

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

Weekly Notices
25th May 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today's Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations
to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 1st June 2025

10.00 am Rous Lench Benefice Communion+

*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

Lord Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago you walked the paths we walk today. You walked amongst your people, seeing need and reaching out, bringing healing and wholeness, comfort and release.

We bring our prayers for those we encounter as we walk hopefully and in your steps. For those who we meet face to face, those who we had planned to meet and those we encounter unexpectedly. For those we hear of near and far, and those for whom life is not plain sailing, comfortable or care free. We bring our prayers for those whose situations and needs challenge and change us and move us to places we hadn't thought possible, and for those who stir us out of our comfort zone as we step out in faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, **walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for those whose economic, religious and social backgrounds force them into poverty, hunger, homelessness and need. We pray for those whose lives are in danger because of their ethnicity and the place and the culture and the religion they were born into. We pray for those who face isolation and segregation through no fault of their own.

Lord Jesus Christ, **walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for the ordinary folk who seek to live in peace and harmony but whose political leaders seek to stir up trouble and fear and hate with neighbours. We pray for those dragged into fighting for their survival, livelihood and future. We pray for those affected by the Russian-Ukrainian war, for the suffering, death, grief, fear and deprivation that they all have to endure, and for the lives, families, histories, and nations changed forever. We pray for those in Gaza and Israel and those across the Middle East who struggle with hopes and fears trying to find ways forward to bring peace, comfort, fairness and hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, **walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

We pray for those in our own towns, cities and villages who struggle with the present economic and social challenges; those who once felt comfortably off but now face a far bleaker future, and for those who need a helping hand from those of us who can offer one. We pray for those who once found life plain sailing but who now find themselves in the midst of a storm, with waves of fear and pain, need and anguish. We pray for all those whose names and needs rest heavily on our lives this day, we remember them now...

Lord Jesus Christ, **walk with us and with all for whom we pray**

Walk with us we pray Lord Jesus, this and every day. **Amen**

This 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.

This 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.

Psalm 67:1-7 continued

- 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.

This 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,

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 continued

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 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.

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

Jesus said to his disciples: ²³⁴Those 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.

²⁵⁴I 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.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Acts 16:16-34*

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs ²¹that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' ³¹They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalm 97:1-12*

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.
- 5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declared his righteousness and all the peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in mere idols. Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous and give thanks to his holy name.

Next Week's Second Reading:

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: ¹²'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 continued

say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *John 17:20-26*

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Holy Father, ²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'