



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

The First Sunday of Lent
22nd February 2026

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in
the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in
obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers
of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the
desert:
help us to use these days to grow
in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your
saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Romans 5.12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come/

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4.1-11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",
and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Evening Worship

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist

The Venerable Katrina Scott will be the celebrant at the 8am BCP Eucharist at St John Baptist. She will also be at St Lawrence for their 10.30am service.

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 1st March – The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

BCP Sunday 1st March: The Second Sunday in Lent

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 88

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP Eucharist ; 10a.m. All-Age Eucharist;

4p.m. Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Non-Eucharist Family Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday

Canon Graham is available every Monday 5.30 - 6.30p.m. in the Parish Forum

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Cirencester 10K is taking place **today** when roads around the town will be closed.

Paul Springate is running **Lent Groups** starting this week. The **Monday** group in the **Form** at **7.30pm** and **Wednesday's** at **Mary Chapman's** at **2.30pm**. The theme is "Before the Throne", based on Revelation 4, looking at how we live our lives in the presence of our father, the King.

Lent Lunches at **St John Baptist** start on **Thursday February 26th** at **12.30pm**. The focus will be on **Leaders in Education** with **Claire Stickney** (Reception Teacher and RE lead at Powell's School). The simple Lent lunch will be provided by the **Mothers' Union** with surplus funds going to their ongoing projects. All are welcome to attend the Midday Eucharist beforehand.

Stations of the Cross will take place during Lent at **Holy Trinity** beginning at **6.30pm** culminating with Eucharist. This replaces the usual 7pm service.

We look forward to hosting **Faithful Generations** on **February 28th** at St John Baptist **12noon to 4pm**. This will be a drop in day, so everyone is welcome at any time. A few **extra helpers** are needed. You don't need to commit for the whole time but a few folk who could spare an hour between 2pm and 4pm would be brilliant.

Mothers' Union Members Day is on **Wednesday February 25th** **10am** for 10.30am at St Philip and St James Church, Hucclecote.

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

The **Croome Lecture** will be held at **St John Baptist** on **Wednesday February 25th** at **7.30pm**. The talk on **Local Places and The Arthurian Tradition** will be given by **Dr Mary Bateman** (University of Bristol). Entry is free and it should be a fascinating talk. **Mothers' Union Corporate Communion** is on **Thursday February 26th** at **12noon** in the **Parish Church**.

An evening talk with environmentalist and author **Jonathon Porritt**, patron of **Green Christian**, will take place on **Friday 27th February** at **Boutflour Hall, RAU**, Cirencester. He will discuss his book *Love, Anger and Betrayal*, co-authored with 26 young climate campaigners, and will be in conversation with local author and councillor **Chloe Turner**. Doors open at 6:30pm, refreshments available. Free tickets available via Eventbrite (search for Jonathon Porritt, Cirencester).

Mothers' Union. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday March 4th** at **2.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Watermoor. Our guest speakers are members Pauline Skinner and Caroline Winter. They each will give a brief talk on their lives. All are welcome to our meetings. Our next **Wednesday Organ Recital (March 4th)** will be given by **Stephen King, Organist Emeritus** at **Brentwood Cathedral**. The recital is at **1.10pm** and entry is free with a retiring collection.

From the Parish Calendar:

- Mon 23 Feb 2pm: Funeral (Margaret Wynn-Mackenzie) – Holy Trinity
- Tue 24 Feb 9.30am: Stroud Alarms Service – Parish Forum
- Wed 25 Feb 7pm: PCC Standing Committee – St Lawrence
- Wed 25 Feb 7.30pm: Croome Lecture – St John Baptist
- Thu 26 Feb 9.15am: Seedlings – St Lawrence
- Thu 26 Feb 3pm: Fabric Committee Meeting – Parish Forum
- Sun 1 Mar 2.30pm: Visiting Bell Ringers Quarter Peal – St John Baptist

Contact Details:

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Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9.15am (not Saturday)

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Stations of the Cross (during Lent): Wednesdays at 6.30pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am

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