

NOTICES

The solemn season of **Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday, 22nd February** and opportunities to receive the traditional ash cross will be offered at St Michael's during Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.

Lent Discussion Groups: We will focus on the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. An anthology of his writings, engaging with life's big questions, including commentaries and meditations by Anglican writers, falls neatly into the five weeks of our Lent preparation, and we have booked a mini-Parish Retreat at St Mary's on 1st April to conclude and prepare for Holy Week. **On Retreat with Henri Nouwen** and costs around **£12.99**: it is widely available but please order now as delivery times vary.

If you wish to be included on the Tuesday Zoom list beginning on 28th February, please send an email to Mark at wincleslodge@gmail.com. If you would like to attend on Wednesdays at 11.00 (in the Parish Centre after the Communion Service), please tell Patsy Cann or Sue Vaughan, so that we know how many to cater for.

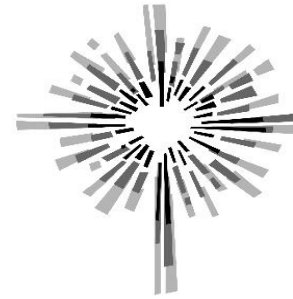
To find out more about Nouwen, visit <https://henrinouwen.org>, the website of the Henri Nouwen Society, which also offers a daily meditation by email.

St Albans Cathedral is hosting an exhibition about asylum seekers in St Albans which runs from **Saturday, 4th February to Sunday, 26th February** in the north transept. This is a reflective and ambitious interactive exhibition, made in collaboration with St Albans' asylum seekers. Admission is free but donations are welcome. To find out more please visit www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/seeking-asylum-in-st-albans

Saturday 4th March: St Michael's Churchyard Working Party and Church Cleaning – 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This will be the first session of the new season - please see the list on the noticeboard outside the Parish Centre for future dates, or pick up a leaflet in St Michael's. There will be plenty of clearing to do in the churchyard after the winter break, and cleaning in the church as part of our welcome for worshippers and visitors. If you can spare some time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please get in touch with Jim on 07770 324375 (churchyard) or Jane on janelarman@sky.com (cleaning).

For your diary:

There are places available on garden tours of Gorhambury House on 11th April, 23rd May and 20th June. If you are interested, please email Olivia Berry, Estate Office Manager at Gorhambury: office@grimstontrust.co.uk



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 19th February 2023:

Sunday Next before Lent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Ash Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

Sunday, 26th February 2023:

First Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays

Contacts

Key information is available on www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk or via the Parish Office: 01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Children's Church for those in school years Reception to Year 6 meets alongside the 9.30am service during term time. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions.

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents: please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 24: 12-18 (OT p.66 in the Pew Bibles)

Between the lessons the choir sings Psalm 99

The Lord is King, be the people never so impatient:

he sitteth between the cherubims, be the earth never so unquiet.

The Lord is great in Sion:

and high above all people.

They shall give thanks unto thy Name:

which is great, wonderful, and holy.

The king's power loveth judgement; thou hast prepared equity:

thou hast executed judgement and righteousness in Jacob.

O magnify the Lord our God:

and fall down before his footstool, for he is holy.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among such as call upon his Name:

these called upon the Lord, and he heard them.

He spake unto them out of the cloudy pillar:

for they kept his testimonies, and the law that he gave them.

Thou heardest them, O Lord our God:

thou forgavest them, O God, and punishedst their own inventions.

O magnify the Lord our God, and worship him upon his holy hill:

for the Lord our God is holy.

New Testament Reading: 2 Peter 1: 16-21 (NT p.219 in the Pew Bibles)

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of

scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17: 1-9 (NT p.17 in the Pew Bibles)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

During Communion the choir sing:

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here faith would touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

I have no help but thee; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed,
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

Tune: Sawbridgeworth - Douglas Rose

Words: Horatius Bonar

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict,
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

Words: from the Salisbury Diurnal

Music: William Harris

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Sandra Dove, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Rev'd Ruth Goatly, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws; Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett