

✠ 1st Sunday in Lent ✠ 22nd February

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



FIRST READING

(Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7)

A reading from the book of Genesis:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."' 'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

(Romans 5.12-19)

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned – to be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life

through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

(Matthew 4.1-11)

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory. The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."' Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PARISH CONTACTS

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BLACKBURN DIOCESE CENTENARY



✠ ST GEORGE'S CHORLEY ✠

NOTICES FOR 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

WELCOME – as we gather together to hear from God in His word, to receive God in the Sacrament, and to encourage each other in the faith.

ST GEORGE'S CONTACTS

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Church Hall

WE WELCOME CAROL PEARSON – our ALM (and LLM in training), as she preaches God's word to us this morning and leads us in our Intercessions.

Heavenly Father, guide Carol with your Holy Spirit, that the words that she speaks, and the words that we hear, will be unto us all the word of God. Amen.

LENT - Looking for something to take up this Lent? Why not join our informal and friendly group at 1 Rylands Road starting this Wednesday 25th February at 7:30pm as we follow Bishop Philip's 'Knowing Jesus' Course. No previous experience necessary and no need to commit to every week! Also available on the Diocesan Fruitful App. *Mission and Discipleship Team.*

LENT LUNCH - 8th March 11:45am. Please join us for delicious homemade soup in exchange for a donation to a local charity: SVP Buddies Chorley, who do an excellent job supporting the needy of our town (see the magazine for more details) Please sign the list at the back of church for catering purposes and to let us know of any allergies / dietary requirements. If anyone would like to make soup please see Elizabeth. Thank you, M&D Team.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – due to circumstances, we will join with All Saints' at their church for the confirmation service on Wednesday 22nd July at 7:30pm. Anyone interested please contact Fr Jordan for more details. Adults too are welcome to be confirmed at the same time.

ALPHA COURSE - 7:30pm every Thursday starting 5th March at All Saints' vicarage. Led by Fr Jordan, join us for the chance to explore your faith, especially to prepare yourself for confirmation or baptism this Lent season. This course will include a meal and time together; watching a video and asking the big questions about faith. Everyone is welcome!

Our hymns this morning

Gradual **206** Glory be to Jesus
Offertory **343** Jesu, lover of my soul
Communion *Choir: Corp – Take up your cross*
622 Sweet sacrament divine
590 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
Post Communion **221** God is working his purpose out

PRAYER TREE - Due to the ongoing sufferings of the peoples of the Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza, along with the recent events in the USA, our prayer focus for the next couple of months will be on **World Peace** alongside continuing to pray for our vacancy.

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE – 4th Anniversary service of Remembrance, 24th February 6:30pm at St Mary's Church. The service will involve Churches Together, guests and members of the Ukrainian community. Everyone welcome. Refreshments after the service in St Mary's Club.

CANDLE WAX APPEAL. A reminder that soldiers are still fighting in the trenches in Ukraine; so please save the ends of your candles and place them in the bag at church.

PARISH PASTORAL VISITING TEAM – if you know of anyone who would like a visit from the team or a Home Communion, please contact Carol Pearson either by phone or email: carolpearson@outlook.com or call 07981 021288.

MOTHERS' UNION - At our next branch meeting this Thursday, 26th Feb at 7.30pm in St George's Hall our Speaker is called Naza. "My Story - From Hospital to Kitchen". We would like to open this up to members of Thursday Ladies and The Men's Fellowship. (Numbers please to help with catering)

VACANCY PRAYER

You are encouraged to please use this prayer daily.

Heavenly Father,

In this time of waiting, we place our trust in You.

Keep us unified as a parish and faithful in prayer.

Send down your Holy Spirit to guide those responsible for choosing our new incumbent.

May the one chosen be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, build us in faith and grow our church family.

We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Simon Newell, Dorothy Treadwell, Marjorie Baxendale, Audrey Clark

Also for those whose years' mind falls at this time:

Ada Livesey, Elizabeth Tootell, George Watchorn, Bill Carr, James Gardiner,

