

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Conversion of St Paul

### **Today's Collect**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant

Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to

preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Next Week Services: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

3:00pm

Harvington

Benefice Service

Notice; On 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3pm you are invited to attend a benefice licensing service for Caroline, Andy and Chris as we welcome them into the relatively new Benefice team.

There will be tea and cake to follow.

## **This Week's First Reading: Jeremiah 1.4-10.**

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’ <sup>6</sup> Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God ! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.’ <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.’

## **This Week's Second Reading: Acts 9.1-22,**

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’

<sup>5</sup> He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ <sup>7</sup> The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, ‘Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’

<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this

This Weeks Second Reading Continued: *Psalm 29*

man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' <sup>22</sup> Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

**This Week's Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 19.27-end.*

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?'

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

**Next Weeks Readings:** *Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40*

## **Prayer of Intersession**

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we all may be one; heal the divisions that fracture your body, and knit us together in truth, love, and purpose. We ask for your wisdom to seek justice and peace for regions facing displacement and suffering like the Middle East and ask you to strengthen the hands of peacemakers to bring healing and hope to divided communities.

Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord we cry out on behalf of our brothers and sisters suffering in body, mind, or spirit –those who have lost homes , family members, or livelihoods to natural disasters and strife. We pray for you to help us comfort the bereaved and strengthen the weary, whilst providing assurances to those who feel trapped in the darkness of poverty or prosecution.

Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, we acknowledge your part in composing the testaments of your word and the hymns of our lives, bringing us into being, and setting before us opportunities to explore and grow into the people you made us to be. We pray to help us to discover our true selves through a relationship with you, giving us the confidence to live life to the full. May we always be looking for the new testaments and the fresh hymns that you have for us to inhabit and sing, as we seek to live our lives in the depths of your grace.

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