

**Week beginning:**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**  
**The Fourth Sunday**  
**In Lent**



*Welcome!*

*WELCOME to St Michael at the North Gate. We are delighted that you are joining us today in this beautiful and historic church. You are most welcome to take this pew sheet home for your use during the week if you wish.*

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### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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We continue the season of **Lent**, conscious of the call to be prayerful, reflective, forgiving, penitent and self-disciplined. As we remember Christ in the wilderness, we commit to God all our wilderness times, and ask that He would make of them what He will.

We live in interesting times! The gospel reading today reminds us about the value of offering what little we can, in whatever circumstance we may find ourselves. Christ gives thanks and multiplies, and others are blessed.

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### THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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### THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

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ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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#### Monday

Hebrews 12:1-3

#### Tuesday

Hebrews 12:4-13

#### Wednesday **The Annunciation of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Hebrews 12:14-17

#### Thursday

Hebrews 12:18-21

#### Friday

Hebrews 12:22-27

#### Saturday

Hebrews 12:28,29

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### CONTACT

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#### **The Revd. Anthony Buckley**

*Vicar*

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## THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY (NIVUK)

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### THE FIRST LESSON

**Exodus 16.2-7a**

*The First Lesson is written in the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Exodus, beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse.*

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat round pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.'

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?'

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

### THE SECOND LESSON

**Galatians 4. 21-end**

*The Second Lesson is written in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse.*

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively: the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: this is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

'Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; break forth and cry aloud, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.'

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? 'Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son.'

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

## THE GOSPEL

**John 6. 1-14**

*The Holy Gospel is written in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.*

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing those who were ill. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, 'Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?' He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, 'It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!' Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?'

Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.' So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

*This is the Gospel of Christ  
Thanks be to thee, O Lord*

### From our Vicar

Best wishes to us all as we ponder Mothering Sunday, with all its usual mix of personal thanksgiving, poignancy and reflection, held together by the sense of "Mother Church" being a place of safety and welcome for all. May our church premises continue to be a place of welcome, sanctuary and hope for many people, day by day. We give thanks for all who look after our buildings so well.

If you would like to receive regular "**Reflection for the week**" by email from The Reverend Anthony Buckley, please drop him a note at: [vicar@smng.org.uk](mailto:vicar@smng.org.uk).

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## NOTICES & PRAYER REQUESTS

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### OWNS

In these difficult times, let us especially remember the homeless and the destitute, and those who are doing what they can to look after them. Please pray for the ongoing work of The Oxford Winter Night Shelter, who are continuing to welcome to our homeless guests two nights per week here at St. Michael's.

## Thank you, Bob!

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is happening in April, and this year we shall be saying thank you to Bob Earl who is stepping down as Church Warden after many years of wonderful service. If you would like to consider being a Church Warden, or would like to know more about the role, please ask Anthony, Bob or Penelope and any of us would be very happy to have a chat!

## Corona Virus

We are keeping in close touch with Oxford Diocese about our response. Do contact Anthony or the Wardens (Bob and Penelope) if you are unsure about the current situation.

## Music on Mondays 1.00 - 1.50pm

Due to the Corona Virus, Music on Mondays is suspended until at least 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## Zero Emission Zone

The final formal consultation on the proposed Zero Emission Zone (ZEM) is currently under way by the council. Details of the proposed traffic restrictions and the reasons for this scheme, as well as the link for responses, can be found on the website:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/formalzezredzone/consultationHome> . If the scheme goes ahead, Ship Street would become a chargeable zone for polluting vehicles between 7am and 7pm. We have until 15<sup>th</sup> April to take part in this consultation.

## The Gatehouse

The Gatehouse is a café for the homeless. Open: Monday-Friday 5-7pm and Sunday 4-6pm, the Gatehouse operates from 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT. You can donate to the gatehouse here: [www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us/donate-money](http://www.oxfordgatehouse.org/support-us/donate-money) .

## Sandwiches

St Michael's provides sandwiches and cakes to the Gatehouse every second Wednesday of the month. The Gatehouse is open and still wants support to keep running during the corona virus outbreak. Their plan for this will be circulated to those on the mailing list for making sandwiches and available to read in our kitchen. Please also see the Gatehouse website:

<http://oxfordgatehouse.org/> Our next date for sandwiches is: 8<sup>th</sup> April.

## The Porch

The Porch is now doing takeaway food for the homeless who need to "physically distance" - contact the Campaign Manager Jacquie Collins RIDip (m) Mobile 07552 840 170 if you want to know more, or visit [www.justgiving.com/theporch/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/theporch/donate) if you wish to support their work.

## Rough Sleeper Information

**Are you concerned about a person who is sleeping rough?** There are a number of things you can do. Report a rough sleeper National 24-hour [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk); 0300 500 0914.

The information will be passed to the outreach team closest to the rough sleeper. You will need to supply the exact location where the rough sleeper can be found

Oxford City Co. outreach team, Monday-Friday Office hours Oxspot 01865 243 229. Advice out of hours O'Hanlon House Ox 304 601 who will be able to give.

Do you believe a rough sleeper's health or safety are in immediate danger?

Emergency services 999 Give an exact location.

Food, free of charge The Gatehouse, 10 Woodstock Road OX2 6HT; 01865 792 999. Monday-Friday 5.00-7.00 pm, Sunday 4.00-6.00pm. Showers Saturday 12.00 noon-2.00pm

Low cost lunches, etc. The Porch, 139 Magdalen Road, OX4 1RL 01865 251 798, Monday to Saturday.

*The photograph on the front is by Dr Cosima Gillhammer, depicting our Lady Chapel, in honour of Mothering Sunday (not kept by BCP) and the Annunciation of The Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday*