



***Then a cloud came, casting
a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
“This is my beloved Son.
Listen to him.”***

Mark 9:7

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Welcome to
St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton
14th February 2021

Sunday Services on YouTube

During lockdown we will be recording and uploading the 9.30 service to YouTube. You will be able to watch the service from around 11am each Sunday. The link to our YouTube channel is on the front page of the [church website](#).

Please pray for:-

The Residents of: Fosseway, Bath New Road, Old Pit Terrace.

The Sick:- Rachael Macfarlane, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Irene Leet, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, John Lewis, Patricia Flagg, Pat Gilham, Bishop Peter Hancock, Vince Marriot, Christopher Watts, Faye McDermott, John Norman, Joan Martindale.

Years Mind:- (S) Ernest Stenner (M) Sylvia Cox (T) George Bevir, Rosabella Fear, Frederick Nash, Doris Venables, Dave Sinkins, Roger Holley, Thurza Chedghey (W) Allan Gregory, Lillian Wilkinson, Jean Henderson (T) David Cox, Michael Hill (F) Pauline Bambury, Ada Bissex, Wifred Broad, Stanley Durbin, Alfred Wilton (S) Maidie Barnes, Ernest Westbrook, Dorothy Walton.

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A Reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians chapter 4 verses 3 – 6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia

The Word of the Lord endures for ever
The Word of the Lord is goodness announced to you
Allelulia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 9 verses 2 – 9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to

him!’ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

A Reflection from Fr Guy

“Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them.”

One of the most precious things we can hope for in life is a good perspective – it helps us know what is true and what isn’t, and where we should go. Someone lost in a jungle may climb a tree to get a perspective and see their way out, people lost in a wilderness may climb a mountain. Someone by a fence will climb up to see what’s on the other side. But height is not the only thing that gives perspective – anything which takes us out of our usual surroundings, either physically or in our hearts or minds, can give us perspective. After a bereavement or shock, people will often say: “It puts everything in perspective,” and for a time we are reminded of what’s really important in our lives. But it rarely lasts for long – eventually things return to normal and we forget that clear vision. Perhaps the last year of lockdowns, social distancing, and mask wearing, has given us a new perspective on our daily lives. A new way of seeing what is important and shedding what isn’t!

The transfiguration is one of the most important events of the Gospels, yet it is only witnessed by three disciples. The contrast with the breathless, earthy narrative of the rest of Mark’s Gospel is striking. This transcendent Jesus seems quite different from the man the disciples have been following. Yet this event is of vital importance to ensure that they don’t miss the divinity at the heart of the humanity. It is a remarkable truth, but one which only a few are able to perceive. The writer of the Gospel makes it clear that this is a special insight, one that only those who have the potential to perceive the truth may grasp. Even then, they need to be taken out of their usual context to see something that has been right before their eyes – the truth of who Jesus is.

So why does Jesus tell them not to tell anyone? The “Messianic secret” in Mark’s Gospel has bewildered many but is generally thought to indicate Jesus’ unwillingness to draw attention to himself – he came to serve and ultimately to die, not to be a celebrity. His true and transcendent nature needs to be understood (and followed) in the light of the passion and resurrection. However, it is important that we never forget his true identity as the Son of God, the Messiah – and that perspective transforms everything else. Jesus must take priority in all our thinking, our seeing, our action in the world.

As we approach Lent, we are called to set aside time to be with Jesus, to “listen to him” and renew our relationship with him. We may not be able to climb mountains, or indeed go anywhere different during lockdown – but it is important to find a way of gaining a different perspective. For some, this may come through a “Lenten discipline” – as we deprive ourselves of our usual comforts, we find ourselves in a place where life looks and feels different and we see things in a new way. For those joining our Lent Course, a different view may emerge as we share and learn together what it means to be a Eucharistic community. For others, life will have delivered a different perspective through brokenness or loss.

Christians are invited to use those opportunities to get a fresh perspective about Jesus and where he may be found in our world and our lives. The Canadian poet and singer Leonard Cohen has a line in his song, “Anthem”: “There’s a crack, a crack, in everything – it’s where the light gets in.” The cracks in our lives are really important, because so often that’s when we can see things clearly. Look for the cracks and see what they reveal about Jesus and where he is at work in the world and in your life – then listen and follow.

Prayers of Intercession by David Moore

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would enfold us in your love, surround us with your peace and encircle us with your power. Help us to choose to do what you would have us do. May your church be an example of discipline and discipleship.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God our Father, be near our children and grandchildren growing up in the perils and confusions of these times. Guard them from the forces of evil at work in our society; lead them in the paths of goodness and truth and enable us as parents and grandparents to give them the security of our love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Christ, you said to many people at various times 'Be of good courage!' Speak that word to our hearts again and again, for we all need courage:

Courage to hold fast to our Christian faith;
Courage to maintain a brave witness in the world;
Courage to overcome our fears and temptations;
Courage to persevere to the end of life's battle.

Lord, in all these things give us good courage, and make us more than conquerors through your love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you have redeemed us and called us to share in the life of your church. We thank you for our fellow-Christians, travellers with us on the way of life, who worship and work with us in the life of our church. Bind us together in your service, and always keep us close to you as well as to one another.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, in Christ you make all things new; grant to your Church a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power and a new consecration to your service; that through the witness of a renewed and dedicated people your work may be revived, and your kingdom extended among us, for the honour of your name.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Most merciful Father, we bring to you in our prayers those suffering from ill-health – Rachael Macfarlane, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul and Margaret Knott, Irene Leet, Father Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, John Lewis, Patricia Flagg, Pat Gilham, Bishop Peter

Hancock, Vince Marriot, Christopher Watts, Faye McDermott, John Norman, Joan Martindale; and those we remember now in the quietness of our own hearts. Give them now and always, the assurance of your unchanging love; and make your presence real to them, that they may trust and not be afraid. May they find peace, O God, and your healing.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the souls of those the anniversaries of whose deaths occurs this week – Ernest Stenner, Sylvia Cox, George Bevir, Rosabella Fear, Frederick Nash, Doris Venables, Dave Sinkins, Roger Holley, Thurza Chedgey, Allan Gregory, Lillian Wilkinson, Jean Henderson, David Cox, Michael Hill, Pauline Bambury, Ada Bissex, Alfred Broad, Stanley Durbin, Alfred Wilton, Maidie Barnes, Ernest Westbrook and Dorothy Walton. We thank you, Lord God, for the grace you gave to those who lived according to your will and are now at rest. May their good example encourage and guide us all the days of our life.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Post Communion

Holy God,

we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:

may we who are partakers at his table

reflect his life in word and deed,

that all the world may know his power to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY 16 February 10am – 12 Noon Private Prayer

WEDNESDAY 17th February 7.00pm **Ash Wednesday**
Holy Eucharist &
Imposition of Ashes

We hope to record this service, which will then be streamed on our YouTube channel.

THURSDAY 18th February 7.00pm – 8.30pm Lent course via
Zoom

FRIDAY 19th February 7.00pm Sarah's Quiz
via zoom

Book in with Sarah via shlewis271@gmail.com

SUNDAY 21 February 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

LENT COURSE

Our Lent Course this year will be held on Thursday evenings 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. The Pilgrim Course entitled [The Eucharist](#) has six sessions and we will begin on Thursday 18th February.

As we journey together through Lent, I hope and pray that we may learn together and share our stories as we explore how worship shapes our entire lives.

Please let me know if you would like to join us on this journey through Lent. I will require your email address for the zoom link, which you will receive on Thursday afternoon every week. I will also deliver the Course booklet to your home.

I look forward to our Lenten journey,

Guy

vicarmsnstjohns@gmail.com or tel: 412904

Church Family News

A message from Pat Marriot to say Vince's new kidney is finally working. He has left Southmead and is now at St Martins for rehab to get his muscle strength back.

Christopher Watts is now staying with his parents to try and recover his strength.

Joan Martindale fell at home and broke her hip and is in the RUH.

Because of Covid Restrictions

A reminder to let Carol know by email or phone if you hope to be able to come to our 9.30am service on Sunday 21st February (carolmoore226@yahoo.com or 01761 412226)

For further information please refer to our website www.stjohnschurch.org.uk

Third National COVID 19 Lockdown

In the light of guidance from Her Majesty's Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Bath and Wells, our Parish Church will be open for public worship, private prayer, and funerals.

The Parish Eucharist will be celebrated on Sundays at 9.30am. This will be recorded and streamed on our YouTube channel at 11.30am.

The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12noon.

During lockdown the population are asked to stay at home. Public worship is permitted so long as the provision can show that it is COVID-safe.

We encourage everyone to follow this guidance:

Persons with any symptoms should not attend church.

Persons shielding (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) should not be in wider circulation during the third national lockdown (commenced 5th Jan 2021).

We advise that anyone with an underlying health condition such as asthma or heart disease or in the clinically vulnerable group through age (70 years of age and over) should not attend public worship at this time.

Definitions for CEV and CV are available on the [NHS website](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe.