be shaken from the sky.

Then you will see the Son of Man  
coming in the clouds  
with great power and glory,  
and he will send angels  
to gather his chosen  
from the four winds,  
from the ends of the earth.

When buds and leaves  
appear on the fig tree,  
you know that summer is near.

In the same way,  
when you see these things taking place,  
you will know that the time is near.

All these things will take place  
before this generation is destroyed;  
then even the heavens and the earth will be destroyed -  
but my words will remain for ever.

No one knows the day or the hour  
at which these things will take place,  
not the angels in heaven,  
nor even the Son,  
but only the Father;

so be on guard,  
keep alert,  
for you do not know when that day will come.

If the master of the household went on a journey,  
leaving the servants in charge,  
each with their own task,  
they would keep watch,  
for the master could return  
in the evening, or at midnight, or at dawn,  
and must not find them sleeping  
when he returns.

So I say to you, and to everyone:  
stay alert.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## ADVENT 2

Sunday 6 December

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 40.1-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort,

O comfort my people,  
says your God;  
speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Let her know

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has already received  
from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the wilderness,  
prepare the way of the Lord.

Fill the valleys,

level the hills,  
straighten the paths,  
and make the rough ways smooth;

for the glory of the Lord

will be revealed,  
and all who live  
shall see it together;  
for the Lord has spoken.

Declare to the people

they they are like grass,  
and their faithfulness  
is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers,

and the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord  
blows upon it;  
but the word of our God  
will stand for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

### SECOND READING – *2 Peter 3.8-15a*

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Remember, beloved,

that with the Lord,  
a day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years are like a day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise,

but is patient with you,  
longing that none shall perish,  
but that all may come to repentance.

And yet, the day of the Lord will come,  
unexpected, like a thief in the night.

With thunder and fire,

the heavens will pass away,  
and the earth,  
and everything upon it,  
will be destroyed.

Wait in eager expectation

for the coming of that day,  
and for the establishment  
of the new heavens, and the new earth,  
where righteousness shall dwell,  
in accordance with God's promises.

Let us live holy and godly lives,

that we may be found by God  
blameless and at peace.

And regard the patience of our Lord

as a gracious opportunity for salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Mark 1.1-8*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

Here begins the good news,

the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in the book

of the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you

to prepare your way,

the voice of one

crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

And so indeed it came about

that John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside,

and all the people of Jerusalem,

were going out to him,

and were baptised by him in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair,

with a leather belt around his waist,

and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed,

'After me comes one

who is more powerful than me.

I am not worthy

even to be his servant.

I have baptised you with water;

but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### ADVENT 3

Sunday 13 December

Readings for Year B

#### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God  
is upon me,  
for the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news  
to the poor and the oppressed,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of justice of our God.  
I will rejoice and sing praise  
to the Lord my God;  
for as a bridegroom wears a garland,  
and a bride her jewels,  
so the Lord has clothed me  
with the garments of salvation,  
and covered me  
with the robe of righteousness;  
and the Lord God will cause  
righteousness and praise  
to flourish in all nations  
like a garden in the spring-time.  
This is the word of the Lord.

#### Psalm 126

#### SECOND READING – *1 Thessalonians 5.16-24*

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

My brothers and sisters:  
rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
and give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God for you  
in Christ Jesus.  
Do not quench the Spirit,  
and do not treat prophecies with contempt,  
but test everything,  
hold fast to what is good,  
and keep away from every form of evil.  
And the God of peace, who calls you,  
will sanctify you, and keep you holy,  
in body, spirit, and soul,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
This is the word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL – *John 1.6-8, 19-28*

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

There was a man sent from God,  
whose name was John.  
He came as a witness  
to testify to the light,  
so that all might believe  
through him.  
He himself was not the light,  
but he came to testify to the light.  
Priests and Levites  
travelled from Jerusalem  
to ask John,  
'Who are you?'  
John stated plainly,  
'I am not the Messiah.'  
So they asked him,  
'What then?  
Are you Elijah?  
Are you the prophet?'  
And John said  
'No'.  
So they said to him,  
'Who are you?  
Let us have an answer  
for those who sent us.  
What do you say  
about yourself?'  
And John said  
(using the words of the prophet Isaiah),  
'I am the voice  
crying out  
in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord."  
So they asked him,  
'Why then are you baptising,  
if you are neither the Messiah,  
nor Elijah,  
nor the prophet?'  
John answered them,  
'I baptise with water,  
but amongst you  
stands one you do not know,  
the one who is coming after me.  
I am not worthy  
even to be his servant.'  
All this took place in Bethany,  
across the Jordan,  
where John was baptising.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## ADVENT 4

Sunday 20 December

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

David, the king, was settled in his house,  
and the Lord had given him rest  
from all his enemies around him;  
so he said, to the prophet Nathan,  
'I am now living in a house built from cedar,  
but the ark of God still lives in a tent.'

Nathan replied,  
'Go and do whatever you have in mind;  
for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night,  
the word of the Lord  
came to the prophet Nathan,  
that he should instead  
give to David, the king,  
this word from the Lord:

I have not lived in a house  
from the day  
I brought the people of Israel  
out from Egypt,  
to this day,  
but I have travelled with my people,  
with a tent as my only dwelling.

I have commanded the leaders  
of the tribes of Israel  
to shepherd my people,  
but in all this time,  
never have I asked any one of them  
to build me a house of cedar.

I took you from the pasture,  
from following the sheep,  
to be the leader of my people Israel.

I have been with you  
wherever you went.

I have cut off all your enemies  
from before you.

And now I will make your name known  
amongst the greatest names on earth.

I will determine a place for my people Israel,  
and plant them there,  
so that they may live  
in a land of their own  
in peace.

They shall no longer be afflicted by violence,  
as they have been for so long.

I shall give you rest from all your enemies.

And the Lord declares to you, David,  
that you will not make a house  
for the Lord to live in,  
but the Lord will make you a house.

The Lord will make  
your house and your kingdom secure,  
and establish your throne for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Magnificat

### SECOND READING – Romans 16.25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Glory to God  
who can strengthen you  
to stand firm  
in the good news that we proclaim!

Glory to God  
for the good news of Jesus Christ  
that has now been revealed!

Glory to God,  
at whose command  
the good news of Jesus Christ  
has been revealed,  
first through the writings of the prophets,  
and now by proclamation to all nations,  
so that all might come to believe and trust  
in Jesus Christ!

To the one eternal God of all wisdom  
be glory for ever! Amen!

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – Luke 1.26-38

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

The angel Gabriel was sent by God  
to a town called Nazareth, in Galilee,  
to a virgin, whose name was Mary,  
who was engaged to a man called Joseph,  
who was descended from the line of king David.

The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said,  
'Greetings, O favoured one! The Lord is with you!'  
Mary was overcome at hearing these words,  
and wondered what this greeting might mean.

