



**St Mary the Virgin and All Saints
Potters Bar
8th February 2026
The Second Sunday before Lent**

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,
especially if this is your first time here.*

Refreshments are served in the hall after the Sung Eucharist

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

New Testament Reading: Romans 8 vv 18-25 *Such a glorious future lies before us that any present sufferings are by comparison as of no account.*

Gospel: Matthew 6 vv 25-34 *Salvation comes only from putting God and goodness always first. Jesus teaches that God loves and cares for us.*

Hymns: 377, 397, 401, 296, 466

5.00pm **EVENSONG** Hymns: 436, 405, 248

*This week's flowers have been arranged by Millicent Burks,
Jessica Hollings & Trisha Salmon and
donated by Sue Loader in memory of her husband John*

The Week Ahead

Monday	10.30am	St Mary's Friendship Group meets at Oakmere Tea Rooms <u>All welcome</u>
Tuesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.15am	Church cleaning session
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
	7.45pm	Barnet Deanery Synod meets at St Andrew's Totteridge
Wednesday	9.30am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	10.00am – 12 noon	Carers' coffee morning in hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
	7.00pm	Hertfordshire Chorus rehearsal in church
Thursday	9.30am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)

Next Sunday is the **Sunday next before Lent**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

followed by lunch in church hall

Next Sunday's readings will be: Exodus 24 vv 12-18;
2 Peter 1 vv 16-21 and Matthew 17 vv 1-9.

Parish Notices

Church cleaning takes place **this Tuesday** from 10.15am to 12 noon. If you can join the small group to help with this, that would be much appreciated.

The monthly coffee morning for carers takes place **this Wednesday** in the church hall from 10.00am to 12 noon. If you or anyone you know would value the opportunity to meet with other carers, please do come along.

NEXT SUNDAY we shall enjoy our **pre-Lent Thai lunch** in the hall from 12 noon. **Please make sure you have signed the list on the noticeboard TODAY** if you are planning to attend, so that we have accurate numbers. A donation towards the lunch (**£10 minimum**) is requested; proceeds will be shared between St Mary's and our Lent charity. Please give your donation to either **Jenny Pearce** or **Liz Nethercott**, or you can pay by bank transfer. There will be wine and soft drinks available with the lunch but you can also bring your own drinks if you wish.

We will be setting up the hall for the lunch on **Saturday from 3.00pm** – please come along if you can help.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February**. There will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes at **10.00am** that day, but in the evening, we shall be joining once again with members of all churches across the town for a non-eucharistic ecumenical service with imposition of ashes at Our Lady and St Vincent Church at **7.30pm**.

The devotion "**Stations of the Cross**" will take place on Friday lunchtimes during Lent at **12.30pm**, beginning on **Friday 20th February**. Lent study groups will meet as usual on Thursday mornings and Monday evenings. More details to follow next week.

The World Day of Prayer led by women is on **Friday 6th March**. There will be a service at **11.00am** at Our Lady and St Vincent Church to which all are welcome.

For your prayers

The sick Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Carole Waller, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Lisa Collins, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Lindsey Lyons, Steven Seal

We also pray for Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Françoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ron Golden, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte

The recently departed

Those whose anniversary of death falls this week

George Garnham, Arthur Hancock, Elsie Garnham, Barbara Mandell

Our parish We remember those who live in St John's Close, St Louis Close and St Mary's Court

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Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

www.facebook.com/stmaryspb

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.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 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. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 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. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 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. 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. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 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, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 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." 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. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 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. 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. 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." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 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." 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. 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. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 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. 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 Psalm 136:1-9. 23-end

R For his mercy endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, **R**
Give thanks to the God of gods, **R**
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **R**
Who alone does great wonders, **R**
Who by wisdom made the heavens, **R**
Who laid out the earth upon the waters, **R**
Who made the great lights, **R**
The sun to rule the day, **R**
The moon and the stars to govern the night, **R**
Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, **R**
And brought out Israel from among them, **R**
With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, **R**
Who divided the Red Sea in two, **R**
And made Israel to pass through the midst
of it, **R**
But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the
Red Sea, **R**
Who led his people through the wilderness, **R**
Who smote great kings, **R**
And slew mighty kings, **R**
Sihon, king of the Amorites, **R**
And Og, the king of Bashan, **R**
And gave away their land for a heritage, **R**
A heritage for Israel his servant, **R**
Who remembered us when we were in
trouble, **R**
And delivered us from our enemies, **R**

Who gives food to all creatures, **R**
Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures for ever. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, 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. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 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. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-end

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: "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? 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? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 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? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

POST COMMUNION

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.



For his mer-cy en - dures for ev-er.