

Online Parish Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent Sunday 7th March 2021



WELCOME!

St Werburgh's stands in the catholic tradition of the Church of England. Here we try to practice the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we are exploring a way of living which is inspired by joyful, ordered worship and takes seriously the interior life. We embrace the challenges of peace-making both globally and locally.

Welcome to this community of healing.

Fr Julian, the vicar, is the Celebrant and our curate, Rev Kate, preaches this morning.

All of our worship at present is online as church is closed for public worship during the national lockdown.

You are warmly invited to bring your own bread and wine or food and drink as you participate in this Eucharistic service. If we have learned anything through this year of worshipping together, it is that the Holy Spirit has called us to break open our sacramental worship. If you do not feel able to do this, you are really welcome too, as we express our understandings of communion in diverse ways.

For those gathering in church:

Unless leading worship, speaking or singing, please keep your mask on at all times. Your mask should cover both your nose and your mouth.

Observe social distancing at all times.

As we join worship an organ voluntary plays

The notices are given

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The service is introduced.

Let us bring our fragility, our failings and the frailty of our compromise into God's unlimited forgiveness.

A time of silence is kept for personal reflection.

You enter the desert to face the hardest truth,
we live in self deception.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

You offer the bread of true life;
we consume what leaves us craving more.

Christe, Christe eleison.

Christe, christe eleison.

You refuse to worship empty power,
we let greed rule our world.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

May the God of all love and power, forgive and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you through the Holy Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully:

God of the overturning, may we find our way through the debris of all that protected us, to find your dangerous heart and our world upside down; through Jesus Christ, our exiled Lord.

Amen.

*There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.*

The first reading

A reading from the Book of Exodus. (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

*Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (*John 2:13-22*)
Glory to you, Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ.

*Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.*

The Sermon.

After which we remain silent.

We affirm our faith together:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Our intercessions end with:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

We share the Peace of Christ.

He will not hold us in condemnation, nor stand in power over the weak, he will become a slave, take our hate into his heart and win us with forgiveness.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you!

We offer each other a sign of peace.

The Cantor sings the Offertory Hymn

*Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round
of circling planets singing on their way;
guide of the nations from the night profound
into the glory of the perfect day;
rule in our hearts, that we may ever be
guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.*

*We would be one in hatred of all wrong,
one in our love of all things sweet and fair,
one with the joy that breaketh into song,
one with the grief that trembles into prayer,
one in the power that makes thy children free
to follow truth, and thus to follow thee.*

When all is ready, we remain standing and come to solemn prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, desert Mother, for in the valley of dry bones you create hearts of flesh quickened by the Spirit's breath. We thank you, wise Sister, that you walk in cloud and fire with your lost and faithless people. We thank you Son of Heaven, that you empty yourself of might and glory and set your face towards the fickle crowd, the cruel empire, the faithful despisers. We welcome you as God's own fool, whose cross brings to nothing the violence of the world and reveals another wisdom outside the city walls. Therefore, with all who follow your way, with the traders and tax collectors, the soldiers and prostitutes, and all who caught a glimpse of glory in the humanity you shared, we worship God's own holiness revealed in sweat and tears:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest. Hosanna, in the highest.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' +

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.' As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold. +

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love. Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.*

As our Saviour taught so we pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

If you have your own bread and wine or food and drink as we celebrate this Eucharist together: Receive what you are, the Body of Christ.

The Cantor sings the Agnus Dei

*Jesus,
Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus,
bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus,
redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.*

Once Communion has been distributed, we pray:

Lord of the feast beyond measure and price; we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share bread with our neighbour, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. Amen.

We say together the Ohana prayer:

**Loving God
transform all blocks and obstacles around us
and inside our minds,
bodies and hearts,
into pathways for your grace –
that we may be channels for your love
and peace in this place.
Embolden us with courage to dare to dream
of a better life
in which *ALL* may flourish.
Break our hearts open
so no one gets forgotten
or left behind
In Jesus name
Amen.**

We stand for the Blessing:

God be with you.
And also with you.

May the crucified Christ shatter our brittle fear, draw all hope to his glory and make us servants living for the world; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us this day and always. **Amen.**

The mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Our service ends with an organ voluntary.

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Mass Setting: Mass for Lent*