



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 25th February 2024

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Anthem: Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (Farrant)

Hymns: 6, 236, 586, 538

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When 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. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 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. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 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. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 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.'

Second Reading – Romans 4:13-end

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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 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, 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. 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.' 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel Reading – Mark 8:31-end

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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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.' 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. 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, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words 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.'

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for all preparing for baptism and marriage, those who are sick or in hospital, and those who have died, and all who mourn.

Church Diary

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

Monday 9:15am – Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:00am - Holy Communion

10:15am – All Sorts Parish Communion

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

to help you prepare to worship next Sunday

Exodus 20:1-17 | John 2:13-22

Parish news and notices

Advance warning: **Sunday 10th March is MOTHERING SUNDAY** and Tessa will need some kind people to come and help her to make up the posies. Could volunteers please arrive at the Church at 10:30am on Saturday, 9th March. Everything will be provided but please bring your own snippers. Could anyone interested in helping Tessa, please either call her on: 020 8398 4807 or email her: tessa.vallings@gmail.com. All help will be greatly appreciated.

CAKE SALE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY 10th March. A cake sale will be held after the 10.15am service on Mothering Sunday - a great opportunity to buy a treat for someone special. Please bring cakes for selling and money for buying!

The next **BOOKBOX** event will be on **Wednesday 20th March at 8pm**, when respected historian Alison Weir talks to us about our famous 'local' monarch – Henry VIII. She explains the basis of her book 'Henry VIII' (published by Headline) as 'You have heard their stories, now hear his.' Tickets can be bought from Regency Book Shop in Surbiton or through Eventbrite.

The Diocese of Guildford have produced a **LENT COURSE 'Jesus and Calling: on the Road to Easter'** which is five-week video series based on the Sunday Gospel readings set in the Lent lectionary. There is a 15-minute video conversation, combining teaching from the Scriptures, theological implications, and applications for our vocations and then some discussion questions. You can find the videos online at <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/lent-easter>