

Collect

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
may we come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 (NRSV)

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.'

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

New Testament Lesson Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 (NRSV)

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 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.

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

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.

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.” *This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer Monday to Saturday **9.00am** at St Benedict’s

(Wednesday: prayer for individuals on sick list)

Holy Communion 9.30am Tuesday at St Benedict’s

11.00am Thursday at the Venerable Bede

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY, 24TH MARCH 2019 – LENT 3

St Benedict’s: 8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Parish Communion

The Venerable Bede: 9.00am Parish Communion

Sunday Club: 10.15am - Hand-in-Hand

A notice from Sarah

I am asking for volunteers to help me with setting up a group to run ‘Open the Book’ in the Primary Schools in Wombourne. I attended a training session during half term which was very encouraging and it would be wonderful if we could get a team together. I need at least 4 people who are willing to act out bible stories and have fun with the children. It’s a very good way of bringing the bible into our local schools.

Please see me for more information. sarah@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk

Wombourne Music Festival Committee

“The National Flute Orchestra”

Conductor : Tony Bridgewater

7.30pm at St Benedict’s on Saturday 30th March

Tickets £8 available from Taylor’s Greengrocer, Pat Roberts 896211,

Nigel Welch 324111 and Hilary Moore 892856

Saturday 6th April Lent Study Day with George Fisher at St John’s Swindon

An excellent day thinking about Evangelism. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join us. There is a charge for lunch.

PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET HOME AND PRAY WITH US

Pray for our cities

“Jerusalem Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets ... how often have I desired to gather your children together ... but you were not willing!” Luke 13: 14 (NRSV)

As Jesus agonised over the city he loved, pray that God will help us to take to our hearts the cities of the UK, especially Wolverhampton, on our doorstep. As Jesus knew the dark side of Jerusalem, enable us to see the needs of those who live in our cities, and bring them before God.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who have asked for our prayers: Andrew & Lily Powney, Diana, Tiana Willetts, Rosie, Chris Davies, Chris Pool, Thelma, Joyce Hodgetts, Brian Edwards, Heather Gent, Helen Whatmore, Sarah Stephenson & Maureen Gaskin.

Those who have died recently and their families: Betty Gough, Ken Hill, Iris Winifred Mackveley and Karl Daniel Pugh.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

9.00am Monday to Saturday - Morning Prayer at St Benedict's

Today at the Venerable Bede * Messy Church 3.30 - 5.30pm

Mon 18	10am Little Fish at St Benedict's 7.30pm Bede DCC 8.00-9.30pm Bell Ringers meet
Tue 19	St Joseph 9.30am Holy Communion at St Benedict's Lent Lunch at the Kingsway Church (Meditation 12 noon Lunch 12.30pm)
Wed 20	9.00am Morning Prayer with special prayers for the sick – St Benedict's 5.00pm Young People's Confirmation and Baptism training at Wom. Inst.
Thurs 21	11.00am Holy Communion at the Venerable Bede 7.30pm Adult Confirmation and Baptism preparation at the Vicarage
Fri 22	7.00pm Choir practice at St Benedict's

The Plastic's Challenge

If you would like to take part in the plastics challenge for Lent, guides are available on the back table at St Benedict's.

Stewardship Renewal. If you didn't receive your Stewardship Renewal pack last week please look for it in church today. Please return Promise envelopes next Sunday and don't forget if you have promised to increase your standing order you have to contact your Bank.

Electoral Roll. Please return your completed Electoral Roll form as soon as possible to church, the Parish Office or to Hilary Moore. Don't forget everyone has to complete a new form this year.

Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd care for the homeless by providing food and shelter. They are in great need of food items. Could you please help by bringing tea, coffee, sugar or just a tin of soup, beans etc. **The collection will be on Passion Sunday, 7 April. Thank you. (Janet Lailey)**