The angel said,  
'Mary, do not be afraid,  
for you have found favour with God.'

And now,  
you will conceive, and bear a son,  
and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great,  
and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give to him  
the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;  
and of his kingdom, there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel,  
'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her,  
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born will be holy;  
and will be called the Son of God.'

And your relative Elizabeth, in her old age,  
has also conceived a son;  
and this is the sixth month  
for her who was said to be barren;  
for nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said,  
'Here I am, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word.'

Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## MIDNIGHT MASS

*Readings for Christmas Day Set I*

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9.2,6-7b*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walk in darkness  
shall see a great light.

On those who dwell  
in the land of deep darkness -  
on them, the light will shine.

For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government  
and of peace  
there shall be no end.

He will establish and uphold  
the throne and kingdom of David,  
with justice and righteousness,  
from this time forwards,  
and for evermore.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 96

### SECOND READING – *Philippians 4.4-9*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again I say, rejoice -  
for the Lord is near.

Let your gentleness  
be known to everyone.

Do not worry about anything,  
but in everything,  
by prayer and supplication,  
with thanksgiving,

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved,  
whatever is true, whatever is honourable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence,  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

And whatever you have learned and received  
from all that I have said and done,  
put this into practice also.

And the God of peace  
will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Luke 2.1-20*

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

In those days, a decree went out  
that all the world should be registered,  
each in their own town.

As Joseph was a descendant of king David,  
he went from Nazareth, in Galilee,  
to the ancient city of king David,  
called Bethlehem, in Judea.

He travelled with Mary,  
who was pledged to be married to him,  
and who was soon to give birth.

While they were in Bethlehem,  
the time came for Mary to deliver her child,  
and she gave birth to her firstborn son,  
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,  
and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no place for them at the inn.

In that region,  
there were shepherds in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flocks by night.

An angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,  
and they were afraid.

But the angel said to them,  
'Do not be afraid,  
for I bring you good news  
of great joy  
for all the people.

To you is born, this day, in the city of David,  
a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

And this will be the sign for you:  
you will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth  
and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel  
a multitude of the heavenly host,  
praising God and saying,  
'Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,  
the shepherds said to one another,  
'Let us go now to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us.'

So they went with haste  
and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the child lying in the manger.

The shepherds made known  
what the angels had told them  
about this child,  
and all who heard it  
were amazed.

And Mary treasured these words,  
and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God  
for all that they had heard and seen,  
as the angels had told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## CHRISTMAS MORNING

*Readings for Christmas Day Set III*

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 52.7-10*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger  
now proclaiming peace,  
bringing good news,  
announcing salvation,  
and saying to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Hear your watchmen  
lifting up their voices.

Together they are singing for joy,  
for with their own eyes,  
they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted  
and redeemed his people.

The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 98

### SECOND READING – *Hebrews 1.1-4*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago,

God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways  
by the prophets,

but in these last days,

God has spoken to us  
by a Son,

the one appointed by God  
as inheritor of all things,  
through whom

God created the universe.

He is the reflection

of God's glory,

the exact imprint

of God's very being,

and he sustains all things

by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins,

he sat down

at the right hand

of the Majesty on high,

having become

as much superior to angels

as the name he has inherited

is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *John 1.1-12,14*

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

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning  
with God.

All things came into being through him:

without him  
not one thing  
came into being.

In him was life,

and that life

was the light of all people,

a light that shines in the darkness,

and the darkness

has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John.

He came as a witness

to testify to the light,

so that all might believe

through him.

He himself was not the light,

but he came to testify to the light.

The true light,

which enlightens everyone,

was coming into the world.

He was in the world,

and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own,

and his own did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him,

who believed in his name,

he gave the power

to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh,

and dwelt amongst us,

and we have seen his glory,

the glory of the Father's only Son,

full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

**Sunday 27 December**

United Benefice Service in Gressingham  
for the Patronal Festival of Saint John the Evangelist  
*Readings for Year B*

### **FIRST READING – Exodus 33.7–11a**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

There was a tent  
which Moses called  
the Tent of Meeting.  
Moses would set up  
the Tent of Meeting  
far outside the camp,  
and anyone who sought the Lord  
would go to it.  
Whenever Moses himself  
went out  
to the Tent of Meeting,  
all the people would stand by their tents,  
and watch,  
until Moses had gone into the Tent of Meeting.  
Then the pillar of cloud would descend,  
and would stand at the entrance  
of the Tent of Meeting,  
and the Lord would speak with Moses there.  
When they saw  
the pillar of cloud,  
standing at the entrance  
of the Tent of Meeting,  
all the people would bow down,  
each of them at the entrance of their tent.  
And in this way,  
the Lord would speak to Moses  
face to face,  
as someone might speak  
to a friend.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### **SECOND READING – 1 John 3.1-2**

A reading from the first letter of John.

So great is the Father's love for us,  
that we are adopted  
as children of God.  
The world,  
that does not know the Father,  
neither sees  
nor understands this.  
My brothers and sisters,  
we are already adopted  
as children of God.  
What we are still to become  
has not yet been revealed!  
What we do know  
is this:  
that when Christ  
appears in glory,  
we shall become like him,  
for we shall see him  
face to face.  
This is the word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL – John 21.19b–25**

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

Jesus said to Peter,  
'Follow me.'  
Peter turned  
and saw 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'  
approaching them.  
(This is the disciple  
who reclined next to Jesus  
at the supper,  
and had said,  
'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?')  
When Peter saw this disciple approaching,  
Peter said to Jesus,  
'Lord, what about him?'  
Jesus said to Peter,  
'If it is my will  
that he remains  
until I come,  
what is that to you?  
Follow me!'  
So the rumour spread in the community  
that this disciple  
would not die.  
Yet Jesus did not say  
that he would not die;  
Jesus said,  
'If it is my will  
that he remains  
until I come,  
what is that to you?'  
This is the very disciple  
now testifying  
to these things,  
and writing them;  
so we know  
that his testimony is true.  
There are also  
many other things  
that Jesus did.  
If every one of them  
were written down,  
the whole world  
could not contain  
the books that would be written.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 3 January

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 60.1-6*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, and shine,

for your light has come;

and the glory of the Lord

has risen upon you.

For darkness has covered the earth,

and thick darkness has covered the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and the glory of the Lord

will appear over you.

Then nations shall come to your light,

and kings shall come

to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes

and look around:

they gather together,

they come to you.

Your sons shall come from far away,

and your youngest daughters

shall be carried here

on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see,

and be radiant.

Your heart shall thrill and rejoice;

for the abundance of the sea

shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations

shall come to you.

Camels, from Egypt, and Arabia,

will fill the land.

They will bring gold and frankincense,

and they will proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

### SECOND READING – *Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

By the grace of God,

and for your sake,

I have been commissioned

to make known

a glorious truth

that was unknown to former generations.

But now, by the Holy Spirit,

this glorious truth

has been revealed

to God's apostles and prophets

through the gospel:

that the Gentiles

are our brothers and sisters

in Christ -

members of the same body,

and inheritors of the same promise.

This is the word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL – *Matthew 2.1-12*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod,

after Jesus was born (in Bethlehem of Judea),

Magi from the East

came to Jerusalem, asking,

'Where is the child

who is born

to be king of the Jews?

For we observed his star, at its rising,

and we have come to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this,

he was troubled,

and all Jerusalem with him.

He called together the chief priests and the scribes,

and enquired of them

where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him,

'In Bethlehem of Judea;

for it is written in the prophets:

"You, O Bethlehem,

in the land of Judah,

are by no means least

amongst the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the Magi,

and learned from them

the exact time

when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,

'Go and search diligently for the child;

and when you have found him,

bring me word,

so that I may also go

and pay him homage.'

So the Magi set out,

and there, ahead of them, went the star

that they had seen at its rising;

until it stopped over the place

where they would find the child.

When they saw that the star had stopped,

they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house,

they saw the child,

with Mary his mother,

and they knelt down,

and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure-chests,

they offered him gifts

of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream

not to return to Herod,

they left for their own country

by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **EPIPHANY 1**

**Sunday 10 January**

*Readings for Year B*

### **FIRST READING – Isaiah 55.6-9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Seek the Lord

while he may be found.

Call upon him

while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous

their thoughts.

Let them return to the Lord,

that the Lord

may have mercy upon them;

to our God,

who will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts

are not your thoughts,

says the Lord;

neither are my ways

your ways;

for as the heavens are high above the earth,

so are my ways

higher than your ways,

and my thoughts

higher than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 29**

### **SECOND READING – Ephesians 1.9-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

God's purpose

(which has now been revealed to us)

is to bring

to unity in Christ

all things in heaven

and on earth.

God chose us -

the first to set our hope on Christ -

to live to the praise of God's glory.

And now you also

can live

to the praise of God's glory,

for you also have heard

the same message of truth -

the gospel of salvation -

and you have been marked

with the seal

of the promised Holy Spirit,

which is God's pledge to us

that we are God's own people.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **GOSPEL – John 1.35-42**

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

John the Baptist

was standing with some of his disciples.

When Jesus passed by,

John said to his disciples,

'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'

On hearing this,

Andrew,

and another of John's disciples,

followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned

and saw them following,

he said to them,

'What is it

that are you looking for?'

They said to Jesus,

'Teacher,

where are you staying?'

Jesus said to them,

'Come and see.'

And they remained with Jesus that day.

Andrew went to find his brother Simon,

and said to him,

'We have found the Messiah, the Christ'.

Simon went with Andrew

to the place where Jesus was staying.

Jesus looked at Simon, and said,

'You are Simon, son of John,

but you will be called Peter, the Rock.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **EPIPHANY 2**

**Sunday 17 January**

*Readings for Year B*

### **FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 3.1-10**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The boy Samuel

was ministering to the Lord  
under the guidance  
of Eli the high priest.

The word of the Lord

was rare in those days,  
and visions from the Lord  
were few.

Eli's eyesight had begun to grow dim,  
so that he could not see.

One evening,

when the lamp of God  
had not yet gone out,  
and Eli was lying down in his room,

Samuel was lying down

in the temple of the Lord,  
near the ark of God,

and the Lord called:

'Samuel! Samuel!'

Samuel said, 'Here I am!'

and ran to Eli, and said,  
'Here I am, for you called me.'

But Eli said,

'I did not call;  
lie down again.'

So Samuel went and lay down.

The Lord called again,

'Samuel!'

Again, Samuel got up,

and went to Eli, and said,  
'Here I am, for you called me.'

But Eli said,

'I did not call, my son;  
lie down again.'

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord,

and the word of the Lord  
had not yet been revealed to him.

The Lord called Samuel again, a third time.

Again, Samuel got up,

and went to Eli, and said,  
'Here I am, for you called me.'

Then Eli understood

that the Lord was calling the boy,  
so Eli said to Samuel,  
'Go, lie down;  
and if you hear the call again, you shall say,  
"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."'

So Samuel went

and lay down in his place,  
and the Lord came, and stood there,  
calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

And Samuel said,

'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### **SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 6.12,19-20**

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

All things may be lawful -

but not all things

are beneficial.

All things may be lawful -

but you should take care

not to become

a slave to anything.

Your body is now a temple of the Holy Spirit,

given by God, and dwelling within you.

You are no longer your own,

for you were bought with a price,

to be a servant of God.

Therefore glorify God

in your body.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **GOSPEL – John 1.43,45-51**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The next day,

Jesus was in Galilee.

Jesus found Philip,

and said to him, 'Follow me.'

Philip found Nathaniel,

and said to him,

'We have found the one

written about

by Moses and the prophets -

Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.'

Nathaniel replied,

'Can anything good  
come out of Nazareth?'

Philip said,

'Come and see.'

When Jesus saw Nathaniel

coming towards him, he said,

'Here is a good Israelite,  
honest and true!'

Nathaniel asked Jesus,

'How do you know me?'

Jesus answered,

'I saw you under the fig tree,  
before Philip called you.'

Nathaniel replied,

'Teacher, you are the Son of God!  
You are the King of Israel!'

Jesus answered,

'Do you believe  
because I told you  
that I saw you under the fig tree?  
You will see greater things than this!

Truly, I tell you,

you will see the heavens opened,

and the angels of God

going up and coming down

between heaven

and the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Psalm 139.1-5, 12-17**

### **EPIPHANY 3**

**Sunday 24 January**

*Readings for Year B*

#### **FIRST READING – Isaiah 62.1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this:

For the sake of Zion

I will not keep silent,  
and for the sake of Jerusalem

I will not rest,

until her righteousness

shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation  
like a burning torch.

All nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all kings shall see your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the Lord shall give to you.

You shall be a crown of beauty

in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem  
in the hand of your God.

You will no longer be called 'forsaken',  
and your land

shall no longer be called 'desolate';

but you shall be called 'my delight',  
and your land

shall be called 'beloved bride';  
for the Lord delights in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **Psalm 36.5-10**

#### **SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 9.20-23**

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

I am free,

and yet I have made myself  
a servant to everyone,  
that I might lead  
as many as possible  
to salvation.

To those who live under the law,

I became like one  
who lives under the law,  
so that I might win those  
who live under the law.

To those who live outside the law,

I became like one  
who lives outside the law  
so that I might win those  
who live outside the law  
(although always subject, myself,  
to the law of Christ).

And to the weak, I became weak,  
so that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people;  
and all this for the sake of the gospel,  
that by all possible means

I might lead some to salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL – John 2.1-11**

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

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples  
were also guests  
at the wedding.

The wine ran out,

the mother of Jesus said to him,  
'They have no wine.'

Jesus said to his mother,

'What concern is that to you, or to me?  
My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants,

'Do whatever he tells you.'

Standing there

were six stone water-jars -  
as used

for the Jewish rites of purification.

Each held twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them,

'Fill the jars with water.'

And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them,

'Now draw some out,  
and take it to the chief steward.'

So they took the water

(which had now become wine)  
to the steward,  
and he tasted it.

The steward did not know where it came from  
(though the servants who brought it knew).

When he tasted it,

he called the bridegroom,  
and said to him,

'Everyone serves the good wine first,  
and then the inferior wine later,  
when the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this,

the first of his signs,  
revealing his glory,  
at Cana in Galilee;  
and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## EPIPHANY 4

Sunday 31 January

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – *Jonah 3.1-5,8,10*

A reading from the book of Jonah.

The word of the Lord

came to Jonah,  
saying,  
'Get up,  
and go to Nineveh,  
that great city,  
and declare to it  
the message  
that I shall tell you.'

So Jonah set out

and went to Nineveh,  
as the Lord had spoken.

Nineveh was such a large city  
that it would take three days  
to walk across it.

Jonah entered the city,

going a day's walk,  
announcing,

'Forty days more,  
and Nineveh will be overthrown!'

And the people of Nineveh

received the word of God.

They declared a fast,

and everyone,  
great and small,  
put on sackcloth,

as the king commanded

that they turn from their evil ways  
and from violence.

When God saw all that they did -

how they turned from their evil ways -  
God resolved to save them  
from the calamity

that had been declared against them.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 25.3-9

### SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 9.24-27*

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

You know that,

in a race,  
all the runners compete,  
but only one receives the prize.

So run this race as if to win!

Athletes work with discipline

for an earthly reward -  
but we work for an eternal reward!

So run, and work,

with direction, and purpose.

Indeed I myself,

while teaching others,  
work with discipline, like an athlete,  
so that I myself

should not be left disqualified.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Mark 1.14-28*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

After John the Baptist was arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee,  
proclaiming the good news of God,  
and saying,  
'The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, and believe the good news.'

As Jesus walked

by the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon, and his brother Andrew,  
casting a net into the lake,  
for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them,

'Come, follow me,  
and I will send you out  
to fish for people.'

Immediately, they left their nets,  
and followed him.

As Jesus went a little further,

he saw James and John,  
the sons of Zebedee,  
in their boat,  
mending the nets.

Immediately, Jesus called them;

and they left their father Zebedee in the boat  
with the hired men,  
and followed Jesus.

They went to Capernaum,

and when the sabbath came,  
Jesus entered the synagogue, and taught.

All were amazed at his teaching,

for unlike their scribes,  
he taught with authority

While they were there in the synagogue,

a man with an unclean spirit  
came and cried out,

'What are you doing here,  
Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy us?

I know who you are - the Holy One of God!'

But Jesus rebuked him, saying,

'Be silent, and come out of him!'

The unclean spirit,

throwing him into convulsions,  
and crying with a loud voice,  
came out of him.

They were all astounded,

and asked one another,  
'What is this new teaching,  
with such authority?

He commands even the unclean spirits,  
and they obey him.'

And his fame spread

throughout the region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **EPIPHANY 5**

**Sunday 7 February**

*Readings for Year B*

### **FIRST READING – Isaiah 40.28-31**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator  
of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary.  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and grow weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who trust in the Lord  
shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 147.1-12, 20c**

### **SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 10.13, 10.31-11.1**

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

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 with the testing,  
will also provide the way out,  
so that you are able to endure it.  
Now let everything you do  
be for the glory of God.  
Give no offence to others,  
whether Hebrews or Greeks,  
or the church of God itself;  
but follow my example,  
as I seek to follow the example of Christ,  
aiming to please everyone  
in everything I do;  
not seeking my own advantage,  
but the advantage of others,  
so that many may be saved.  
This is the word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL – Mark 1.29-39**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

When Jesus left the synagogue,  
he went with James and John  
to the home of Simon and Andrew.  
Simon's mother-in-law  
was in bed there  
with a fever.  
They told Jesus,  
and Jesus went to her,  
and took her hand.  
She awoke,  
and immediately  
the fever left her,  
and she began to serve them.  
That evening,  
around sunset,  
the whole city came out,  
gathering around the door,  
bringing to Jesus  
all who were sick  
or possessed with demons.  
He cured many who were sick  
with various diseases,  
and cast out many demons;  
and he would not permit the demons to speak,  
because they knew him.  
In the morning,  
while it was still fully dark,  
he went out to a deserted place, alone,  
and there he prayed.  
Simon and some others  
went searching for him.  
When they found him, they said to him,  
'Everyone is looking for you.'  
Jesus said,  
'Let us go on  
to the neighbouring towns,  
so that I may preach there also;  
for that is what I came to do.'  
And he went throughout Galilee,  
speaking in their synagogues,  
and casting out demons.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **EPIPHANY 6**

**Sunday 14 February**

*Readings for Year B*

### **FIRST READING** – *Leviticus 13.2-3,45-46; 14.2-4,8,10*

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

Any person with blemishes on the skin  
must be brought to the priest.

The priest will examine the skin,  
and if the blemishes  
are found to be leprosy,  
that person will be declared unclean,

and must go to live alone,  
in a dwelling outside the camp,

and must wear torn clothes,  
and leave their hair dishevelled,

and covering their mouth,  
must cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'

If the person is brought again to the priest,  
and the priest finds the disease to be healed,

the person who has been found to be healed  
shall make an offering of two turtle-doves,

with cedar-wood, and crimson, and hyssop,  
and shall bathe, and cut their hair,

and wear clean clothes, and shall be clean;  
and a week later,

shall offer a lamb, with flour and oil.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 30**

### **SECOND READING** – *2 Corinthians 3.1b-6*

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

We do not need  
letters of recommendation,  
for you are our letter,  
written in our hearts,  
to be seen and read by all.

You are a letter from Christ,  
commending our ministry,  
written not with ink,  
but with the Spirit of the living God;  
and not on stone tablets,  
but on human hearts.

Our confidence before God, through Christ,  
is the same -

for God has called us, and equipped us,  
to be ministers of a new covenant,  
not of the written law, that kills,  
but of the Spirit, that gives life.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **GOSPEL** – *Mark 1.40-45*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

A man with leprosy  
knelt before Jesus,  
and begged him,  
'If you choose,  
you can make me clean.'

Moved with compassion,  
Jesus reached out his hand,  
and touched him;  
and said to him,  
'I do choose.  
Be made clean!'

And immediately the leprosy left him,  
and he was clean.

Jesus said to him,  
'Say nothing to anyone;  
but go, show yourself to the priest,  
and make the offering, for your cleansing,  
that Moses commanded.'

But instead,  
the man who had been healed  
went out and spoke openly  
about what had happened,  
and word spread,

so that Jesus could no longer  
go into any town openly,  
but stayed out in the country;  
and people came to him  
from every town and city.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## LENT 1 - Sunday 21 February

*Readings for Year B*

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 9.8-17*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God said to Noah,

'I am making a covenant with you,  
and with all your descendants,  
and with the animals, and the birds,  
and every living creature that came out of the ark.

And this is the covenant

that I make with you:  
that never again  
will all life be destroyed  
by the waters of a flood.

And now I set the rainbow in the clouds,

as a sign of the covenant  
that I make with you this day,  
the covenant that I make  
with you, and all the earth,  
and with every living creature,  
for all generations.

And whenever the rainbow

appears in the clouds,  
I will remember the covenant  
that I make with you this day.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 25.1-10

### SECOND READING – *1 Peter 3.18-22*

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Christ suffered for our sins -

the righteous for the unrighteous -  
to lead us back to God.

Put to death in the body,

but alive in the spirit,  
Christ proclaimed freedom  
even to those  
who had rebelled against God  
long ago.

In the days of Noah,

God showed great patience,  
that some might be saved,  
"through the waters,"  
by the building of an ark.

In the same way,

you are now saved  
through the waters of baptism,  
not as a removal of dirt from the body,  
but as an appeal to God  
for cleansing from sin,  
and as an appeal to God  
for salvation  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And Christ has now ascended into heaven,

to the right hand of God,  
high above all angels, authorities, and powers.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Mark 1.9-15*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

In those days,

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee,  
and was baptised by John  
in the river Jordan.

As Jesus was coming up out of the water,

he saw the heavens torn apart,  
and the Spirit  
descending on him like a dove;

and a voice came from heaven:

'You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit

immediately drove him out  
into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness forty days,

tempted by Satan;  
and he was with the wild beasts;  
and the angels waited on him.

After John was arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee,  
proclaiming the good news of God,  
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.

## LENT 2 - Sunday 28 February

*Readings for Year B*

### FIRST READING – *Genesis 15.1,5-6*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

‘Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your protector,  
and your reward will be great.

Look to the sky.

Your descendants  
will outnumber the stars.’

Abram trusted

in this word from the Lord,  
and this made him righteous  
in the eyes of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 33.6-12

### SECOND READING – *Romans 4.1-5,13,16,23-25*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

If our ancestor Abraham

had been made righteous  
in the eyes of the Lord  
by what he did,  
he would have had something  
to boast about.

But the scripture says

that it was Abraham’s trust in God  
that made him righteous  
in the eyes of the Lord.

God’s promise to Abraham

was not like a wage,  
paid for demands fulfilled,  
or like a salary, from an employer.

God’s promise to Abraham

was not earned  
by fulfilling the demands of the law,  
because God’s promise to Abraham  
was made  
before the law even existed.

God can declare

even the ungodly  
to be righteous in God’s eyes.

God made a promise to Abraham,

and declared Abraham  
to be righteous in God’s eyes,  
not because Abraham fulfilled any law,  
but because Abraham trusted in God.

And so we see that righteousness

in God’s eyes  
does not come  
from fulfilling the demands of the law,  
but from trusting in God.

We see that God’s promise to Abraham

is not something earned,  
by fulfilling a law,  
but is a gift, freely given.

And so we see also

that God’s promise  
is freely given  
to all the descendants of Abraham:  
both those who follow the demands of the law,  
and those who share the faith of Abraham  
without the law.

We all inherit God’s promise to Abraham

as a free gift,  
by God’s grace alone.

And now we also see

that Scripture records the account  
of God’s promise to Abraham  
not only for the sake of Abraham  
and his descendants,  
but for us all;

for God also declares us

to be righteous in God’s eyes -  
not on account of any law,  
but because we trust

in the one who raised our Lord Jesus from the dead.

Jesus, who died on account of our trespasses,

was raised up  
that we too  
might be made righteous  
in the eyes of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *Mark 9.2-9*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

Jesus took with him

Peter, and James, and John,  
and led them up a high mountain.

And there he was transfigured before them.

His clothes became dazzling white.

And there, talking with Jesus,

appeared Elijah, and Moses.

Peter said to Jesus,

‘Teacher, it is good for us to be here.  
Let us build shelters,  
for you, for Moses, and for Elijah.’

He did not know what to say,  
for they were overwhelmed.

Then a cloud appeared,

and covered them,  
and a voice spoke from the cloud:

‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’

And suddenly,

they saw no one with them any more,  
but only Jesus.

As they were

coming down the mountain,  
Jesus ordered them  
to tell no one  
about what they had seen,  
until the Son of Man  
had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### LENT 3 - Sunday 7 March

Readings for Year B

#### FIRST READING – Exodus 20.1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

God gave these commandments, saying,  
'I am the Lord your God.

I brought you out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol,  
in the form of anything  
that is in the sky above,  
or the earth below,  
or the waters under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them

or worship them,

for I am the Lord your God,

grieving at the rebellion

of those who reject me

to the third and fourth generation;

and showing steadfast love

to a thousand generations

of those who honour me

and keep my commandments.

You shall not take the name

of the Lord your God

in vain.

You shall remember the sabbath day,

and keep it holy.

Six days you shall labour,

and do all your work,

but the seventh day

is a sabbath

to the Lord your God.

On the sabbath day,

you shall do no work.

You, your son, your daughter, your servants,

your livestock,

and the foreigners living amongst you -

all shall rest on the sabbath day,

for in six days, the Lord made the heavens,

the earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

but rested the seventh day;

therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day

and made it holy.

You shall honour your father and mother,

that your days may be long

in the land

that the Lord your God

is giving to you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house.

You shall not covet your neighbour's wife,

or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey,

or anything that belongs to your neighbour.'

This is the word of the Lord.

#### SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

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

The message about the cross

is foolishness to those who are perishing,

but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

The scripture says, 'Their wisdom will perish,

and their understanding will fail.'

And indeed God has made foolish

the wisdom

of the scholars and debaters

of this world.

God's wisdom dictated

that the world would not come to know God

through its own human wisdom,

but that God would save those who believe

through the foolishness of our proclamation.

Hebrews look for miracles, and Greeks look for wisdom,

but we proclaim Christ crucified.

This is a stumbling-block to Hebrews,

and foolishness to Gentiles,

but to those who are being called -

both Hebrews and Greeks -

the proclamation of Christ crucified

is the power of God,

and the wisdom of God;

for God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,

just as God's weakness

is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL – John 2.13-22

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

The Passover festival was near,

and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the temple,

he found traders selling cattle, sheep, and doves,

and money-changers, seated at tables.

Making a whip of cords,

he drove them all out of the temple,

and the sheep and the cattle with them.

