

# The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

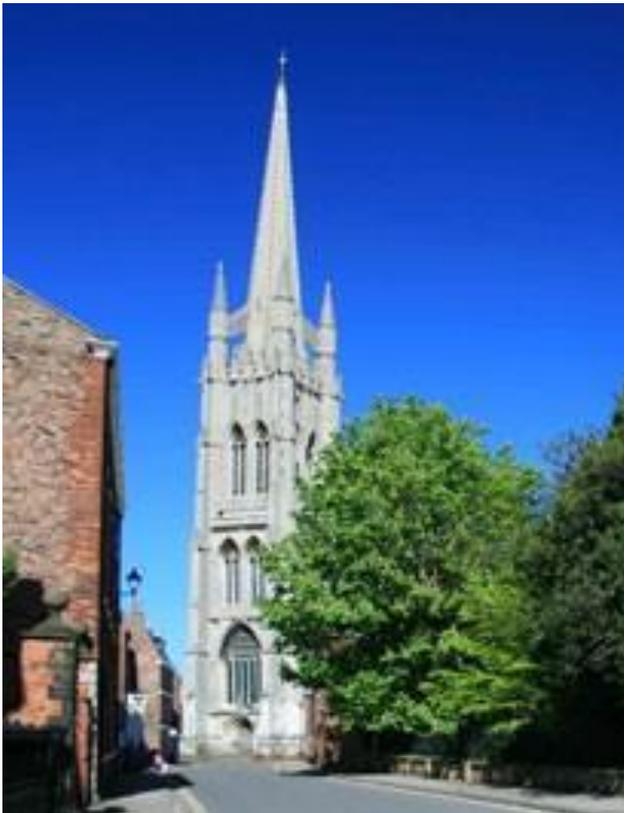
Weekly notes and information for  
14th February 2021: Sunday Before Lent

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)



## Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week

Almighty Father, whose Son  
was revealed in majesty before  
he suffered death upon the  
cross: give us grace to perceive  
his glory, that we may be  
strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his  
likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.



## 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](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch)

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b> Sunday Before Lent	10am	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 50.1-6
		2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
	10am	<b>Morning Service</b> at North Thoresby
	10 30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Manby
	10 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Grimoldby
	11 15am	<b>Matins</b> at Legbourne
	1 30pm	<b>Holy Baptism</b> (Lucy Ormond) at Manby
	3pm	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Fotherby
	6pm	<b>PLAINSONG EVENSONG</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 2; 1 Kings 19.1-16; 2 Peter 1.16-end
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 44; Jeremiah 1; John 3.1-21
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	2pm	<b>Funeral</b> at Alford Crematorium
	3pm	<b>Funeral</b> at Alford Crematorium
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9am	<b>Funeral</b> at Alford Crematorium
	9 15am	<b>MATINS</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 48; Jeremiah 2.1-13; John 3.22-end
	11am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> at St James'*
	11 45am	Praying with the Bible (Lectio Divina) Go to: <a href="http://www.zoom.us/join">www.zoom.us/join</a> or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 38; Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19; 1 Timothy 6.6-19
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	11am	<b>Holy Communion with ashing</b> at Legbourne
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
	6pm	<b>Holy Communion with ashing</b> at Grimoldby
	6pm	<b>HOLY COMMUNION with ashing</b> at St James'*
	Psalm 51.1-18 Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21	
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 77; Jeremiah 2.14-32; John 4.1-26
	11am	<b>Mass</b> at St Michael's
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9 15am	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 3; Jeremiah 3.6-22; John 4.27-42
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	12 30pm	<b>MIDDAY PRAYER</b> at St James'*
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Great Carlton via Zoom
First Sunday of Lent		Please contact John S 328369
	10am	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 25.1-9 Genesis 9.8-17; 1 Peter 3.18- end; Mark 1.9-15
	10am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at North Thoresby
	10am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Marshchapel
	10am	<b>Holy Communion</b> at Grainthorpe
	10 30am	<b>Morning Service</b> at Grimoldby
	11 15am	<b>Eucharist</b> at Legbourne
	6pm	<b>PLAINSONG EVENSONG</b> at St James'*
		Psalm 119.17-32; Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19

## 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](http://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.*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**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.*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through 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 Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-12**

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6**

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

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 9.2-9**

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then 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 did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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*

Jesus says to his disciples,

‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.’ 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:*

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask 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...*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.*

*Common Worship and New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2002.*



## **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](http://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](http://www.standrewsstewton.co.uk) or have your email address added to our circulation list on request to [windhover22@live.co.uk](mailto: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 50.1-6

THE Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken : and called the world, from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof.

2 Out of Sion hath God appeared : in perfect beauty.

3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.

4 He shall call the heaven from above : and the earth, that he may judge his people.

5 Gather my saints together unto me : those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.

6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness : for God is Judge himself.

