

The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for

7th February 2021: Second Sunday Before Lent



www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk

In all we do, we seek to live out Jesus' command to draw close to the love of God in worship, and to share this by loving our neighbour



Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our churches: opening as places for prayer and reflection in our communities

The Parish Church of Louth St James will be open for private prayer between
10am and 1pm

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

*Please see pages 2 and 3 for details of other churches that are open for private prayer
across the Deanery of Louthesk*

DIARY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP THIS WEEK...

Services marked * are broadcast via www.facebook.com/louthchurch

Sunday 7th	9 30am	Morning Service form Great Carlton via Zoom
Second Sunday		Please contact John S 328369
Before Lent	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'* Psalm 104.26-end Proverbs 8.1,22-31; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14
	10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
	10am	Morning Service at Marshchapel
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	11 15am	Holy Communion at Legbourne
	6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James'* Psalm 65; Genesis 2.4b-end; Luke 8.22-35
Monday 8th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 30; Ecclesiastes 7.1-14; 1 John 19.1-16
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	10 30am	Funeral at Binbrook
Tuesday 9th	9 15am	MATINS at St James'* Psalm 36; Ecclesiastes 7.15-end; John 19.17-30
	11am	HOLY COMMUNION at St James'*
	11 45am	Praying with the Imagination (Ignatian) Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
Wednesday 10th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 34; Ecclesiastes 8; John 19.31-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
	2pm	FUNERAL at St James'
	7 30pm	COMPLINE online from Louth Rectory*
Thursday 11th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 37; Ecclesiastes 9; John 20.1-10
	10 30am	Funeral at Grimoldby
	10 30am	Funeral at Binbrook
	11am	Mass at St Michael's
Friday 12th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 31; Ecclesiastes 11.1-8; John 20.11-18
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
Saturday 13th	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	11am	Marshchapel open for private prayer 'til 12 noon
	12 30pm	MIDDAY PRAYER at St James'*

Sunday 14th	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James’*
Sunday Before Lent		Psalm 50.1-6 2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
	10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
	10am	Morning Service at Marshchapel
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	10 30am	Holy Communion at Manby
	11 15am	Matins at Legbourne
	1 30pm	Holy Baptism (Lucy Ormond) at Manby
	3pm	Holy Communion at Fotherby
	6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James’*
		Psalm 2; 1 Kings 19.1-16; 2 Peter 1.16-end

JOINING IN WORSHIP

All our worship is being streamed on the Parish of Louth facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view these services – just click on ‘Not now’ when it asks you to sign up. www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live

 Watch Louth CofE Services as live streams (and previously recorded) on Facebook. No account needed

DETAILS OF CHURCHES OPEN

Binbrook: Please ‘phone the keyholder on 07778 316486 for access

Covenham: Please ‘phone the Churchwarden on 01507 363508 for access.

Fulstow: closed, please ‘phone 07825 293389 for access.

Fotherby: The Outreach Post Office is open on Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Great Carlton: Please ‘phone the Churchwardens on 01507 328369 or 450527 for access

Grimoldby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 328917

Louth, St James: Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 1pm.

Ludborough: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01472 840505 for access.

Manby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 327199 for access.

Marshchapel: temporarily closed for Private Prayer

North Thoresby: Please ‘phone a churchwarden on 01472 840698 or 840160 for access.

Utterby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 07802 182756 for access.

An Order of Service for the Eucharist this Sunday

- *We open our hearts to God, that we might be transformed by his love*
- *We listen to God's Word, and seek to find out how we may grow to understand God's will for us more fully*
- *We gather around the table to share a symbolic meal, a meal that joins us with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; the saints who have lived in all times and places*
- *We pray that we go out as lights that shine with God's love wherever we might go*

The Gathering

The GREETING and PREPARATION

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

Amen.

Together we pray...

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the Ministers enter, organ music may be played or a psalm sung.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say the GLORIA, a Song of Praise written by the early Christians

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The COLLECT prayer

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1.15-20

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 1.1-14

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did 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 what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

There will be a HOMILY and period for reflection, after which the service continues with the NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS, which may include the following bidding and response:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And may end with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A CHANT may be sung, or the organ played, as the altar is prepared.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The prayer at this point may include the following response:

Blessed be God for ever.

The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts, ending with:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.]

The president recalls the Last Supper, after which the following acclamation may be used:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

Amen.

We sit or kneel for the LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.

The priest leads the congregation in prayer:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Following this prayer, all join in:

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.

Amen.

The Dismissal

We stand, and the priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We stand as the Ministers leave.

