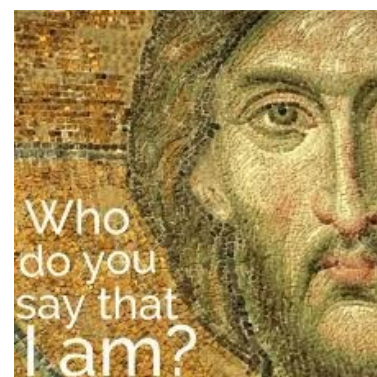


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news The Second Sunday of Lent

In our Gospel this Sunday (Mark 8:31-38) Jesus foretells his impending suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus' is aware of his mission and the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah's fate. Peter is unable to accept Jesus' prediction of suffering and rebukes him reflecting the common Jewish expectations of a triumphant Messiah. Jesus' sharp response to Peter highlights the necessity of his suffering as part of God's plan for redemption. This interaction underscores the contrast between human understanding and divine purposes, emphasising obedience to God's will over human preferences. Jesus outlines the cost of following him and he introduces the concept of taking up one's cross, symbolising self-denial, willingness to endure suffering, and total commitment to Jesus. He contrasts the value of gaining the whole world with the loss of one's soul. The message remains relevant for contemporary believers, urging us to recognise the cost of discipleship in a world often hostile to the gospel accepting suffering and persecution for the sake of Christ. To those whose allegiance is to Jesus above any worldly pursuits or desires the promise is eternal life.  
David

### Second Sunday of Lent (25 February 2024)

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

Readers: Charles Solomon

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in church & online)

Hymns: 593, 510, 709, 119, 448, 612

Readers: Vicky Peattie and Paul Goldfinch Intercessor: Vicky Peattie

#### Services during the week:

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship)** (in church & online)

Readings: Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28

**2.00pm Online prayer group** (online)

**Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)** (in church)

Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-end

**7.00pm Diocesan Lent Course** (online)

**7.30pm Vicar's Lent Course**

**Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: Second Sunday of Lent (in church)

### Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent (3 March 2024)

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in church & online)

**11.15 Family Praise** (in church)

**18:00 Evensong** (in church & online)

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

**For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website**

#### **The Collect Second Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery  
of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

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;

### **Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

### **Romans 4: 13-end**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

### **Mark 8: 31-end**

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

### **Parish News Sing Gloria!**

For those of you who like to be able to join in with the service music with confidence, we will be running a "Sing Gloria!" evening in the church at 7pm on 6th March. This will be a chance to practice the service music that will be in use after Easter, as well as to try a few other versions. All welcome! To give us an idea of numbers, please book using the QR code or the link in the enews or contact Emma in the office.

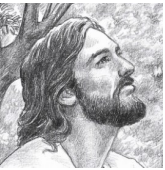


### **Home Communion—appeal**

We are looking to purchase a Home Communion set for the church, to take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend services in person. If you would be interested in contributing towards this, please see the wardens.

### **Pot plants wanted!**

On Maundy Thursday, one of the most intense scenes is when Jesus is in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. He retreated to a hidden garden on the Mount of Olives to prepare himself for the events of the next day, which would ultimately lead to his death on the cross. We would like to create a miniature replica of the Garden of Gethsemane in the Lady Chapel to commemorate this important moment. We are looking for some assistance in making this happen. So, could you lend us any portable pot plants for Maundy Thursday? That would be fabulous. You can have your beautiful pot plants back after Easter Day. Please contact Emma to let us know if you can help us with this venture.



### **Please remember those for whom we pray:**

**Wedding couples: Harry and Emma, due to be married at St Margaret the Queen, Buxted; Georgie and Matt, due to be married at Bolney**

**Immediate need:** Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Jim Knight, Tina Owens, James Watson, Bill Delany, David King

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, Jill Knight, Yvonne Godsmark

**Those in Care Homes:** Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card

### **Please remember the recently departed and their families:**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 25<sup>th</sup> Eric McMillar, Mogens Kier, Auguste Thompson, Sheena Berkeley; 26<sup>th</sup> Cyril Barton, Michael Ditt; 27<sup>th</sup> Trevor Robbins; 28<sup>th</sup> Alexander Gibson, David Collins; 1<sup>st</sup> Gordon Clack, Pamela Hamilton, Gladys Temple, Margaret Campion, Patricia Wills, Harold Stenning; 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Knowles, Gillian Fitt