The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbotts

Newsletter

Sunday 22nd February
The First Sunday in Lent
A very warm welcome to worship in the benefice today

growing inclusive, intergenerational churches that inspire faith, hope and love

Today's services

Sunday 22nd February
8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's
6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
11.00am Family Service, Walford
11.15am Café Church, Brampton Abbotts

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's
Setting: St Anne's Mass – *MacMillan*
Lent Prose: Verse 1
Introit: 108 When Jesus came to Jordan
Gradual: 127 Lord Jesus, think on me
Offertory: 140 All ye who seek for sure relief
Communion: Take up thy cross - *Corp*
Post Communion: 121 Forty days

11.00 Family Service, Walford
852 Jesus went away to the desert
864 Lord, you've promised through your Son
544 Our Father, who art in heaven
901 This little light of mine

6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's
Introit: 140 All ye who seek for sure relief
Responses: Plainsong
Psalm: 32
Hymn: 142 Glory be to Jesus
Canticles: *Walmisley* in D Minor
Anthem: Thou wilt keep him – *Wesley*
Hymn: 132 O for a heart to praise my God
Dismissal: *Naylor* (ferial)

Prayer & readings for today

Collect Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans*
Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to

Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. [Romans 5:12-19]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord. ***All:*** **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. [Matthew 4:1-11]

For our prayers

Emma & Callum whose banns are being read today.
Those who are ill: Brian Edwards, Rene Keogh, Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor, David Walshaw, Helen Wynn, and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.
Those who mourn, and those who have died recently.

Letter from Colin

The Olympics came to an end last night and the winners have gone home satisfied. Two things I noticed on the occasions I was watching, first and really unimportant: for me the imitation of Tarzan calling to his apes has ceased to be a welcome sign of happiness at an achievement, it just seems pathetic. Second, and my main point, have you noticed how many competitors know exactly how fast they went and are able to grimace or grin as appropriate long before they see the clock? They are perfectly attuned to the slope, course, rink, run etc., and know precisely where they are. Another way to illustrate this may be a reference to the game of squash. I played until I was fifty, always down in the bottom reaches of the club rankings but often able to beat younger fitter players because I had good court sense. I knew exactly where I was at any one moment so could adjust the shot as needed. Now to the theology, because

the Olympics and Squash are transient pleasures. In this spiritual journey on this earthly court, have you got the good sense to know where you are? And if you haven't how can you start cultivating it? Let me give you a pointer. Follow Jesus. He has been down this slope, course, rink, run etc. (i.e. life here on earth) and is perfectly attuned with it and can take us with him into death and eternity. He knows when to be careful and when to go all out and will help us avoid, not tight corners or slippery ice, but sin in all its aspects. Also, remember Jesus made the court and knows every detail, he knows where you are and he will guide you to be your best just where you are, so don't yearn to be somewhere else! Colin Leggate

News from the Ross Parishes

Lent Course *Entering into Prayer*, the benefice Lent course this year, which starts today, will explore prayer in its many different forms. The meetings, led by David Thomas and others, take place in St Mary's Hall on Sunday afternoons: today, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Tea and coffee are available from 2.30 pm and the sessions last from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to all the sessions or all the sessions you can manage.

Lent Challenge This Lent we are inviting everyone to use their God-given Talents to increase our Ministry and Mission and to raise much needed funds for the church. Take a leaflet, think and pray and then let us know how you may meet this challenge. Have a good Lent.

Gravestone safety checks This task was completed in just two sessions, so the session advertised for 28th February has been cancelled. Many thanks to those who came along and helped. It's safe to wander out and see what a fantastic job the Community Payback teams have been doing through the winter months.

St David's Day at Walford Church Everyone is invited to keep St David's Day at the Festal Eucharist in Walford Church at 9.30am on Sunday 1st March. There will be a Welsh preacher (speaking in English) and organist, harp music, Welsh readings and prayers, Welsh refreshments, and good hymns for English people too! A reprieve in Lent!

Electoral Roll Ahead of St Mary's Annual General Meeting on 24th March, anyone whose name is not on the Electoral Roll can request to have it added. Many people have joined the congregations of St Mary's recently, so please take this step so you can be involved in decisions that affect life at the church. Forms can be obtained at the welcome desk or by emailing Julian Hallett on hallettjulian@hotmail.com. The closing date for receiving forms is 8th March 2026. If you are already on the electoral roll, don't worry - you will automatically be included.

Music during Lent There will be a new musical setting of the Mass for Sundays at St Mary's during Lent. St Anne's Mass is a setting by one of our most important contemporary composers, James MacMillan. Evident in this and all the pieces by this composer in the choir's repertoire is the "Scotch Snap". This setting has been requested by Saul Robinson, and we're most grateful to him for drawing it to our attention.

101 days around the world Save the details**:** St Mary's, 2.30pm on Thursday, 19th March. An illustrated talk by Peter and Marilyn Reynolds about their Round the World Cruise. £10 to include tea and traybakes. All proceeds will go to the Spire in Peril Fund. Invite your friends, family, and neighbours.

Bring us your Bricks Emily and Mark are hoping to start an after-school LEGO club for children at St Mary's. For this, they need a lot of LEGO pieces and they wonder whether you, your

friends and neighbours may have some at home. They'll be grateful for whatever you have, no matter how many or few. Please leave any offerings behind the welcome desk in St Mary's.

St Mary's Cookbook Jean Brown is collecting tried and tested recipes for a St Mary's cookbook. All your favourites from church events will be there. Let Jean know if you have a much loved recipe to add to the collection.

This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 23rd Feb	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Tue 24th Feb	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall
	2.00pm Just Be bereavement support
	1.30pm Memorial service for Bob Disley, St Mary's
Wed 25th Feb	9.30am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's Hall
	10.30am Craft@ St Mary's, St Mary's
	12.15pm Lent Lunch, St Mary's
	3.30 Choir Club, St Mary's
	9.00pm Compline, St Mary's
Thu 26th Feb	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's
	11.00am-4.00pm Kate Bliss Valuation Day, St Mary's
Fri 27th Feb	6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall
	7.15pm Adult choir rehearsal, St Mary's
Sat 28th Feb	9.30am Ross Penyard Singers Come and Sing Day, St Mary's Hall

Further ahead

Sun 1st March	3.00pm Lent Course second session, St Mary's Hall
Wed 4th March	12.15pm Lent Lunch, St Mary's
Fri 6th March	11.00am World Day of Prayer Service, St Mary's

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