

THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH
GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S
SUNDAY 14th February 2021

Sunday next before Lent

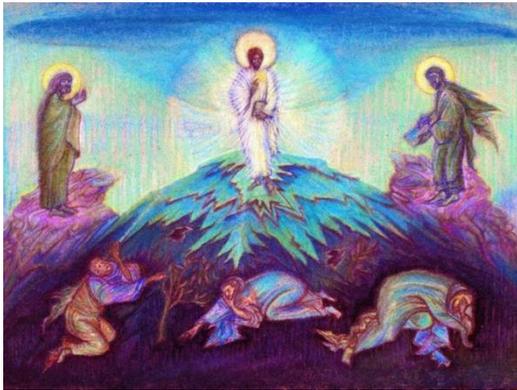
Services online only: Facebook at 10am

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And all of a sudden, it's Lent... well, not quite. We've got a few days to get ready for Lent so you may want to limber up on your pancake tossing for Tuesday or give thought to how you may choose to spend Lent this year. Then again, someone said to me this week that life feels quite penitential enough at the moment anyway. You can see the truth in that. We have gone through nearly a year with so many things cancelled or that we have missed out on. Why do we need a season to deprive ourselves some more?

I think I would want to encourage you all to focus on kindness this Lent. Be kind to yourself and to each other. Seek what you can do which will be nurturing and loving to both yourself and others. This could be taking time to read something which will encourage your faith or making a bit of extra God space. It could be taking up extra steps of kindness such as calling those you haven't spoken to for a while or sending a card or letter. There are lots of things we can do which are positive and add value to ourselves and others.



The gospel for this Sunday gives a glimpse of glory and wonder prior to the season of Lent: It tells the story of the Transfiguration. We get to glimpse the radiant glory of Jesus to strengthen us for the journey ahead. We need that because all too often we don't feel the glory. But what is glory?

Glory is the appearance of forever in today. Sometimes it comes in sublime moments of awe and wonder. Sometimes it comes in the kindness and love we receive. We can all lend a hand to help shine that light.

Fr Simon

NOTICES

Ash Wednesday service: Online at 10am on Wednesday on Facebook & YouTube

Minster Opening times: the Minster will be open Thursday – Sunday, from 10am-12noon for private prayer. Please follow distancing guidelines. There will be an online service every Sunday at 10am. If you wish to volunteer to help keep the Minster open, contact the Parish Office.

Fr Arthur Bowles funeral will be on Mon 22nd February, 2.30pm at St Paul's but obviously is limited to only very few chosen mourners. We are compiling a Book of Condolence from the parish. Please send any words of condolence to Tracy in the Parish Office (email or post). Margey and family hope a fitting memorial service will be possible at a later date.

Tribute to Olive Lord: A former member and volunteer at the Minster who died recently: <https://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/obituaries/great-yarmouth-care-home-olive-lord-tribute-7316878>

This is a call for volunteers to give 1 hour a week for a telephone befriending service called Two's Company that we are trying to set up. It's part of a national initiative: www.linkinglives.uk/twos-company and work will be shared with other churches in the town. If you are interested in combating loneliness and would like more information then please contact Revd Frank Cliff on 01492 851097 or email on fwc1234@gmail.com.

Pathway Volunteers – anyone is interested in volunteering at Pathway, please contact Jennifer King:07723 120850. Pathway opens Mon, Wed & Fri serving a lunch. Any amount of time may help. We also need food donations: particularly crisps / biscuits / packed lunch items. We don't currently need any more clothing.

Online: If you're online you can find the "Parish of Great Yarmouth" on YouTube. We'll also do live streaming on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster> . You don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view these.

Regular Giving To set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift, account name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Yarmouth, sort code 20-99-21 and account number 60425850. Thank you.

Parish Magazine: The February magazine is out now, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: pat.stringer1@sky.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST If anyone wants someone prayed for please ask. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Sheila, Brenda, David, Wally, Pam, Nadine, Claire, Stephen. Remember before God the recently departed Fr Arthur Bowles, Margery Footer, Margaret Hambling, Olive Lord, Eddie Hunn. Pray for St Nicholas Priory School: head teacher Maria Grimmer. Pray for all staff at James Paget Hospital and all those who work to care for others during the pandemic.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer
with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted

to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM Psalm 50:1-6

R Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.



The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; our God comes and will not keep silence. **R**

Consuming fire goes out before him and a mighty tempest stirs about him. He calls the heaven above, and the earth, that he may judge his people: **R**

"Gather to me my faithful, who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice."

Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is

veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

POST COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

