

# Welcome to the Parish of Rushall and the Churches of St. Michael the Archangel and Christ the King

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February is the Second Sunday before Lent**  
Services this week

The Second Sunday Before Lent		8 <sup>th</sup>	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's St. Michael's	Services online
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>		8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom	10.30am service at St. Michael's is streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>		8am 9.30am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	Zoom Christ the King Christ the King Zoom	
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>		8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom	Morning and Evening Prayer take place on Zoom on various days of the week:
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>		9.30am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	St. Michael's St. Michael's Zoom	please contact us for the link if you wish to join us.
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>		11.15am	Funeral	St. Michael's	
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>			No services		
Sunday next Before Lent	15 <sup>th</sup>		8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's Christ the King St. Michael's St. Michael's	

Now in Ordinary time, the short period between Epiphany and Lent, we reflect upon the wonder of God the creator.

## Readings for Holy Communion – 8<sup>th</sup> February

### The Collect

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**

### First Reading

*Genesis 1.1-2.3*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

<sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' <sup>29</sup>God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## Psalm 136: 1-9, 23-end

### R: For his mercy endures for ever

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*

2 Give thanks to the God of gods,  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

4 Who alone does great wonders,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

5 Who by wisdom made the heavens,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

7 Who made the great lights,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*  
8 The sun to rule the day,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*  
9 The moon and the stars to govern the night,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*  
23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*  
24 And delivered us from our enemies,  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*  
25 Who gives food to all creatures,  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*  
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*

### **Second Reading**                    *Romans 8.18-25*

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, <sup>21</sup>in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
The word of the Lord endures for ever.  
The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.  
**Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**                            *Matthew 6.25-34*

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: <sup>25</sup>‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith?’

<sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup>So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

### **Prayer of preparation**

Blessed be God,  
by whose grace creation is renewed,  
by whose love heaven is opened,  
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice  
of praise.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Post Communion 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.**

### **Readings for Evensong**

### **Psalm 148**

**R: Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise him in the heights**

1 Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you his angels;  
praise him, all his host. **R**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you stars of light.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens. **R**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
for he commanded and they were created.

6 He made them fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word; **R**

9 Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
10 Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing; **R**  
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
12 Young men and women,  
old and young together;  
let them praise the name of the Lord. **R**  
13 For his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.  
14 He has raised up the horn of his people  
and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Alleluia. **R**

**First Reading** *Proverbs 8.1,22-31*

<sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
<sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
<sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
<sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
<sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth –  
<sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup>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,  
<sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

## Second Reading

## Revelation 4

'I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' <sup>2</sup>At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! <sup>3</sup>And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. <sup>4</sup>Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup>Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; <sup>6</sup>and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup>the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy,  
the Lord God the Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come.'

<sup>9</sup>And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

"<sup>11</sup>You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.'

## Next week:

Sunday next Before Lent	15 <sup>th</sup>	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's St. Michael's St. Michael's St. Michael's
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8am 9.30am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Drop In Evening Prayer	Zoom Christ the King Christ the King Zoom
Wednesday <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	8am 6pm <b>7.30pm</b>	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer <b>Holy Communion</b>	Zoom Zoom <b>St. Michael's</b>
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	8am 9.30am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Drop in Evening Prayer	St. Michael's St. Michael's St. Michael's Zoom
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>		No services	
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	8am 6pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer	Zoom Zoom
First Sunday of Lent	22 <sup>nd</sup>	8am 9am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer	St. Michael's tbc St. Michael's St. Michael's