He scattered the coins of the money-changers,

and overturned their tables.

He said to those who were selling doves,

'Get those out of here -

for you are making my Father's house

into a market-place!

And his disciples remembered the scripture that says,

'Zeal for your house will consume me'.

The temple authorities said to Jesus,

'What sign can you show us,

that gives you the authority to do this?'

Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple,

and in three days I will raise it up.'

They said, 'This temple has been under construction

for forty-six years, and will you raise it in three days?'

But he was speaking of the temple of his body;

and after he was raised from the dead,

his disciples remembered these words,

and they believed the scripture,

and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### Psalm 19

## LENT 4 - Sunday 14 March

*Readings for Year B*

### FIRST READING – *2 Chronicles 36.14-21a*

A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles.

The priests and the people,  
at that time,  
were unfaithful,  
following the evil ways of other nations,  
even in the house of the Lord, in Jerusalem.

So the Lord, the God of their ancestors,  
sent messengers, repeatedly,  
out of compassion  
for his people  
and his dwelling-place.

But the people mocked  
the messengers of God,  
despising their words,  
and scoffing at the prophets,  
until the displeasure of the Lord  
was so great  
that the Lord brought up against them  
the army of the king of Babylon.

The invading army  
killed their youths with the sword,  
even in the temple,  
and had no compassion  
even on the weak or the elderly.

Both the temple and the palace  
were burned to the ground,  
and their treasures  
were taken away to Babylon;  
and the city walls were broken down.

Those who escaped from the sword  
were taken as prisoners to Babylon.

There they became servants  
to the king of Babylon and his successors,  
until the establishment  
of the new kingdom of Persia,  
to fulfil the word of the Lord  
(by the prophet Jeremiah).

And Judea lay desolate  
for seventy years.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 137.1-6

### SECOND READING – *Ephesians 2.1-10*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

When we lived by the rules of this present world,  
filled with the spirit of disobedience,  
following the desires only  
of the body and the senses,  
we were dead  
in trespass and sin.

But God,  
who is rich in mercy,  
loved us with great love,  
and raised us up  
to new life in Christ.

And so we have been saved  
by the grace of God,  
who raises us up,  
with Christ and in Christ,  
to heaven itself,  
so that all may recognise,  
now and for all time,  
the infinite riches of God's grace towards us  
in Jesus Christ.

It is by God's grace  
that we have been saved,  
through faith.

Your salvation is not your own doing,  
as if it were some achievement,  
of which you might boast.

No, your salvation is the gift of God,  
who has re-made us,  
in Christ Jesus,  
for the good works  
that have been prepared for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *John 3.14-21*

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
that whoever believes in him  
may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
will not perish  
but will have eternal life.

God did not send the Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved  
through him.

Those who believe in him  
are no longer condemned;  
but those who do not believe  
are suffering condemnation already,  
because they have not believed  
in the name  
of the only Son of God.

The light has come into the world,  
but some have loved darkness  
rather than light,  
because their deeds were evil.

All who do evil  
hate the light,  
and they hide from the light,  
out of fear  
that their evil deeds  
might be exposed.

But those who do what is true  
come to the light,  
and all can see  
that their deeds have been done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## LENT 5 - Sunday 21 March

*Readings for Year B*

### FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 31.31-34*

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel,  
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like  
the covenant that I made  
with their ancestors,  
when I led them out of Egypt -  
a covenant that they broke,  
says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make  
with the house of Israel  
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my law within them,  
and I will write it on their hearts;  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

All shall know me,  
from the greatest to the least,  
and I will forgive their iniquity,  
and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 119.9-16

### SECOND READING – *Hebrews 5.7-9*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

In the days of his flesh,  
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,  
with loud cries and tears,  
to the one who was able to save him from death,  
and he was heard  
because of his reverent submission.

Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience  
through what he suffered;  
and having been made perfect,  
he became the source of eternal salvation  
for all who obey him.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *John 12.23-28a,31-32*

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

Jesus said,

'The hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you,  
unless a grain of wheat  
falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life  
will lose it,  
while those who hate their life in this world  
will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,  
and whoever serves me,  
the Father will honour.

And now my soul is troubled,  
and I would long to pray,  
"Father, save me from this hour,"  
but instead, I pray,  
"Father, glorify your name."

Now is the judgement of this world;  
now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw all people to myself.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **PALM SUNDAY - Sunday 28 March**

*Readings for Year B*

*The Palm Procession reading is read outside*

*at the beginning of the Palm Procession.*

*The Passion reading is usually read by the minister.*

### **PALM PROCESSION – Luke 19.35-40**

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

They brought the colt to Jesus,  
threw their cloaks on it,  
and set Jesus on it.

As Jesus rode along,  
people spread their cloaks on the road.

As Jesus was approaching  
the path down  
from the Mount of Olives,  
the whole crowd of disciples  
began to praise God joyfully  
with a loud voice,  
for all the deeds of power  
that they had seen,  
saying,

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

Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!’

Some Pharisees in the crowd  
said to Jesus,  
‘Teacher, order your disciples to stop.’

Jesus answered,  
‘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 50.4-7**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary  
with a word.

Morning by morning  
the Lord God wakens my ear  
that I may listen and learn.

The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn away.

I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard.  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced.

I have set my face like flint,  
and I know  
that I shall not  
be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 31.9-16**

### **SECOND READING – Philippians 2.5-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you  
that was in Christ Jesus.

Though he was in the form of God,  
he did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a servant.

Being born in human form,  
he humbled himself,  
through obedience,  
even to the point of death -  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him,  
and has given him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus,  
every knee should bow,  
in heaven, and on earth,  
and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **PASSION – Mark 14.1 - 15.47**

The Passion reading  
is usually read by the minister

## MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday 1 April

*Readings for Year B*

### FIRST READING – *Micah 6.6-8*

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

What will you offer to the Lord,

as you bow down

before God most high?

Will you bring

burnt-offerings

and year-old calves?

Will the Lord be pleased

if you bring a thousand rams,

or rivers of oil,

or even your firstborn

offered for your transgression -

the fruit of your body

for the sins of your soul?

God has told you what is good,

and this is what the Lord requires of you:

to do justice,

to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 15

### SECOND READING – *Romans 12.1-2,9-21*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you, therefore,

brothers and sisters,

in response to God's great mercy,

to present your bodies

as a living sacrifice,

holy and acceptable to God.

Do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed

by the renewing of your minds,

so that you may discern what is

the good, acceptable, and perfect

will of God.

Let love be genuine.

Hate what is evil.

Hold fast to what is good.

Love one another with mutual affection.

Outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal.

Be ardent in spirit.

Serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope.

Be patient in suffering.

Persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints.

Extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you;

bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice;

weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be haughty,

but associate with the lowly.

Do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,  
but take thought for what is noble  
in the sight of all.

