



Living the story. Telling the story.

Shaping our Future

In response to God's immense love for us, we seek to be **God's people living and telling the story of Jesus**

We have discerned four priorities for action that need to be at the centre of our diocesan life to help each and every one of us:

1. Valuing what we already have
2. Sharing our faith and worshipping in new and different ways
3. Growing in faith
4. Sharing in ministry and leadership

Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit guide us into the future.

Help us, throughout the diocese, to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek the renewal of our lives.

Give us courage, rigour, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all. Amen

The work at St John's is made possible, under God, solely by individuals' giving, for which we are most grateful. If you would like to contribute you can do so in the collection box at the back of church, through regular Gift Aid donations, enabling us to reclaim the tax or by credit or debit card online via our website:

<http://www.stjsgroup.church/give>.

Gift Aid mandates are available from our Stewardship Secretary: Claire Carr Tel: 01761 568216 Email: claire.carr@stjsgroup.church



The St J's Group HOLY COMMUNION

10.30am - Sunday 5th May 2024 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. - Mark 1:24-26

Welcome/Notices

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you**

Hymn

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

*My chains are gone, I've been set free!
My God, My Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy reigns.
Un-ending love, amazing grace*

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed! *Refrain*

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. *Refrain*

Prayers of Penitence - *We sit or kneel to pray*

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The collect for the 6th Sunday of Easter

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 – Mark 1:21-28

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. **22** The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. **23** Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, **24** ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!’

25 ‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of him!’ **26** The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.’ **28** News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

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

Song

1 There is a redeemer
Jesus God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah, Holy One.
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
‘Till the work on earth is done.
2 Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Son of God, Messiah,
Lamb for sinners slain;
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
‘Till the work on earth is done.
3 When I stand in glory,
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever,
In that holy place.
Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
‘Till the work on earth is done.

Blessing and Dismissal - *We remain standing for the Blessing and Dismissal*
Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

To God, who is higher than our highest thoughts, yet closer than our closest friend, be thanks and praise, glory and honour, this day and for evermore. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

You are most welcome to stay for coffee after the end of service

the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

The President and people receive communion

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 forever. **Amen**

You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Song

1 How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

3 I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Second Reading – Luke 4:31-37

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. 33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34 “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” 35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. 36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!” 37 And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk – ‘Jesus drives out an evil spirit’ - Derek Smith

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.
We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Sovereign God, we praise you today for the great wonder at the heart of the gospel - your sharing our humanity and enduring our weakness. You are sovereign over all, yet you became our servant. You are the holy one of God, yet you were tempted just as we are. You are the giver of life, yet you endured the darkness of death. You are the Lord of lords, yet you were crowned with thorns. You are enthroned on high, yet you consented to be brought low. In what the world counted weakness you displayed true strength. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

We praise you for your love that is able to turn human expectations upside down, and we rejoice in everything this means for us today that when we are weak, you are strong, when we feel most helpless, you are most powerful, when we can do little, you can do much. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

We praise you that your way is not one of coercion but of love, your power transforming from within, never forcing anyone to comply with your wishes but graciously inviting a response. We thank you that, year after year, generation after generation, you have worked through ordinary ~awed individuals like us, to make known your love and to bring nearer your kingdom. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

Sovereign God, Servant God, we praise you that, despite everything which conspires against you, everything which frustrates your purpose, your will shall finally triumph, nothing able to overcome your goodness, or to extinguish your love in Christ. May we live each day in that conviction, bringing honour and glory to you. Great is your name, **and greatly to be praised.**

Loving God, you have shown us such love and humility; we offer you our thanks and praise. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Peace - We stand for the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**

Let us offer a sign of peace to those around us.

Song

I believe in Jesus,
I believe He is the Son of God,
I believe He died and rose again,
I believe He paid for us all.
*And I believe He's here now,
Standing in our midst.
Here with the power to heal now,
And the grace to forgive.*

I believe in You Lord,
I believe You are the Son of God,
I believe You died and rose again,
I believe You paid for us all.
*And I believe You're here now,
Standing in our midst.
Here with the power to heal now,
And the grace to forgive.*

Eucharistic Prayer H - We sit or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us. **He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray using the words our Saviour taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread - *The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with