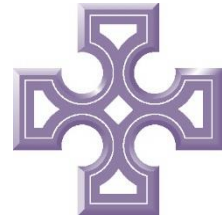




**SAINT JOHN'S MALONE**

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## **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 25th February 2024**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**6:30p.m. Choral Evensong**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004**

<b>The Gathering</b>	<i>page 201/125</i>
Presiding	The Rector
Opening Hymn	59
Collect of the Day	
<b>Liturgy of the Word</b>	
First Reading	
Psalm	22:23-31 pg.615
Second Reading	
Gradual Hymn	599
Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	The Rector
Peace (stand)	<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn	418
<b>Liturgy of the Sacrament</b> Great Thanksgiving (1)	<i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer	
Communion	
Motet	Ex ore innocentium - Ireland
Great Silence	
Post Communion Hymn	8
<b>Going Out</b>	<i>page 220 ff /145</i>
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Sursum corda - Ireland
Office Setting	Darke



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**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 17: 1-7, 15-16**

17When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.  
15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm**

### Second Reading **Romans 4: 13-25**

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. <sup>14</sup>If it is

the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as 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. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup>Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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

**Mark 8: 31-38**

31 Then he began to teach them 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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>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.'

34 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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words <sup>38</sup>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.'

*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**

**Wednesday 28<sup>st</sup> Compline with address 7:30pm.**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Eucharist** with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side chapel.

*A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.*

### **Next Sunday: Lent 3.3.24**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sunday First**

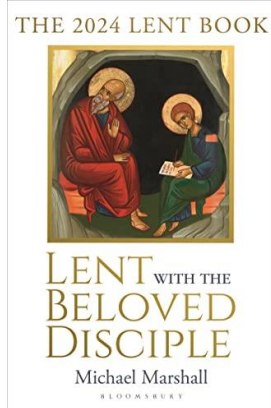
**Coffee/tea** follows this service and all are welcome.



**Notices:** | Sign up for the regular email Update at [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

## Lent Book

This year the following book by Bishop Michael Marshall is suggested for devotional reading. It is also the book on which the short addresses at Lenten Compline will be based.



The book is available in the vestibule for a discounted price of £10 before and during Lent and is also available to order from The Bookwell.

### Lenten Compline Wednesdays 7:30pm with short addresses based on 'Lent with the Beloved Disciple'

'Lent with the Beloved Disciple': meditations on John's Gospel at Lenten Compline

*1. 21st February - 'The Pilgrimage of Faith', John 1:35-42*

Based on the Marshall's Prologue, with the title taken from one of the sub-sections of this, reflecting on Jesus' question to the disciples of the Baptist - 'What are you looking for?' - and his subsequent invitation to them, 'Come and see'.

*2. 28th February - 'A Different Perspective', John 13:3-15*

Based on Chapter 1, which addresses the foot-washing, the disciples' dispute, and Judas.

*3. 6th March - 'A Night to Remember', John 18:1-27*

Based on Chapter 2, addressing Christ before Annas and Caiaphas, and Peter's denials.

*4. 13th March - 'The Power Game', John 18:28-19:16 (or part thereof)*

Based on Chapter 3, addressing Christ before Pilate, and the roles of the crowd and the religious leadership.

*5. 20th March - 'Transforming Power', John 19:17-30*

Based on Chapter 4, addressing the Crucifixion and the Atonement.

**Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or

secstjohns@btconnect.com. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

### **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.

### **READINGS**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16: God promises Abram and Sarai that they will be parents of many nations, that they will be blessed with many descendants and that kings will come from them. Therefore God changes Abram's name to Abraham, and Sarai's name to Sarah – Princess.

Psalms 22:23-31: God is praised and celebrated because God cares and provides for the oppressed, and all nations will come to worship God, both poor and prosperous, healthy and those close to death.

Romans 4:13-25: Abraham did not receive God's promise through obeying the law, but through faith, and this faith was considered to be his righteousness – his approval by God. In the same way, when we place our faith in Christ, who died and was raised, it is considered our righteousness – our approval by God.

Mark 8:31-38: Jesus predicts his death, but Peter objects. Jesus, then reprimands Peter, and tells all his followers that they must take up their crosses and follow him, not trying to save their lives, but willingly giving them up for the sake of the Gospel.

### **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The Lectionary this week challenges what we understand by the word "faith". What becomes clear here is that faith is not about some intellectual assent to certain propositions. Rather, faith is about the losing of our lives for the sake of the Gospel, which includes both the purpose to which we devote our lives, and the practices by which we seek to live out that purpose. In Abraham's case, God renews the promise which called Abraham from his homeland. In response Abraham had tried to use very human methods to fulfil God's promise, with undesirable results. Now God emphasises that not just the purpose, but the ways that purpose is fulfilled, must be directed by God's agenda. In the Psalm, God's rulership of the earth is celebrated, along with the justice and grace that this brings to the earth. In the midst of this song of celebration, the psalmist recommits to fulfilling vows to God. In the letter to the Romans, Paul reflects on Abraham's faith and how it was this, and not obedience to law, that was his righteousness. Here faith is once again viewed as the giving of life to follow God's purposes, as opposed to simply agreeing to some legalistic propositions. Finally, the Gospel drives the theme home in a very challenging way. Peter, who had just expressed faith in Jesus, is reprimanded because his faith has not yet embraced the implications of what he believes. So, Jesus challenges him, and the other disciples, to allow their faith to become the driving cause for their lives – to lose their lives for the sake of Jesus and the message of God's Reign that Jesus embodied. Here faith moves from an

intellectual activity to a radical, transforming, all-consuming way of being. The challenge of this, and of the Lenten journey, of course, is the same for us.



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](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)

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.

**This year our inter-church meetings for Lent 2024 are as follows.**

The series will be over four weeks: Each session will begin at 7.30pm. On each evening there will a presentation, and discussion.

This Lent many of us will be giving something up, but it would be meaningful if we could relate this to reducing our carbon emissions.

The theme of the series is: *The Gospel of Creation - caring for our common home.*

- **20th Feb: The state of Our Common Home**
- **27th Feb: Eco-Spirituality**
- **12th March: Integral Ecology**
- **19th March: Action and Spirituality: Where to, now, for our communities in Belfast?**

**The venue:** The Conference Centre, Newforge Sports Complex, 18b Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5NW. All are welcome including non parishioners.

At this we hope to learn more about how to connect our respective faith traditions with actions on the climate crisis and go green or at least a greener shade of violet this Lent!

[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)



@malonestjohns

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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](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)

e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)

***Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.***