

Reflection for Lent 2

Today's Gospel reading takes a significant leap forward from last week. Jesus has an established ministry by this stage and is teaching his disciples about his death and resurrection. Shockingly, he has warned them that he will bring division not peace, and that any follower 'who wants to save their life, will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it' (Luke 9.24).

Here Jesus returns to the ongoing dispute with the Pharisees. He has already warned them of the consequences of their behaviour: 'Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honour in the synagogue...' (Luke 11. 43). He urged the crowd to 'Beware the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy' (Luke 12.1). Jesus constantly returns to the theme of reversal of fortunes for those who are rejected in this life, in contrast to the esteemed Pharisees who fail to understand Jesus's teaching.

Now Jesus takes on an even more powerful opponent. Despite Herod's immense earthly status, Jesus recognises that his own life will impact humanity far more than a tyrant's schemes.

Although Jesus shows anger towards Herod and the Pharisees, he retains affection for Jerusalem, the 'city of peace'. Just like many of us watching current world events, Jesus longs to gather: 'as a hen gathers her brood,' those who will be trampled by the powerful and violent. How might we speak out against the ruthless leaders of our age, while supporting those who suffer?



Rev Sarah

Codes for Zoom Compline on Sundays during Lent

Meeting ID : 767 2850 1397

Passcode: QxdMw1

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 20.03.2022 Lent 3

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church. 8pm Zoom

READINGS: OT Isaiah 55: 1-9
NT 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
GOSPEL Luke 13: 1-9



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

13th March 2022

Lent 2

10.30am in Church. 8pm Compline by Zoom

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

8pm Compline by Zoom

Tuesday 15th March

7.30pm House Group by Zoom (see Ian)

Wednesday 16th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

followed by coffee and Lent Group

Thursday 17th March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots with Breast

Feeding Support

10.30am Knit & Natter at 19 Maple Road

Friday 18th March

11.30am Stations of the Cross

Try not to drink too much Guinness on 17th March to mark the feast of **St Patrick**.



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**

Genesis 15.1–12,17–18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the

river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13.31–35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

Post Communion

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.

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter March 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. We are meeting every Tuesday throughout Lent. We will be following the C of E 'Living in Love and Faith' course. New people very welcome!

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon.

DBS renewals and checks a message from Carolyn Bryant, Parish Safeguarding Representative. As a result of recent changes DBS checks now need to be renewed every 3 years instead of 5, so everyone will need to complete a new online application. All PCC members will need a DBS check in their capacity as trustees of an organisation working with and supporting children and vulnerable adults. There are also others in connection with their work with children, taking communion to people in their homes etc. Please look out for an email from me with instructions and a link to the online application form over the next couple of weeks and speak to Jane Vowles or me if you have any questions. We appreciate that not everyone has access to email or may need additional support with the application process, providing acceptable ID etc and we would be happy to help if required. Carolyn Bryant 07780707183
Jane Vowles 07759263410

St Andrew's, Exwick. Please note that Fr David and Rev Sarah are covering some of the Sunday morning services at Exwick after the retirement of Jerry Bird. That's where Fr David is this Sunday.

