



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

The Second Sunday before Lent
8th February 2026

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.

or Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹ God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Romans 8.18-25

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope.

Matthew 6.25-34

²⁵ 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

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.

BCP Sunday 8th February: Sexagesima

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 80

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

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 12.30p.m. Baptism
4p.m. Evening Prayer

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

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Service of the Word; 4p.m. Pray for Chesterton

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 15th February – Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 24.12-18; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

BCP Sunday 15th February: Quinquagesima

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 82

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

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP Eucharist; 10a.m. Confirmation Eucharist (+Robert);
4p.m. Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Eucharist; 12.30p.m. Baptism

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

Articles for 'Parish Life', the Parish Magazine: The parish magazine email has changed: It is now cirenparishmagazine@gmail.com Articles for each edition should be submitted to the editors, please, on the above email by the 16th day of the previous month.

Electoral Roll: If you have not yet done so and would like to join the Parish Electoral Roll - which enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - please could you complete the form which can be found at the back of church and return it to me via the churchwardens or scan it to me via email: to howardgray@cirenparish.co.uk. It is also possible to download the form from the parish website. (About us - Electoral Roll)

Please could you return last year's **Palm Crosses** to your respective church, in readiness for **Ash Wednesday's** services at St John Baptist at 12noon and Holy Trinity at 7pm – **Feb. 18th**.

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

Mothers' Union members are holding a **Soup Lunch** on **Wednesday February 11th** in the **Parish Hall**, Watermoor from **12noon** until **1.15pm**. Do join us for a bowls of delicious home-made soup, bread cheese, fruit, tea/coffee all for **£4.50**. All monies raised will go towards Mothers' Union projects. This will also be a raffle and MU sales table.

Jubilate Choir will be performing at St John Baptist on **Saturday 21st February** 2pm. Entry is free with a retiring collection. There will be music for everyone, see you there!

The **Croome Lecture** will be held at St John Baptist on **February 25th 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. All are welcome!

Lent Lunches at St John Baptist, **Thursdays** Feb 26th - March 26 12.30 - 13.30. The focus will be on **Leaders in Education**. All are welcome to attend the Midday Eucharist beforehand.

Paul Springate is running his usual **Lent Groups** on **Monday** and **Wednesday**. For more information, contact: revpaul@cirenparish.co.uk

Following the success last year in the Cathedral **Faithful Generations** is coming to us on **Saturday 28th February, 12noon to 4pm** at **St John Baptist**. Everyone of grandparent generation and the children they love and care for in their families, churches and communities are invited. Explore Christian faith and spirituality through Dance, Prayer space Stories, Interactive worship ... and more

From the Parish Calendar:

- Mon 9 Feb: 10.30am Prayers for the Persecuted Church – Holy Trinity
- Wed 11 Feb: CHURCH CLOSED for essential maintenance – St John Baptist
- Wed 11 Feb 12noon – Mothers' Union Soup Lunch – Parish Hall
- Thu 12 Feb 9.15am: Seedlings – St Lawrence

Contact Details:

Canon Graham 01285 239655 / 07871 571147; email: vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

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: Eucharist: Wednesdays at 7pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am