

**ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING
PARISH MASS**

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here.*

SUNDAY 1ST MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.
At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation, by water and the word:
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord,
one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:**

**O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee..**

THE GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence
and faith.

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Most merciful God,
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;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

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.

The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect:

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever **Amen**

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 12.1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN PSALM 121

Tune Franconia

Our gradual Hymn is a congregational setting of today's psalm.

As we stand and sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**I look towards the hills;
can they bring help to birth?
My help comes from the Lord himself,
who made the heaven and earth.**

**He will not let you slide,
your keeper will not sleep,
for Israel's Lord will never tire,
who has us in his keep.**

**The Lord will keep you safe,
the Lord will be your shade.
Of sun or moon or deadly curse
you need not be afraid.**

**The Lord will keep your soul,
from evil at your door.
The Lord will keep you day by day,
both now and evermore.**

THE GOSPEL

John 3.1-17

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

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.

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

THE 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.**

Sit or kneel to pray

During the prayers these or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end of the prayers we say

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE INTERCESSIONS

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

*We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, **with a nod or a smile** and saying "Peace be with you"*

OFFERTORY HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honour,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Saviour!
Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honour,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine..

When the altar is prepared and the offerings received the president leads the offertory prayers.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,

which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.

**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks
and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days you lead us into the desert
of repentance that through a pilgrimage of
prayer and discipline we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you
bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word you open
our eyes to your presence in the world and
free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for
your mercy and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before the Lord's Prayer.

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 priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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.**

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 your peace.

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only
say the word, and I shall be healed.**

COMMUNION HYMN

The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting Days,
and God of love:
Jehovah, great I AM,
by earth and heav'n confessed;
we bow and bless the sacred name,
for ever blest.

The God of Abraham praise,

at whose supreme command
from earth we rise, and seek the joys
at his right hand:
we all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame and pow'r;
and him our only portion make,
our shield and tow'r.

The God of Abraham praise,
whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide us all our happy days,
in all our ways:
he is our faithful friend;
he is our gracious God;
and he will save us to the end,
through Jesus' blood.

He by himself has sworn -
we on his oath depend -
we shall, on eagles' wings upborne,
to heav'n ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
'Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost!'
they ever cry:
Hail, Abraham's God and ours!
We join the heav'nly throng,
and celebrate with all our pow'rs
in endless song.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us as we go forward
on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.**

NOTICES

*We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.
Banns of Marriage may be announced.
If your Birthday falls this week please tell us we would love to celebrate with you.*

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
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..

CLOSING HYMN

**Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
in ev'ry part with praise,
that my whole being may proclaim
thy being and thy ways.**

**Not for the lip of praise alone,
nor e'en the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up
of praise in ev'ry part.**

**Praise in the common things of life,
its goings out and in;
praise in each duty and each deed,
however small and mean.**

**Fill ev'ry part of me with praise:
let all my being speak
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,**

poor though I be and weak.

**So shalt thou, Lord, receive from me
the praise and glory due;
and so shall I begin on earth
the song for ever new.**

**So shall each fear, each fret, each care,
be turnèd into song;
and ev'ry winding of the way
the echo shall prolong.**

**So shall no part of day or night
unblest or common be;
but all my life, in ev'ry step,
be fellowship with thee.**

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