



St John's Weekly News 7th February 2021

A message from Fr Christopher's desk.

Well, the year's marching on. This week we're at the **Second Sunday before Lent**, and before we know it, we'll be at Easter. Most years we don't want time to run away with itself - it makes us feel old. Well, this year I think most of us are quite happy for it to run away with itself, especially when we hear people predicting that lots of the restrictions will be lifted come May. Plus, we'll get the sun back! It can't come soon enough.

And yet this week's gospel passage, the Prologue to John's Gospel - *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'* - is about how the **Second Person of the Trinity** existed in eternity, and broke into time to be with us in the incarnation - *'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.'* This is always true for us, and while we live in times which are difficult, our true place is with God, *'where the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'*

May God bless you and your loved ones this week.



What is Prayer?

Prayer lies at the heart of what we do and what we are at St John the Baptist Church. Prayer for the world, prayers for our communities, prayer for social and other events, prayer for those in need and prayer for the departed.

Prayer is a conversation with God, both bringing to Him our own concerns and those of others but also being attentive to what He has to say to us, believe me, He does speak to us, if we're prepared to listen!!

Prayer can take many different forms. Sometimes using set formal prayers, of which the Lord's Prayer itself is the supreme example, can connect us into the universal prayer of all creation and provide us with words that we don't have to think about.

Prayer can also and should also be the spontaneous response of the human heart in intercession or thanksgiving to the God in whose image we're created.

Neither form of prayer is more or less valid or more or less valuable, they're both responses to the call of God in our lives. Prayer can take place in many different places but sometimes sitting in a place set apart for prayer, whose walls are soaked with the prayers of the generations of those who've been before us can make prayer easier. Whatever you say and wherever you say it, the best prayer is the one that works for you at that moment.



In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other.

Prayer is an expression of love.

**We remember before God those who have died
and we pray that God's love will surround
all who mourn them, now and always.**

**Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.**

**Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to
persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.**

“The Creation”

And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said:
I'm lonely—
I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see
Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

James Weldon Johnson - 1871-1938



GOSPEL John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Please pray this week for:

Linda, Kay, Jean, Wayne and all those celebrating their birthday this week.

All those living on Southview Road.



“So, what did you decide? – Flat earth or 3D?”