

## Reflection for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

The Gospel for this Sunday is one of the most loved and well-known passages in the Bible, the first 14 verses of St John's gospel. But we only had it back at Christmas and this year, because Easter is early, we have it again 7 Sundays after Christmas. We have had all the physical stories and evidence of Jesus, the baby born in a stable and visited by shepherds and wisemen, his showing to world at his baptism and his Presentation at the temple where he is greeted by Simeon and Anna. All these events confirm his humanity.

However the passage from John reminds us of his divinity; it reminds us that Jesus, the Word was ever there at the beginning of time. It also reminds us that the Light cannot be quenched by the darkness that engulfs the world. Lent is one of the darker times of Christian year leading up to Good Friday and the awful events of that day. It is with us in a week and a half. This Gospel gives us a timely reminder that God does not give in to that darkness and does not let go of us! He is with us through thick and thin and his glory shines through.

*Phil Baker*



### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

**Meeting ID:** 881 6251 3403

**Passcode:** 337962

**Telephone numbers** (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

**NEXT SUNDAY 14.02.2021 Sunday next before Lent**

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

#### READINGS



OT

NT

Gospel

2 Kings 2: 1-12

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

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# St Thomas, Exeter

## Sunday 7th February 2021

### The second Sunday before Lent

*10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)*

*12 noon Mass in Church*

There are **new codes for the zoom services** which will apply now until Easter Day, all being well. The telephone numbers are the same. Please see the middle panel here. Do encourage others to join us—we are having really good worship and some social interaction.

Lent is coming up fast with **Ash Wednesday** on 17 February. There will be an evening service on zoom, probably with our Methodist friends, when there will be an opportunity for ashing yourselves. But you will need to provide your own ash: ideally by burning a palm cross for the previous year, or anything else. Do it carefully! More details to follow.

In our occasional series about saints, 10 February is the feast day of **St Scholastica**, the sister of Benedict. She was born about 480 and died about 547, having spent some of her life with her brother at Monte Cassino. Let us pray for vocations to religious order.

*Fr David*



## Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

## Colossians 1: 15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him

all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## 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.

## Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we

who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous.

**Knit and Natter *Update for February 2021*** We are delighted that so many members of the congregation are knitting blanket squares. This comforting activity is resulting in three more large blankets to add to the five already being enjoyed at Parkland House. Eight inch squares are the best – any wool, any colour, in garter stitch. Nattering is on Thursdays via Zoom from 11.15am to 11.55am, thanks to Vanessa for setting this up for us, whilst we aren't able to meet in person. All information from Jenny on 01392 498725

**House Group.** Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

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## An prayer from the Church of England

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.**