

St Mary of Charity

The Benefice of Faversham

Second Sunday in Lent

8 March 2020

Welcome to the beautiful church of St Mary of Charity. Please do stay for a drink and fellowship. If you are here for the first time, please make yourself known to one of the clergy.

For our prayers:

- the St Mary of Charity clergy team and lay ministry and all whose ministry is in Faversham and the Ospringe Deanery;
- those affected by 'natural disasters' and extreme weather in the world;
- refugees throughout the world;
- the bereaved;
- those elected to represent us in local councils or parliament;
- those who work in disaster relief;
- those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- those who are homeless or vulnerably housed;
- those who are experiencing financial hardship;
- those who work for the emergency services;
- those who volunteer their time to help others;
- those who are receiving medical treatment;
- the people of Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan; and
- all who live in fear of violence and aggression.

9 am Eucharist (BCP)
10.30 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error
the light of your truth,
that they may return
to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things
as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Next Sunday:
Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42



Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Here ends the Lesson.

Epistle

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being

born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who

believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



CONTEMPLATING EASTER

A PILGRIM JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Two opportunities to join us for an hour of scripture, reflection, music and prayer

**St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence,
The Brents and Davington**

7pm on Thursdays 12, 19, 26 March and 2 April.

Repeated at:

St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham

10.30am on Fridays 13, 20, 27 March and 3 April.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(APCM) will take place at:
7 pm for 7.30 pm on Monday, 20 April 2020,
at St Mary of Charity Church of England
Primary School**

Each year the Churchwardens stand down from their posts. This year Andrew has resigned and Miranda is making herself available for re-election. If anyone feels led to stand as Churchwarden please talk to Rev Simon and Miranda. If you feel you would like to be a Deputy Warden and support the Churchwarden please come and talk to us. Thank you to those who have been acting as Deputy Wardens and supporters thus far.

PCC is very important to St Mary of Charity in enabling the running of the church and the growing of the Kingdom. At present there are six PCC vacancies due to retirement, resignation and co-option (this year's retirees and those previously co-opted are eligible to re-stand alongside others). Please consider standing for election, if you are interested it would be helpful if you could chat with the Rev Simon and/or Miranda by the first week in April. There are notices and nomination forms to complete for vacant positions at the rear of the church. As well as six PCC vacancies there are three Deanery vacancies, (as it's a triennium) Miranda will re-stand but our other two representatives are standing down. Also would you please consider standing for two Churches Together in Faversham vacancies?

Please prayerfully consider these vacancies; we really need you. We look forward to joining together on 20 April for drinks, nibbles and "Agenda".



VE DAY

Flower Festival - 8, 9 and 10 May

Volunteer welcomers will be needed for the flower festival.

If anyone can help for a couple of hours, please contact Victor Frith on (01795) 590588 or victor.frith@btinternet.com.

No knowledge of the history of the church is needed.

The Tuesday Group

The Tuesday Group's next open meetings are:

10 March 2020: Speaker Tom van Soest: Being a teenager in Arnhem

14 April 2020: Music provided by *Forged Steel*

*Both meetings at the Age UK premises
at 7.30 pm; please do come along.*

First Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (CW with hymns)	10.30 am	All Age Worship <i>Family-friendly service</i>	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Second Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Third Sunday	9 am	Matins	10.30 am	Family Eucharist <i>Family-friendly service</i>		
Fourth Sunday	9 am	Eucharist (BCP said)	10.30 am	Parish Eucharist		
Fifth Sunday (if applicable)	NO EARLY SERVICE AT ANY BENEFICE CHURCH		10 am	Benefice Eucharist CW <i>Please check for details on which church this will be held at</i>		

**Notices for Monthly Notice Sheet to Catriona by
Wednesday, 25 March, very latest!**

01795 530553

admin@stmaryofcharity.org

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