Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
4th Sunday of Lent (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land

PSALM: Ps. 33:2-7.R.v9

R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R)**

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R)**

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R)**

SECOND READING: II Corinthians 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Lk 15:18

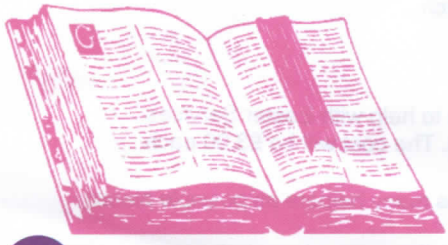
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

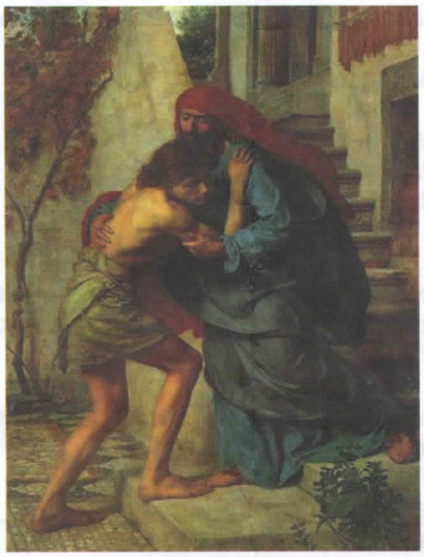
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Lk 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Love makes the world go round." A true statement. *"God is Love"* St. John says, and all things come from him and are held in existence by him. The story of the *"prodigal son"* is a parable of the triumph of love over selfishness. It is also secondly, a parable of our redemption. The prodigal son is humbled by the misfortunes he has brought on himself; he now recognises his father's love that for selfish reasons he had rejected. He returns to that love – and love receives him back. It is the story of most of us in our relations with our Heavenly Father. It is also a parable, pointing us to the One who, though he was without sin and completely self-less, substituted himself for us, put himself in voluntary exile from his Father, *"emptied himself …becoming as human beings are…"* Then *"He was humbler yet, even to accepting death,"* a death imposed on him undeservedly and unjustly. *"For that God raised him high,"* and on his account has restored to the intimacy of his love all those who, identifying with Jesus, call on him as Father.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension Of Evangelization

The Church's teaching on social questions

183. Consequently, no one can demand that religion should be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life, without concern for the soundness of civil institutions, without a right to offer an opinion on events affecting society. Who would claim to lock up in a church and silence the message of Saint Francis of Assisi or Blessed Teresa of Calcutta? They themselves would have found this unacceptable. An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better that we found it.

Day by Day with St Francis*

GIVE TO THE POOR

One day blessed Francis went to a church in a village of the city of Assisi and began to sweep it. Immediately talk about this spread through that village, especially because those people enjoyed seeing and hearing him.

A man named John heard it, a man of amazing simplicity, who was ploughing in a field of his near the church, and he immediately went to him. Finding him sweeping the church, he said to him: 'Brother, give me the broom because I want to help you.' Taking the broom from him, he swept the rest.

When they sat down, he said to blessed Francis: 'Brother, it's a long time now that I've wanted to serve God, especially after I heard talk about you and your brothers, but I did not know how to come to you. Now that it pleased God that I see you, I want to do whatever pleases you.'

Considering his fervour, blessed Francis rejoiced in the Lord, especially because he then had few brothers, and because it seemed to him that, on account of his pure simplicity, he would make a good religious. So he said to him: 'Brother, if you wish to belong to our life and company, you must rid yourself of all your things that you can get without scandal, and give them to the poor according to the counsel of the holy Gospel, because my brothers who were able to do so have done this."

The Assisi Compilation

***Excerpts from Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City** ISBN: 9781905039166
These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Psalms: A new Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by Harper Collins. Excerpt from THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, copyright (c) 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Reprinted by Permission.

ST. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion Telephone 01582 792270

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – 31st MARCH 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Mary Watson (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Breda Iommi (RIP)
Monday 1st April	11.45am	lent feria – Robert Fitzsimons (RIP Anniv.)
Friday 5th April	11.45am	lent feria
Sunday 7th April	**Fifth Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Mary Maguire (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Mary Maguire (RIP Anniv.)

We offer our condolences and prayers to the family of Breda Iommi who has recently died.
Her funeral will be in St. Albans & St. Stephens Church, on Thursday, 4th April at 10.00am, followed by the burial in St. Mary's, Redbourn.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate, their families and friends.

The Churches Together in Redbourn Lent Programme.
Wednesdays 10.00am at New Forge Place.
Thursdays 8.00pm at St. Mary's Transept.
Fridays 12.15pm Lent Charity Lunches in the Garden Room of the Methodist Church.
This week the lunch is prepared by the ladies of St Mary's Church.
See Redbourn Common Round for more details.

Children's Liturgy. The Children's liturgy classes on Sunday are currently running with just three volunteers. We would love at least three more volunteers to explore the Word of God. Its not at all difficult, no previous experience is required, and with more people, we can ensure that all our children benefit. Please let Fr. Michael know if you can help. We are also looking for people to have CRB clearance. We should always have two CRB clearance volunteers in the classes. Therefore one CRB cleared person could be present but not necessarily active with the children. This would greatly help the volunteers. This CRB clearance is the very basic one. Please speak to Vicky Carr if you can help.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Please collect these from the table at the back of the Church, they are arranged alphabetically. If your box is not there, or there is a box with your name on it which you no longer use, or if you would like to begin using envelopes, please let Fr. Michael know. **NB. It is essential, for our record keeping, that if you take envelopes you use them.** If you pay **U.K.Income Tax** and do not as yet Gift Aid your contributions, please consider doing so, as in addition to the benefits for the Parish there may be tax benefits for you too. Please take one of the envelopes labelled **Planned Giving** from the table and fill out the Gift Aid Declaration Form and return to Fr. Michael. **Existing Gift Aid Parishioners;** if you have signed a **Gift Aid Declaration** in the past in favour of the **Westminster Roman Catholic Trustee (WRCDT),** but no longer pay **U.K. Income Tax**, you should formally **cancel** your Gift Aid Declaration. You should also notify any change of address and death. Please remember that under Gift Aid you only need to pay sufficient tax to cover any refunds that the Parish would claim on your donations. In the light of this if you need to cancel your Gift Aid Declaration please take and fill out one of the forms available and hand to Fr. Michael.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds donated go to projects in all parishes for the support of Marriage & Family life, Youth & Evangelisation and Social Outreach within Civil Society. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. We will have a retiring collection after the Easter time. Feel free to send any contributions, see envelope for details.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers, new rotas are available at the back of the Church.

Easter Notices:
Reconciliation Service will take place on **Tuesday 9th April** at **7.30pm.**
Extraordinary Ministers & Readers; Please sign the list to indicate when you are able to help with Easter Services.
Easter Lily Remembrance List; Write your details on the list at the back of the Church. The cost will be £3.00 each.
Easter Flower Collection will take place the weekends 6/7 April and 13/14 April.
Church Cleaning for Easter will take place on **Wednesday 10th April** from 9.00am . As many helpers as possible please.

There is an old television in the parish room that is no longer required. Please just take it if you are interested.