

# Second Sunday of Lent, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

*A community together in faith.*

## Sunday Link

*Connecting a community*

### Contacts

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### Services this week:

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 9.30 am Eucharist**

**Sunday 6pm, Sung Eucharist.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 11am Communion**

**Welcome:** A very warm welcome especially if this is your first time visiting St Mary's, we hope you enjoy your time with us. If you have any questions, please ask any of the welcomers at the door. General information: toilets are situated at the back of the church. Communion, if you usually receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to take communion here, if you don't normally take communion but wish to have a blessing please bring this service sheet to the rail as an indicator to the priest. We do offer gluten free wafers please make yourself known so the priest can be informed. We do not have a collection in the service; a retiring plate is available or the contactless machine on the way out. You are also most welcome to stay after the service for refreshment and a chat.

Procession	380 At the Name of Jesus
Gradual	538 O Jesus I have promised
Offertory	470 I the Lord od Sea and Sky
Communion	324 Sweet Sacrament Divine
	284 Bread if heaven
Anthem	God so Loved the World – Stainers
	Crucifixion
Recessional	557 Praise to the Holiest

### Please remember in your prayers this week the sick

Ron, Marilyn, Claire, Christopher Munns, Dave Cheney, Peter Fisher, Mark, Nina Beetson, Sarina, Gill Foster, Mark Butts, Georgie Grigg, David Wison and Margaret Coombs.

Also, please pray for Andrew and his family as his mother's ashes are interred this morning. May she rest in peace.

### Lenten Study Group

Now at the vicarage. Meetings will start at 7:00 on Tuesdays for approximately one hour.

### Floodlight Sponsorship

#### Mears Family

For Colin on his Birthday.

#### Bryan Chapman

In memory of Kevan James Chapman on what would have been his 78th Birthday.

### FAMILY FUNDAY - Celebrating Mothering Sunday

Family Funday falls on Mothering Sunday, March 15th from 2 to 4pm and we have a special treat! We would like to invite families and the wider community to join in an Afternoon Tea, with a craft project especially for the children to make. **IMPORTANT** this will run as a Bring and Share. PLEASE contact Julie (who has a list), if you are joining us and are able to help with either a loaf of sandwiches, a cake or crisps. Thank You.

### Friends, Finedonians and Fellow worshippers

We're almost ready for Race Night on March 27th but still need about six Jockeys. Each Jockey costs £4.00; winners receive £16.00, while losses contribute to the Church's winter heating bill. The deadline to buy is March 15th (Mothering Sunday). See Colin with his Magic Money Machine at the Racing Booth to purchase a Jockey. Race Night is free to attend and good fun.

### Easter Flowers.

There is a box for donations for easter Flowers and list for dedications at the back of the Church.

### Holy Week - Open Church

The Church needs Stewards for Holy Week. If you can help, please contact the Churchwardens.

### Coffee Morning

19<sup>th</sup> March in the Mission Room Lent 2

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**Collect** Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading from the book of Genesis.**

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Congregational response to Psalm 121 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

**R**

He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

**R**

The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand, So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

**R**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

**R**

## **Second reading :- A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God**

## **Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

## **Post communion prayer.**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**