



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Christ Instructing Nicodemus 17th century
Artist: Jordaens, Jacob, 1593-1678
Building: Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts de Belgique

Second Sunday in Lent.

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

Today: Sunday 5th March 2023

9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel said with address

10.30 a.m. Sunday First

7:00 p.m. Agape Centre, Lisburn Road Joint Churches Lenten Service 2/5

The Eucharist ~*See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004. 9am pg.201: Address-The Rector*

The Gathering *page 201/125*

Celebrant The Rector

Opening Hymn

Collect of the Day

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gradual Hymn

Gospel (stand)

Sermon

Peace (stand) *page 207 / 131*



Offertory Hymn

Liturgy of the Sacrament Great Thanksgiving (1) *page 209*

The Lord's Prayer

Communion

Motet

Great Silence

Post Communion Hymn

Going Out *page 220 ff /145*

Post Communion Prayers *page 220*

Blessing

Dismissal

Organ Voluntary

Office Setting

Collects

Almighty God,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

Grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things

that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things

as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading **Genesis 12: 1-4a**

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'^{*}

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 121 pg.743

Second Reading **Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17**

4 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is

void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John chapter three beginning at verse one. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

John 3: 1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the

wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Creator of heaven and earth,
we thank you for these holy mysteries
given us by our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which we receive your grace
and are assured of your love,
which is through him now and for ever. **Amen**

Services this week Services this week

Today: 9am Eucharist; 10:30am Sunday First; **7pm Agape Centre Lisburn Road, Joint Churches Lenten Service 2/5**

Wednesday 8th 7.30pm Lent Compline with address and hymns in-person and on Zoom. Theme for Compline during Lent 'The Lord & His Prayer': First address: 'Our Father in heaven' 1/5

Thursday 9th 10.30am Eucharist (1) with intercessions for those in need.
A cup of coffee is available after this service.

Next Sunday 12/03/23 Lent III 9:00am Eucharist; 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Notices:

- Samples of Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available in the vestibule. Please consider taking some. Lent Notes to follow. Please speak to or email to Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having Lent notes or in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- Parish Lenten Books are on sale and available there too.
- Copies of the Diocesan magazine Connor Connections are now available.



Notices:

- Welcome to all our visitors. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens.
- Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.
- **We are collecting for South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in. Thank you.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

READINGS:

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Genesis 12:1-4a: God calls Abram to leave his home country, and promises that he will be blessed and will be a blessing to others, and Abram obeys.

Psalm 121: A song affirming God's help, attention and care.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17: Paul holds Abraham up as an example of faith and relationship with God, and points out that it was not so much Abraham's obedience as Abraham's relationship with God through faith that ensured that God's promise would be fulfilled through him.

Matthew 17:1-9: Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain and he is transfigured into a glowing white light, and is seen to speak with Moses and Elijah.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME The clear focus of this week's readings is the idea of faith or believing. Abram, believing God's promise, sets out from his home to a new land. The Psalm expresses deep faith in the God who protects and cares for God's people. Paul emphasises Abraham's faith as the doorway into relationship with God, and invites believers to embrace a similar faith in Christ. And Nicodemus, coming to Jesus in the night, is invited to be born again, born from above, in order to see God's reign, and to recognise that Jesus is the one who came to bring life – salvation – to those who believe. The call to faith is unavoidable here, but, of course, the question it raises is this: what is faith? Is it simply an intellectual agreement with certain propositions? Or is it something deeper? The key lies in the conversation with Nicodemus, where faith and the new birth are brought together by Jesus. This faith, then, is not just accepting ideas in the mind. It is an experience of new birth. It is a completely new way of being that enables us to 'see', to 'know' God's reign and then to live out of this new birth as leaves driven by the wind. This is certainly more than just signing a pledge card, or praying a specific prayer in order to be "saved". This believing is completely transforming, and must, therefore, like birth and the life which follows it, be a growing, developing experience that is embraced anew each day.

Organising your wedding in St John's

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.





If you are considering donating any items to the foodbank then we would really appreciate any of the following...

Tinned meat Tinned potatoes/ Smash Long life juice Tinned soup Toiletries Toilet roll Washing up liquid Washing powder You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank.

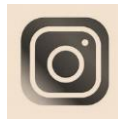
We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm.

Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR

Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk



St John's Malone
@malonestjohns



stjohnsmalone



ITEMS REQUIRED AT PRESENT: *Please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.*
Long life juice; Tinned fish; Tinned spaghetti; Tinned fruit; Jars of jam; Tinned rice pudding;
Tinned potatoes or Smash; Toiletries – soap, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc.

www.malone.connor.anglican.org

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: secstjohns@btconnect.com

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)
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Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.