

ARCH Group's aim: *"To show our love for God and You"*

Weekly Notices
18th May 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 25th May 2025

9.30 am	Harvington	Holy Communion+
11.00 am	Church Lench	Family Service
11.00 am	Abbots Morton	Rogation
3.30 pm	Harvington	Messy Church

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave.*

For Prayer

Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Comforter, we bring our prayers for the world and all of humanity, those near and far, known and unknown.

Almighty God, with violence and quarrels, wars and disputes, fractures and breaks in so much of the world's society, across so many continents, we pray that more and more people will catch the vision that is yours, to break down the barriers of faith and culture, of race, language and ability; and that leaders of nations will catch the vision to inspire their people to live better, healthier, happier, fairer and more 'just' lives.

We pray for the new Pope, Pope Leo, that his vision and vigour for helping the poor and marginalised will spread out to engulf the world and that, together, people of faith and none will grasp the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We pray for reconciliation for past wars and on-going wars and violence and cruelty. We pray that anger and the desire for more power can be wiped away, making all things new for peace and harmony, acceptance and love.

We pray for those who lurch from one day to the next, uncertain about homes and houses, food and medicine; uncertain about what is there for them and how they can get the help they need and how they can meet bills and pay off debts.

We pray for those who have lost sight of their place in society, lost understanding of how we each need to play our part to help and support each other as best we can, and lost the ability of give and take.

We pray for the ill and those worried about tests and diagnosis and treatment. We pray for those who are near the end of their life alone and afraid. We pray for those who mourn and grieve for love lost and hopes dashed.

May we, in the way we live out our lives, do all we can to make visible God's love for the world. In the name of our Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Comforter, we offer these prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts. **Amen.**

This Week's First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

¹The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I

Acts 11:1-18 continued

could hinder God?' ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 148:1-14*

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.

Psalm 148:1-14 continued

- 13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

This Week's Second Reading: *Revelation 21:1-6*

¹I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 13:31-35*

³¹During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Acts 16:9-15*

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'

¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 67:1-7*

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Next Week's Second Reading:

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

¹⁰In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 continued

will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 14:23-29*

Jesus said to his disciples: ²³“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

²⁸You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.’