

# Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima) 2nd March 2025

## Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading (Exodus 34.29-35)

A reading from the book of Exodus.  
Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

## Psalm (Psalm 99)

**Response: The Lord our God is holy.**

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble.  
He is throned on the cherubim; let the earth quake.  
The Lord is great in Zion.  
He is supreme over all the peoples. R

Let them praise his name, so terrible and great,  
he is holy, full of power. Exalt the Lord our God;  
bow down before his holy mountain  
for the Lord our God is holy. R

## Second Reading (2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

## Gospel Reading (Luke 9.28-36, (37-43))

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

## Post Communion

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change  
and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## For your prayers

**In our Prayers:** Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor, Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Sue, Kathy, Maria Amparo Garcia, Maria, Lenny Shaw, Pat, Vanessa, Eamon Irvine, HM King Charles, Steve, Tracey Sanderson, Fr Michael Shier, Michelle Ferguson, Maria Vaccaro, Robert Russell, Carol Martin, Nancy Campling, Philomena Sorrenti, Martin Fletcher, Jan Bone, Francis Burrows. Fr Peter Rabin, Lynn Williamson, Ms Rebecca Quansah, Dr Alfred Kwasi Kwarteng.

**Among the departed:** Joyce Warr, Eileen McDonagh, June Francis, Jimmy Burke.

**Anniversaries of Death:** Gladys Everett, George Arnall, Frederick Douglas Lock, Alice MacLaughlan, Jesse Frances Chance, Barry Lea

**In the parish:** We pray for Hall Street and Peregrine House

**In the wider world:** We pray for a just and lasting peace between Ukraine and Russia, and pray for all those with authority and influence who are seeking an end to the war.

## Notices

### In Church this week...

**Wednesday** Open Church 10am-1pm  
12.30pm Mass  
7pm Ash Wednesday Mass  
with Imposition of Ashes

**Next Sunday** First Sunday of Lent  
10.30am Sung Mass

## Ash Wednesday

There will be Mass with Hymns including Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday 5th March at 7pm. Please make every effort to attend, so that we can make a good start to Lent together. Meanwhile, please bring your Palm Crosses to church so that they can be made into ash!

## Vicarage Pancake Party

Shrove Tuesday 4th March from 6pm  
Come and enjoy the traditional treat together.  
Everybody invited, it would be great to see you!

## Lent Prayer and Devotions

This year we will be holding the ancient devotion of Stations of the Cross at 7pm on Mondays. We will also have a Lent Group at 11am on Wednesday and the quiet evening service of Compline at 6pm on Wednesdays. Please see our Spring Term programme for full details of forthcoming events.

## Helpers needed after Mass!

Can you help out after Sunday Mass? There's plenty to do clearing up and putting things away once refreshments are finished. If you can please speak to Elaine or Father David.

## King Square Coffee

Community Room, Blackwell House  
(between President House and Rahere House)  
Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm  
Friday afternoons 12.30-2pm  
A chance to chat with your neighbour and catch up over coffee, tea, soup and sweet treats. Everyone welcome!

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