### **Homily for Ash Wednesday**

The season of Lent begins today with Jesus' reminder that the human heart is the place where we meet with God. The life of faith is rooted and nurtured in our inner life, in the secret place of our motives, instincts and disciplines. In today's Gospel Jesus urges his followers to cultivate this inner relationship with God and not to rely on outward shows of piety as evidence of living faith.

We have been in one form of lockdown or another for the best part of a year now. We have been asked to isolate, to withdraw from the public spaces we enjoy and from the face-to-face relationships that give life meaning. No longer able to spend time with family and friends, not able to enjoy face to face fellowship with our Christian community, we are more dependent on our inner life while we have discovered new ways to stay in touch courtesy of modern technology.

As we begin the season of Lent today Jesus' encouragement to nurture the secret life of faith might feel very 'déjà vu.' In a sense we have lived in Lent for a year! The things we used to do as church communities have ceased: no prayer meetings and Bible study groups; no church socials; no fundraisers; no community gatherings, concerts or fetes. Our experience of church life has been stripped down to its essentials. Our experience of the life of faith has been stripped down to private prayer, worship on zoom and maybe a short, said, socially distanced service in person in church. We should therefore be well prepared for this season of Lent. For the activists amongst us the challenge is to do all the good things that nurture the soul in private without their public expression which we value so highly. For others the isolation of lockdown has been no different to ordinary life, those for whom this way of living the faith is already an integral part of their discipleship. And for others family life in lockdown has thrown us together such that there is little space of any kind, emotional or spiritual. That brings its own kind of isolation.

Jesus isn't saying that the normal virtues and indicators of a lively faith (alms giving, praying and fasting) must stop if we can't do them in public. Far from it. He is encouraging us precisely not to focus on the public expressions of faith, because the inner ones are so much more important. He invites us to rediscover that the wellspring of the life of faith is within us and does not consist in the busyness of church life. Forced by lockdown to give up the busy public outworking of our faith Jesus invites us to rediscover the secret place in which we know God and he knows us.

Lent in lockdown gives us the opportunity to re-examine our commitment to sacrificial giving from our God-given resources (time, personal gifts and – yes – our money) to serve his loving purposes. So, we might want to look at our giving to our parish church and to the charities and projects God puts it on our hearts to support.

We might want to take some time to cultivate that secret place of prayer in which we rest in God's presence. Susanna Wesley was married to Samuel and they had 19 children, 10 of whom survived to adult life. There was nowhere for her to go to be quiet. They all knew though that when her apron was over her head, they should not disturb her. She was praying. Where might be our secret place for prayer?

Fasting in private is more do-able. Taking charge of our food intake as a sign of our commitment to the things of God can be done more readily when we are at home for extended periods of lockdown. When we do go out, we wash our face, comb our COVID hair and emerge renewed, confident in God's love and ready to look for the coming of his kingdom.

Lent in lockdown presents us with the opportunity to take Jesus teaching to heart; to know ourselves loved by God and able to respond from our hearts to his love and generosity.

### **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.

~ SOUL SONGS ~  
A REFLECTIVE COURSE FOR LENT  
ON THE PSALMS



King David, Marc Chagall

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

**Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm  
finishing in time for the live-streamed  
Compline at 8pm.**

24th February - PSALM 100 - James Robinson  
3rd March - PSALM 139 - Chris Wedge  
10th March - PSALM 4 - Jenny Ballantyne  
17th March - PSALM 121 - Daphne King  
24th March - PSALM 27 - Arabella Milbank Robinson  
31st March (Holy Week) - PSALM 22 - Alan Heyday

You can join in person on Zoom using your computer or telephone. Go to:  
[www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) or 'phone 0131 460 1196 and enter the Meeting ID 842 4999 6840  
and password 379263.

Alternatively you can watch the video recordings at any time. Go to:  
[www.facebook.com/louthchurch/videos](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch/videos) or  
[www.teamparishofouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishofouth.org.uk)

The Notes sent out from St James around the Deanery will also include a worksheet form of the reflection each week.

# 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**

**Thanksgiving for the birth of:** *Frederick William Harris*

**Those welcomed into the church through baptism:** *Lucy Erika Ormond*

**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, Jennie Levick, 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:** *Patricia Tointon, Christine Scott, Anne Leak, Jennifer Carlyon, Diane Jones, Enid Dalzell, Mary Betts, Ida Broxholme, Christopher Rolph, Phyllis Coulson, Greta Rainthorpe, Mary Padison*

### PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail

[louthparishpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:louthparishpastoral@gmail.com) or 'phone 01507 604215.

**Deanery Office 01507 610247**

[louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals  
and other enquiries

**Trinity Centre 01507 605803**

[trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)