If it is possible,

so far as it depends on you,

live peaceably with all.

Never take revenge.

Leave room, instead, for the judgement of God,

for it is written,

'Vengeance is mine,

I will repay, says the Lord.'

No, if your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;

for by doing this

you will heap burning coals on their heads.

Do not be overcome by evil,

but overcome evil with good.

This is the word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL – *John 13.4-9,12-15, 34-35*

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

Jesus left the table,

took off his outer robe,

and tied a towel around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin,

and began to wash the disciples' feet,

and to wipe them with the towel

that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

'Lord, you cannot wash my feet.'

Jesus answered,

'You do not know now

what I am doing,

but later you will understand

that unless I wash you,

you have no part in me.'

Simon Peter said to him,

'Then Lord, not only my feet,

but my hands and my head also!'

After Jesus had washed their feet,

he put on his robe,

returned to the table,

and said to them,

'Do you know what I have done for you?

You call me Lord and Teacher -

and you are right, for that is what I am.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher,

have washed your feet,

you also

ought to wash

one another's feet.

For I have set you an example,

that you also should do

as I have done to you.

And I give you a new commandment:

that you love one another,

as I have loved you.

By this, everyone will know

that you are my disciples,

if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## **GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 2 April**

### **FIRST READING – Isaiah 53.3-5**

*(no introduction at the beginning or response at the end – just read the passage as it appears below)*

He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering,  
and acquainted with infirmity.  
As one from whom others hide their faces,  
he was despised,  
and we held him of no account.  
Surely he has borne our infirmities,  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
and crushed for our iniquities.  
Upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

### **SECOND READING – Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9**

*(no introduction at the beginning or response at the end – just read the passage as it appears below)*

Since we have a great high priest  
who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.  
For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses,  
but we have one who  
in every respect  
has been tested as we are,  
yet without sin.  
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace  
with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy,  
and find grace to help in time of need.  
In the days of his flesh,  
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,  
with loud cries and tears,  
to the one who was able to save him from death,  
and he was heard  
because of his reverent submission.  
Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered;  
and having been made perfect,  
he became 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*

*(no introduction at the beginning or response at the end – just read the passage as it appears below)*

Jesus went out with his disciples  
across the Kidron valley  
to a place where there was a garden,  
which he and his disciples entered.  
Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place,  
because Jesus often met there with his disciples.  
So Judas led a band of guards and officials,  
from the high priests and the Pharisees,  
to the place, and they arrived there  
with lanterns and torches and weapons.  
Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him,  
came forward and asked them,  
'Who is it  
that you are looking for?'  
They answered,  
'Jesus of Nazareth.'  
Jesus replied,  
'I am he.'  
Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.  
When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,'  
they stepped back and fell to the ground.  
Again he asked them,  
'Who is it  
that you are looking for?'  
And they said,  
'Jesus of Nazareth.'  
Jesus answered,  
'I told you that I am he.  
So if you are looking for me,  
let these others go.'  
This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken,  
'I did not lose a single one  
of those whom you gave me.'  
Then Simon Peter, who had a sword,  
drew it, struck the high priest's servant,  
and cut off his right ear.  
The servant's name was Malchus.  
Jesus said to Peter,  
'Put your sword back into its sheath.  
Am I not to drink the cup  
that the Father has given me?'  
Then the guards and the officials,  
arrested Jesus, and bound him.  
After arresting Jesus,  
they took him first to Annas,  
who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas,  
the high priest that year.  
Caiaphas was the one  
who had advised them  
that it was better  
to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter, and another disciple, followed Jesus.  
That other disciple was known to the high priest,  
and so was able to follow Jesus  
into the courtyard of the high priest;  
but Peter was left standing outside the gate,  
until the other disciple  
(the one who was known to the high priest)  
went out  
and spoke to the woman who guarded the gate,  
and brought Peter in.  
The woman said to Peter,  
'Are you also  
one of this man's disciples?'  
Peter said,  
'I am not.'  
Now the servants and officials  
had made a charcoal fire,  
because it was cold,  
and they were standing around it  
and warming themselves.  
Peter also was standing with them  
and warming himself.  
Then the high priest questioned Jesus  
about his disciples and his teaching.  
Jesus answered,  
'I have spoken openly to the world.  
I have always taught in the synagogue  
and in the temple,  
where the people gather.  
I have said nothing in secret.  
Why ask me,  
when you can ask those who heard me.'  
When Jesus had said this,  
one of the temple police standing nearby  
struck Jesus on the face, saying,  
'Is that how you answer the high priest?'  
Jesus answered,  
'If what I have said is untrue, then say so;  
but if what I have said is true,  
why do you strike me?'  
Annas sent Jesus, bound,  
to Caiaphas the high priest.  
Now Simon Peter  
was still standing and warming himself;  
and they asked him,  
'Are you also one of his disciples?'  
Peter denied it, and said, 'I am not.'  
One of the servants of the high priest  
(a relative of the man  
whose ear Peter had cut off)  
asked Peter,  
'Did I not see you with him in the garden?'  
Again Peter denied it;  
and at that moment,  
the cock crowed.

## GOOD FRIDAY PASSION READING PART 2

*John 18:28 - 19:16a*

*(no introduction at the beginning or response at the end – just read the passage as it appears below)*

At first light,  
they took Jesus from Caiaphas  
to Pilate's headquarters.  
They themselves did not enter the headquarters,  
as that would have been a ritual defilement,  
preventing them from eating the Passover.  
So Pilate went out to them, and said,  
'What accusation do you bring against this man?'  
They answered,  
'If this man were not a criminal,  
we would not have handed him over to you.'  
Pilate said to them,  
'Take him yourselves  
and judge him according to your law.'  
They replied,  
'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.'  
(This was to fulfil what Jesus had said  
when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)  
Then Pilate entered the headquarters again,  
summoned Jesus, and asked him,  
'Are you the King of the Jews?'  
Jesus answered,  
'Do you ask this on your own,  
or did others tell you about me?'  
Pilate replied,  
'I am a Roman, not a Jew.  
Your own nation and chief priests  
have handed you over to me.  
What have you done?'  
Jesus answered,  
'My kingdom is not of this world.  
If my kingdom were of this world,  
my followers would be fighting to protect me.  
But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'  
Pilate asked him,  
'So you are a king?'  
Jesus answered,  
'You are saying that I am a king.  
I was born,  
and I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth  
listens to my voice.'  
Pilate said to him,  
'What is truth?'  
Pilate went again  
to those who were outside,  
and said to them,  
'I find no case against him.  
But you have a custom  
that I release someone for you at the Passover.  
Do you want me to release  
the King of the Jews?'  
They shouted in reply,  
'Not this man, but Barabbas!'  
Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.  
And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns  
and put it on his head,  
and they dressed him in a purple robe.  
They kept coming up to him, saying,  
'Hail, King of the Jews!'  
and striking him on the face.  
Pilate went out again and said to them,  
'Look, I am bringing him out to you  
to let you know that I find no case against him.'  
So Jesus came out,  
wearing the crown of thorns  
and the purple robe.  
Pilate said to them,  
'Behold the man!'  
When the chief priests and the temple police saw him,  
they shouted,  
'Crucify him! Crucify him!'  
Pilate said to them,  
'Take him yourselves and crucify him;  
I find no case against him.'  
They answered him,  
'We have a law,  
and according to that law, he ought to die,  
because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'  
Now when Pilate heard this,  
he was more afraid than ever.  
He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,  
'Where are you from?'  
But Jesus gave him no answer.  
Pilate therefore said to him,  
'Do you refuse to speak to me?  
Do you not know  
that I have the power to release you,  
and the power to crucify you?'  
Jesus answered him,  
'You would have 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 sought to release Jesus,  
but the people cried out,  
'If you release this man,  
you are no friend of the emperor,  
for everyone who claims to be a king  
sets himself against the emperor.'  
Pilate brought Jesus outside,  
and sat on the judge's bench,  
at a place called The Stone Pavement,  
(or in Hebrew Gabbatha).  
It was the day of Preparation for the Passover,  
close to midday.  
He said to them,  
'Behold your King!'  
They cried out,  
'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!'  
Pilate asked them,  
'Shall I crucify your King?'  
The chief priests answered,  
'We have no king but Caesar.'  
Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them  
to be crucified.