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WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME

A range of spiritual resources remain available across the deanery as follows:

- **Parish of Louth on Facebook:**
All services are being streamed on Facebook Live (you do not need to be a registered facebook user):
<https://www.facebook.com/louthchurch>
- **Parish of Louth website:**
Downloadable resources (including this leaflet), an uploaded broadcast of Sunday Eucharist from St James, and regular video meditations:
www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk
- **Deanery of Louthesk: The Confraternity of St Herefrith**
Video and other prayer resources will be available from the confraternity's website, including a regular meditations by members of the clergy serving the Deanery of Louthesk.
<https://herefrith.org/confraternity-resources/video/>
- **'Praying with...'**
Online sessions, available live via Zoom (see Parish Notes for details) or as a video on the Parish of Louth facebook page.
- **St Andrew's Stewton Church Community** welcomes everyone. Since March 2020 we have produced an email 'Post' every Sunday morning to sustain the life of our church community on-line. You can access these Posts via the web site www.standrewsstewton.co.uk or have your email address added to our circulation list on request to windhover22@live.co.uk

Matins and Evensong: An Order of Service

*If used in the context of a family or household the words in **bold** are said by all. If said alone, all words are spoken by the individual praying.*

Along with this order of service you will need a Bible for the psalm and readings. Details of which psalm and readings to use are found on page 2.

If the service forms the only, or the main, act of worship on a Sunday in a parish church, then the Minister calls on everyone to reflect on those things that distance us from God and, after a pause for reflection, we join in the Prayer of Confession, which is followed by a prayer of absolution or forgiveness:

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, that confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

At other time the service may be begin with the opening responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God

*Say or recite the **Venite, Exultemus Domino** (Psalm 95, at Matins) and the appointed **Psalm(s)**.*

The Psalm(s) end with the 'Gloria patri':

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*A Reading from **The Old Testament**. (See page 2 for details)*

*Say or sing the **Canticle**; either the **Benedictus** (at Matins) or **Magnificat** (at Evening Prayer):*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people; And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets: which have been since the world began; That we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to remember his holy covenant; To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham: that he would give us; That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies: might serve him without fear; In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

And thou child shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.-

A Reading from The New Testament. (See page 2 for details)

*At Evening Prayer, we also say the **Nunc Dimittis**:*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Creed

You may wish to stand to say the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers

The Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Prayers:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

These Prayers end with one or more Collects for the Day (see the front over) and the following morning or evening Collects:

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A time for Reflection

After any further prayers, there may be a time for reflection including the singing of an anthem. If using this material at home, you may find this a good time to play a piece of recorded music or listen to one of the podcasts/video meditations.

The Conclusion

*The service ends with either a **Blessing**, or by praying the **Grace**:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us now and evermore. **Amen.**

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THIS WEEK'S PSALM AND HOMILY

Psalm 104.26-end

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan: whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

27 These wait all upon thee : that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

28 When thou givest it them they gather it : and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.

29 When thou hidest thy face they are troubled : when thou takest away their breath they die, and are turned again to their dust.

30 When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made : and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

31 The glorious majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever : the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

32 The earth shall tremble at the look of him : if he do but touch the hills, they shall smoke.

33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live : I will praise my God while I have my being.

34 And so shall my words please him : my joy shall be in the Lord.

35 As for sinners, they shall be consumed out of the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end: praise thou the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.

Homily

'Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain'

A carpenter and three fishermen, going up a mountain in a desert. It's almost the start of a joke, isn't it! But this was no joke, and it was no Sunday afternoon stroll along the beach. Imagine the effort it must have cost them all to get up there. How many times do you think Peter stopped and asked "Why am I doing this?" Because every step they took was a step further away from what he knew, and what he was comfortable with. But Peter, James and John had made the decision to follow Jesus, and they stuck with it, no matter where he led them.

When they got to the top, of course, they were rewarded with a wonderful view and, shortly after, a wonderful vision. We can't really understand it, or possibly even picture it in our thoughts, but we can make links with Jesus' public ministry which has gone before, and links with the crucifixion still to come, so that the transfiguration is a pivotal point in the gospel story.

Think back to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, when he takes the first step out of the anonymity of his home life and comes to John for baptism. At the moment of baptism, Mark tells us, the Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted on him, and a voice from heaven said "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) Words repeated during the transfiguration as if God is affirming, for both Jesus and for the disciples, what Jesus is going to do in Jerusalem.

Then think forward in the gospel story to the crucifixion. At the transfiguration we see Jesus in shining light on the mountain top, flanked by Moses and Elijah. At the crucifixion we see Jesus in utter darkness on the cross, flanked by two thieves. And the voice that we hear is not the voice of God the Father, but the voice of Jesus crying out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

Now, with hindsight, we can make those links between Jesus' Baptism and transfiguration, and between his transfiguration and his crucifixion. We can make those links in the knowledge that the crucifixion was not the end, and that the darkness was shattered by the brightness of the resurrection. But Peter, James and John, standing on the mountain, could not make those links. They did not know what was going to happen.

It is not certain that any of them were present at his baptism, although they may have heard stories about what happened. Nor is it certain that they were present at the crucifixion. Peter, for example, ran away from Jesus in the hours before the crucifixion.

So what did Peter, James and John understand from the transfiguration that they witnessed? Probably not much at all. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He recognised something was happening and being Peter, he wanted to be in on the action – even if he got it hopelessly wrong.

Why would Peter want to build three dwellings for Jesus, Elijah & Moses? Possibly because this was a way of preserving or capturing the experience. Peter didn't really understand what was going on – but he recognised that it was something special, something holy. And he didn't want it to end.

Most Christians can identify moments in life when God has felt particularly close and treasure those moments. Maybe some even try to replicate those moments – arrange their lives around them so that they can experience again and again the closeness of God. Perhaps they revisit the place, or play the same music hoping that God will once more draw them close.

And yet, what Peter discovered was that these moments of closeness to God, are simply moments on a journey – and not always a pleasurable journey.

Jesus led Peter, James and John back down the mountain and turned his face to Jerusalem. The experience stayed with those disciples, but they left the mountain behind. And in doing so, they discovered, as we must also discover, that closeness to God is not a once in a lifetime opportunity, like the transfiguration. It is available for all time, if only we would choose to experience it.

Homily Reflection

1. How might you cultivate the secret place of your heart?
 2. Alms giving, prayer, fasting: is God calling you to focus on one of these in particular this Lent?
 3. Is there anything else from the passage that speaks to you not already discussed? What is it?
 4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today?
- #everydayfaith

NOTES AND NOTICES

- James and Arabella have now moved into the Rectory in Louth as a temporary arrangement during interregnum. Their new landline telephone number is 01507 604215.
- A limited number of services will be taking place across the Deanery for Ash Wednesday on 17th February; details are below.

9 15am Matins	Louth, St James	James Robinson
11am Holy Communion + ashing	Legbourne	James Robinson
6pm Holy Communion + ashing	Grimoldby	Julie Oddy-Bates
6pm Holy Communion + ashing	Louth, St James	Arabella Milbank Robinson

~ SOUL SONGS ~



A REFLECTIVE COURSE FOR LENT ON THE PSALMS

Each week one of the Deanery ministry team will reflect upon a particular psalm that means something to them. We will then have a chance to pray the psalm together and work through how it speaks to us, before taking the 'soul song' into our week to come.

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning on 24th February. 7pm, finishing in time for the live-streamed Compline at 8pm.

You can join in person on Zoom, or access them afterwards as videos through the website or facebook. The Parish Notes will also include a worksheet form of the reflection each week.

The picture is of King David by Marc Chagall

COVID -19 REMINDERS

We can only continue holding public worship if we all adhere very closely to the guidance in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Here are some reminders of how this should affect our behaviour in church.

- **Social distancing remains as important as ever**, sadly, as even post-vaccination we may be able to transmit the virus. Please do remember to keep the 2m distance from one another, vergers and clergy at all times, inside and outside.
- **Mask-wearing is also essential**, unless you are medically exempt. A visor on its own does not protect others from potential transmission
- **Before the service**, once we have given track & trace details and sanitised our hands (letting them air-dry, not wiping off the gel) we proceed directly to our seats.
- **After the service**, we make our way directly and immediately out onto the cobbles where the priest will already have gone to bid the congregation farewell and hear any pastoral needs or concerns.
- **Orders of Service** (Parish Notes) should be taken with you after the service, in order that the vergers do not have to handle them.

In our prayers this week...

All those affected by the current pandemic

The Sick and those in need: Marguerite Baillie, Peggy Baillie, Anne-Marie Bidwell, Helen Blakey, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Dettmer-Beecroft, Rosemary Huke, Fr James Drayton, Christina Livesey, Roly Livesey, Mal Locking, Bob Lewis, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Eileen Robinson, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson

Those who have died: John Lomas, May Wildsmith, Trevor Ireland, Patricia Tointon, Christine Scott, Anne Leak, Jennifer Carlyon, Diane Jones, Enid Dalzell Mary Betts, Ida Broxholme, Christopher Rolph, Phyllis Coulson, Greta Rainthorpe. Nigel Pickering

PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail louthparishpastoral@gmail.com or 'phone 01507 604215.

Deanery Office 01507 610247

louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
and other enquiries

Trinity Centre 01507 605803

trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk

For matters relating to activities at Trinity Centre

Safeguarding concerns 01507 610752

For information about how to respond to safeguarding concerns,
or for sources of support, please see Safeguarding Notices in church porches

www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk