

SUNDAY 7th March 2010

LENT 3 YEAR C

COLLECT Almighty God, whose most dear Son went no up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55.1-9

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL Luke 13.1-9

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES

11.45am Holy Baptism at Holy Cross – Alexa

6.30pm St Bart's Evening Prayer and Session 3 of What Christians believe

WELCOME this morning to Rachel von Hoven, the speaker at St Bart's, who is talking about the work of Porchlight (the Cyrenians as was).

Tuesday 2pm Interment of Betty & Donald Farquhar's ashes at St Mary's

Tuesday café is at 7pm in Holy Cross; The Lemon Tree is the film to be watched and discussed.

Thursday 7.30pm Holy Cross PCC meet to approve the accounts.

Friday 7.30pm St Bart's PCC meet to approve the accounts.

Ronald will be in Bruges from Tuesday until Thursday with the other Area Deans.

Friday is the Archbishop's and Bishop's Day for the Clergy

Saturday morning has the meeting with Archbishop Rowan and ALMs at Woolf College

Mothering Sunday on March 14th will see a FAMILY SERVICE in all 3 churches at the customary time. In St Mary's and St Bart's this will be followed by a brief said service of Holy Communion.

Please DO invite family and friends to the Family Services. Flowers will be offered to all mothers.

Good Friday; in addition to the normal Services for this special Day;

9.30am – 11.30am Children's Activity Workshop in St Bart's; please do advertise this event to your friends, and if you can help organise and run an activity please sign the list at the back of church.

7.30pm in St Mary's, Music, Hymns, Readings and Poems for Good Friday; a meditative service to which you are all warmly invited.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT SERVICES

9th March – Tuesday – 7.00pm Broomfield URC –Margate Road

16th March – Tuesday – 7.00pm Baptist Church - High Street

23rd March – Tuesday – 7.00pm Beltinge Baptist Church – Reculver Road

FOR PRAYER

Archbishop Rowan, Bishop Trevor and all the people of our deanery and diocese.

The Christian Churches of other denominations, their leaders and congregations.

The peoples of Chile, Madeira, Haiti, Indonesia; those of Afghanistan, Pakistan; relations with Iran, Iraq, N Korea, Somalia, Argentina; those who use diplomacy to make peace; those troops sent to keep the peace – often in dangerous and difficult circumstances.

HM The Queen and the Government of this country.

The sick; Hazel Smith, Kath Isaac, John Gambold, Barbara Goater, Frank Kemsley, Linda Hemsley, Josie, Susan & Barry, Beryl Merrivale

The Departed: Edith Davies