

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

Sunday 22nd March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent Services this week

The Fifth Sunday of Lent	22 nd	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's
Monday	23 rd	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
		7.15pm	Lent Discussion	Zoom
Tuesday	24 th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday <i>The Annunciation</i>	25 th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		3pm	Lent Discussion	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Thursday	26 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Friday	27 th		No services	
Saturday	28 th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		11am	Spring Market	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Palm Sunday	29 th	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	THE CROSS OF CHRIST	St. Michael's

Services online

The Sunday 10.30am service at St. Michael's is streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

Morning and Evening Prayer take place on Zoom on various days of the week: please contact us for the link if you wish to join us.

We enter into Passiontide as we draw closer to Holy Week and Easter.

Readings for Holy Communion – 22nd March

The Collect

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the
cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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 *Ezekiel 37.1-14*

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
3 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.
4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.
6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
7 With him is plenteous redemption
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Reading *Romans 8.6-11*

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above every name.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel

John 11.1-45

¹A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Prayer of preparation

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world
might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love

.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our
brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Readings for Evening Prayer

Psalm 30

R: I will exalt you, O Lord

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have raised me up
and have not let my foes triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you
and you have healed me. **R**

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks to his holy name. **R**

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favour for a lifetime.

Heaviness may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.

6 In my prosperity I said,
'I shall never be moved.

You, Lord, of your goodness,
have made my hill so strong.' **R**

7 Then you hid your face from me
and I was utterly dismayed.

8 To you, O Lord, I cried;
to the Lord I made my supplication: **R**

9 'What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper.' **R**

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. **R**

First Reading *Lamentations 3.19-33*

¹⁹The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
²⁸to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
²⁹to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
³⁰to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
reject for ever.

³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Second Reading *Matthew 20.17-34*

¹⁷While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; ¹⁹then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. ²¹And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' ²²But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' ²³He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

²⁴When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

²⁹As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' ³¹The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' ³²Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' ³³They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' ³⁴Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

Coming up soon:

Palm Sunday	29 th	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	The Cross of Christ	St. Michael's
Monday	30 th	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
Tuesday	31 st	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
Wednesday	1 st	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
Maundy Thursday	2 nd	11am	Chrism Mass	Lichfield Cathedral
		8pm	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
Good Friday	3 rd	2pm	Last Hour of the Cross	St. Michael's
Holy Saturday	4 th	9pm	Compline	St. Michael's
Easter Day	5 th	7am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	Christ the King
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St. Michael's

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Churchwardens: Mr Bob Barnard Tel: 01922 624943 Mrs Jan Firth (Lay Reader) Tel: 01922 449089

Lay Reader & Dementia Lead Mrs Carol Beckwith Tel: 01922 648138

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