



St Mary's Bridgwater & Holy Trinity, Chilton Trinity

28th February 2021
Lent 2

Gen 17: 1-7 / Psalm 22:
22-30 / Romans 4:13-end

Gospel Mark 8:31-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. Jesus began to teach his disciples 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."

BAG 2 SCHOOL

Hi everyone hoping you are all well and thinking of a new outfit for when lockdown finishes or maybe fancy wearing something different when you have your JAB or just a change after? We are still collecting clothes for Bag 2 School so your donations are welcome, although collecting or dropping of can be a challenge these days. Bags could be left at the church door on a Thursday morning or we are still able to collect but it would be under the Covid rules as you would appreciate. The August collection of bags last year raised £85.00 from memory, so it's well worth doing! Keep Safe and God Bless.

Richard & Deb

Please pray for:

Bishop Peter Hancock. Delphine Hucker.
Mike Ollive (who has slipped a disc in his back).

RIP - Bob Bryant

Vera Davey

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and the discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his way come and share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Monday

10am - Zoom Craft group
Meeting ID: 871 4205 5835
Passcode: Craft

Tuesday

7.15pm - Lent Study Group
Meeting ID: 868 5427 9221
Passcode: lent

Wednesday

9am Morning Prayer
Meeting ID: 350 341 4741
Passcode: Prayer

Sunday

9.30am - Online recorded service

10.30am Zoom Coffee
Meeting ID: 350 341 4741
Passcode: Prayer

Revd Suse Osmond
revsuse@gmail.com / 07934804889

Revd Jonathan Trigg
jdtrigg@gmail.com



St Mary's Church, Bridgwater
TA6 3EQ

www.stmarysbridgwater.org.uk
Youtube: SaintMaryBridgwater

'Lent' from our Archdeacon Simon Hill.. based on last weeks reading...Mark 1:9-15

Lent 2021 feels a little different.

Indeed, we might be tempted to say that we are "wildernessed out" already. We have had nearly 12 months of what might feel like a desert experience we have had imposed on us a fasting from being with friends in person.

Even our eating habits have changed and as there has been wilderness so there have been angels: on hospital wards, in care homes in all sorts of acts of love and care in our communities. We have come back to the season when the first lockdown began – Lent and on this first Sunday of Lent some of the first words from Mark's Gospel – what is effectively Mark's prologue.

This is the beginning of Mark's Gospel with no shepherd or magi, or even birth. It is the temptations with no stones to turn into bread, temple to jump from or mountain to look out from. This is bullet point Mark in true Mark style giving us the basic facts. It is fast moving - baptism by John, where God declares Jesus is God's beloved son. Then he is "immediately" driven into the wilderness. There Jesus is tempted by Satan but waited upon by the angels (reflecting how the wilderness days were a necessary part of his calling). Jesus announces:

the Kingdom of God has come near
the need to repent
believe in the good news

The Gospel will in Marcan style quickly move on telling the good news of Jesus. Wherever Jesus goes, through his preaching, teaching, healing, forgiving and loving the kingdom of God draws near. And our lives move on deeper into the liturgical season of Lent. We are invited into the desert. As Ruth Burgess puts it:

The desert waits, Ready for those who come, who come obedient to the Spirit's leading; or who are driven, because they will not come any other way. The desert always waits, ready to let us know who we are – the place of self-discovery.

And whilst we feel and rightly, the loneliness and emptiness and harshness, we forget the angels, whom we cannot see for our blindness, but who come when God decides that we need their help;

when we are ready for what they can give us. For a time we are invited on a journey of a specific length taking us to Christ's passion - a journey when we are travelling less to a new destination but more back to the God who loves us.

This is an annual journey of 40 days but feels a bigger journey now with lockdown – It is as if we are in a long Lent and are challenged by it. How are we being changed? How do we make Lent and the pandemic a form of discipline to show our true character? What does discipleship mean right now?

Now more than ever we might be able to see it as something more than giving up biscuits. There may not have been imposition of ashes by hands onto forehead on Ash Wednesday this year, but more than ever the words said at that time ring true "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

In his brevity Mark tells us Jesus is God's son, that the kingdom of God has come near, to repent believe the good news and he gives us a lifetime to respond. In the 40 days of Lent, the seemingly endless days of pandemic and beyond we respond in different ways. Now is an opportunity to give space and time to our relationship with God. In 'Faith in the Future' former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes about the Sabbath:

The Jewish mystics tell the story of the rabbi who once asked his son, 'Where does God live?' The child could not understand the question. Where does God live? Where does he not live? 'Surely', said the child, 'he fills the heaven and the earth?' 'No', said the rabbi. 'God lives wherever we let Him in.' Perhaps that is the religious secret of the Sabbath. It is the day when we cast off our own devices and desires and let God in.

We can use the coming season against a backdrop of pandemic as in some ways like the Sabbath to repent, and endeavour to let God in and to be more committed to seeing the kingdom of God come near. All this in order that our daily prayer of "your kingdom come, your will be done" may be uttered from the very heart of our being.

Lent Appeal for Zambia

As we can't have our usual Smarties appeal this year, I wonder if you would like to put your spare cash to one side during Lent for me to collect in after Easter. I know that our friends in Mawanda Parish are always very grateful for your support.

Many thanks, *Richard Philpott*

Returning to worship in the building:

With the Government road map out of Covid now in place, the PCC are in discussion about our return to in building services and opening for individual prayer. We hope to be able to set out a plan in the next week or so. Suse

200 Club Winners Drawn on 25th Feb

1 st	Deborah Webber
2 nd	Richard Philpott for Martha
3 rd	Brian Gale
4 th	Lesley Griffin