### GOOD FRIDAY PASSION READING PART 3

*John 19:16b-end*

*(no introduction at the beginning or response at the end – just read the passage as it appears below)*

With Jesus carrying his own cross,  
they led him out to 'The Place of the Skull',  
which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.  
There they crucified him;  
and two others with him,  
one on either side,  
with Jesus between them.  
Pilate also had an inscription written,  
and put on the cross;  
it read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'  
Many people read this inscription,  
because the place where Jesus was crucified  
was near the city,  
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.  
Then the chief priests said to Pilate,  
'Do not write, "The King of the Jews,"  
but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."'

Pilate answered,  
'What I have written, I have written.'

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,  
they took his clothes  
and divided them into four parts,  
one for each soldier.  
But his tunic was seamless,  
woven in one piece from the top,  
so they said to one another,  
'Let us not tear it,  
but cast lots for it, to see who will get it.'

This was to fulfil what the scripture says:  
'They divided my clothes amongst themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

Standing near the cross of Jesus  
were his mother,  
and his mother's sister,  
Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother,  
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,  
he said to his mother,  
'Woman, here is your son.'

Then he said to the disciple,  
'Here is your mother.'

And from that time on,  
the disciple took her into his own home.

After this,  
when Jesus knew that all was now finished,  
he said (in order to fulfil the scripture),  
'I am thirsty.'

A jar full of sour wine was standing there.  
So they put a sponge full of the wine  
on a branch of hyssop  
and held it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said,  
'It is finished.'

Then he bowed his head,  
and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation,  
the leaders of the people  
did not want the bodies left on the cross  
during the sabbath  
(especially as that sabbath  
was a day of great solemnity);  
so they asked Pilate  
to have the legs of the crucified men broken,  
and the bodies removed.

The soldiers came  
and broke the legs of the first,  
and of the other,  
who had been crucified with him.

But when they came to Jesus,  
and they saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs.

Instead,  
one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear;  
and at once blood and water came out.  
(He who saw this has testified,  
so that you also may believe.  
His testimony is true,  
and he knows that he tells the truth.)

These things occurred  
so that the scripture might be fulfilled:  
'None of his bones shall be broken.'

And again, another passage of scripture says,  
'They will look upon the one  
whom they have pierced.'

Now Joseph of Arimathea  
was a disciple of Jesus,  
but secretly,  
because of his fear  
of the religious leaders.

After these things had taken place,  
Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate  
to let him take away the body of Jesus.

Pilate gave him permission;  
so he came and removed Jesus's body.

Nicodemus,  
who had first come to Jesus by night,  
also came,  
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes,  
weighing about a hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus,  
and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths,  
according to their burial customs.

Now there was a garden  
in the place where he was crucified;  
and in the garden there was a new tomb,  
in which no one had ever been laid.

And so, because it was the day of Preparation,  
and the tomb was nearby,  
they laid Jesus there.

## EASTER DAY - Sunday 4 April

Readings for Year B

### FIRST READING – *Isaiah 25.6-9*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this holy mountain,  
the Lord of hosts  
will make for all peoples  
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 will destroy the power of death for ever.  
The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces,  
and will take away the disgrace of the people  
from all the earth;  
for the Lord has spoken.  
It will be said, on that day,  
'Truly, this is the Lord our God,  
in whom we trusted.  
Let us be glad and rejoice,  
for the day of our salvation has come.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Psalm 118.15-25

### SECOND READING – *1 Corinthians 15.1-10a*

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

I would remind you, brothers and sisters,  
of the good news that I proclaimed to you -  
the good news that you received,  
the good news in which you stand,  
the good news in which are saved:  
that Christ died for our sins  
(in accordance with the scriptures);  
that he was buried;  
and that he was raised up on the third day  
(in accordance with the scriptures);  
that he appeared then to Cephas,  
then to the twelve,  
then to more than five hundred brothers and sisters  
at one time  
(most of whom are still alive).  
Then he appeared to James,  
then to all the apostles.  
Last of all,  
as to one untimely born,  
he appeared also to me.  
For I am the least of the apostles,  
unfit to be called an apostle,  
because I persecuted the church of God.  
But by the grace of God,  
I am what I am,  
and God's grace towards me  
has not been in vain.  
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 from the tomb.  
So she ran, and went to Simon Peter,  
and the other disciple  
(the one whom Jesus loved),  
and said to them,  
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,  
and we do not know where they have laid him.'  
So Peter, and the other disciple, set out,  
and went towards the tomb.  
The two were running together,  
but the other disciple outran Peter,  
and reached the tomb first.  
He bent down to look in,  
and saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
but he did not go in.  
Then Simon Peter came, following him,  
and went into the tomb.  
Simon Peter saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,  
not lying with the linen wrappings,  
but rolled up in a place by itself.  
Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first,  
also went in; and he saw, and he believed;  
(for until this point,  
they had not understood the scripture,  
that he must rise from the dead).  
Then the two disciples returned to their homes;  
but Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.  
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;  
and she saw two angels in white,  
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,  
one at the head, and the other at the feet.  
They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'  
She said to them, '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 said to her, 'Woman, 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, in Hebrew,  
'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).  
Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me,  
because I have not yet ascended to the Father.  
But go to my brothers, and tell them that  
I am ascending to my Father and your Father,  
to my God and your God.'  
Mary Magdalene went, and announced to the disciples,  
'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them  
that he had said these things to her.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.