



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

The Second Sunday of Lent
1st March 2026

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light
of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable
to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or 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.

Genesis 12.1-4a

12 Now 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. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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.'

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Romans 4.1-5,13-17

4 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. .../

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3.1-17

3 There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** 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.’

3 Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ **4** 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?’ **5** Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” **8** 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.’ **9** Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’

10 Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’

11 ‘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. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’

16 ‘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.

17 ‘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

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.

BCP Sunday 1st March: The Second Sunday in Lent

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 88

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

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

1p.m. Baptism; 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

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 8th March - The Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11 ; John 4.5-42

Sunday 8th March - The Third Sunday in Lent

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 89

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

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

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

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Service of the Word

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

This week's **Lent Lunches** at **St John Baptist** at **12.30pm** continues to focus on **Leaders in Education** with **Jenny Laird** (Head Teacher at Paternoster 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 with the talk beginning at 1pm with a time for questions afterwards.

Additional Lent Course. Revd Karen will be leading a Lent Course in the choir of the **Parish Church** on the following **Thursday** afternoons **March 5th, 12th, 19th** and in **The Forum** on **26th March**. Each session will be from **2pm - 3pm**. We shall be looking at the readings for the following Sunday Eucharist and thinking about how they are connected and their relevance for Lent. No sign up or booklet required, just come along, although it would be helpful if you could read the readings in advance of each session which you will find in the pewsheets.

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.

New **Mothers' Union** members will be enrolled and welcomed at the 10am Service at **Holy Trinity** next Sunday (**March 8th**).

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

On **Wednesday 4th February**, we will have our next **Lunchtime Organ Recital** at **St John Baptist** at **1.10pm**. This is being given by **Stephen King, Organist Emeritus** at **Brentwood Cathedral**. All are welcome!

Mothers' Union members will be making **posies** for distribution on **Mothering Sunday** in the **Parish Hall**, Watermoor on **Saturday March 14th** from **9.30am**. Refreshments will be available. Do join us if you can.

On **Saturday March 21st 7pm**, **Treorchy Male Choir** are coming to **St John Baptist** to perform a truly wonderful concert. Join us for an evening of fun and song! Tickets are available online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pcc-of-cirencester/t-mjovraa>

Cirencester Foodbank would like to extend their utmost thanks for providing them with donations during December and January and for our support which helps local people in crisis. They were overwhelmed by the support that was received during December and January with donations totalling more than 5860kg. That's approximately the same weight as an adult African bush elephant!

Book of Common Prayer 7.30am Wednesday at the RAU Chapel.

From the Parish Calendar:

- Sun 1 Mar 2.30pm: Visiting Bell Ringers Quarter Peal – St John Baptist
- Mon 2 Mar 5pm: Organ Vespers – St John Baptist
- Tue 3 – Wed 4: Electrical Testing – Holy Trinity
- Tue 3 Mar 1pm: Funeral (Richard Griffiths) – St John Baptist
- Fri 6 Mar 2pm: Churches Together World Day of Prayer – Holy Trinity
- Sat 7 Mar 9.30am: Cleaning Church – Holy Trinity
- Sun 8 Mar 5pm: Visiting Bell Ringers – St John Baptist

Contact Details:

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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