



## ST MARY'S CHURCH, BRIDGWATER SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome to this weeks bulletin! St Mary's is now gathering for a service each week at 9.30am on a Sunday. Doors open at 09.15 please register as you come in (for track and trace purposes) also sanitizer is provided. If you forget your mask don't worry as we have plenty to spare!

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### GOSPEL : Matthew 5:1-12

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those

who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

### Post Communion Prayer

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Collect

*God of Holiness*

*Your Glory is proclaimed in every age:*

*As we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen*

### Connecting online



We are hoping to livestream on Facebook from this Sunday. Head to our fb page to check out the livestream which will start just before 9.30am.



We also have a new YouTube channel called **Saintmary Bridgwater** where you can discover some of the collective worship videos we produce for St Mary's school as well as other recordings / useful resources. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

#### READINGS:

Rev 7:917/ 1 John 3: 1—3

### Coming up this week:

#### WEDNESDAY

10.30am - Diocesan led Eucharist [live streamed at www.bathandwellsorg.uk](http://www.bathandwellsorg.uk)

#### THURSDAY

9.30—12noon—[Church open for individual prayer](#)

#### SUNDAY (8th)

#### 8am - COMMUNION

#### SERVICE IN CHURCH

8.10am—Sunday Worship [Listen on BBC Radio 4](#)

10.30am— [live streamed](#)

[Remembrance service from St Mary's on facebook and youtube.](#)

#### Website

[www.stmarysbridgwater.org](http://www.stmarysbridgwater.org)

#### Facebook

[@stmaryschurchbridgwater](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchbridgwater)

#### Twitter

[@StBridgwater](https://twitter.com/StBridgwater)

### People to hold in prayer this week:

- Bishop Peter Hancock
- Jess Grandfield
- Doug Smith
- Wendy Harris
- Families of: Lorraine Patterson, Eunice Day & Henry Stentafor

*If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin then*

### 200 Club Winners

1 <sup>st</sup> Lyn Martin	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tony Wilkins	90
3 <sup>rd</sup> Diana Pearce	70
4 <sup>th</sup> Roland Entwistle	62

*Drawn on 29th October*

## Loss and hope

Dear All

This time of year seems to be all about remembering. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints day where we remember those who have been champions of our faith. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> is All Souls day where we remember those loved ones who are no longer with us. On November the 8<sup>th</sup> we mark remembrance Sunday, thinking of all those whose lives have been lost and changed because of war. Just two weeks ago we held the wave of light service where we remembered and stood alongside all those who have lost babies during pregnancy or in early infancy. As I led that service, I had no idea that just two weeks later I would find myself sharing in that grief in a very real and raw way.

These last few days I have been a bit of a mess if I'm honest, very sadly on Sunday we experienced a miscarriage at 3 months pregnant. I say experienced but the truth is that my body is still going through it and it has felt traumatic both physically and emotionally. Each hour this week has seen my emotions fluctuating from a deep sense of grief, to hope, to hopelessness, to being very matter of fact and wanting to forget this has happened, to guilt that perhaps I did something that made it happen and couldn't protect the little one I was so excited to be carrying.

Loss and grief are horrendous things and not something we find easy to talk about. We often don't know what to say or do for people experiencing grief. I am also aware that I am not alone this week in knowing grief. Many of us have our own experience of loss - it is a lived experience for many of us on a daily basis - no matter how long ago your loss may have been. I want to encourage you with a line from the eucharistic prayer that has stuck with me this week which says this 'how wonderful the work of your hands O Lord, as a mother tenderly embraces her children....God embraces us'. God understands the heart of a mother and a father, God feels our pain, knows our grief, embraces us even, and especially, in the dark times.

I have not really had the words to be able to pray words for myself this week but, I know that God has been present with every single tear that I have shed in every moment of pain that I feel and will face many times over the next few days and weeks. I have however been able to pray for others that I know are experiencing grief themselves this week and being able to stand alongside, listen and pray with one another is also like a gift we can give.

Certainly, I have felt comfort knowing the love of people praying and holding Tobie and I in prayer, and although nothing takes the grief away, God is bigger than anything I can grasp and because of that I do know that there is always hope. *Suse*

### STOP PRESS

#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th November

Current Covid restrictions have meant that remembrance Sunday is going to look very different this year and nothing allowed to take place in Kings Square. This has impacted on how Sunday 8th November will look for us. Our public act of worship will be a communion service at 8am. There will be no 9.30am service on that day but a short service I've streamed at 10.30am. The numbers in the church have been limited to only 30 and this has been on an invitation only basis by the town hall and RBL. Please do log in to our facebook page or youtube account to join in with the service. Any questions then please

### Lent Appeal

I'm delighted to say that our Lent Appeal raised #676.40 for our link parish of Mawanda. This is a wonderful result especially in the current difficult circumstances. Many thanks to all of you who donated so generously,

### Samaritan's Purse 2020-

#### Operation Christmas Child

St Mary's did very well last year, sending nearly 40 boxes, I do hope we can do something similar this year. Please drop off boxes at The alive Christian Ministry, **58 Salmon Parade**, not far from the Fire Station.

Boxes can be left there from **10am to 4pm Monday 9th to Sat 14th November and from 1pm to 4pm Sunday 15th**

**November.**

If you would like to, please do take one of the ready to fill boxes in church, I have more at home if we need them. Thank you very much. *Frances Pearce*

#### Christmas presents for our link parish in Zambia

We would love to bless the children in our link parish in Zambia with a small gift of a rainbow wristband to let them know we are thinking and praying for them.

If you would like to make a contribution then a donation of 50p would cover one wristband and postage. A collection point will be available on Sunday or please get in contact and we can collect. We hope to send the wristbands off by mid November. Many thanks

*Frances Webb*