



Growing in God, growing the family of God

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus calls himself 'the light of the world'. So let us live as children of light!

22 March 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have now issued advice that public worship should be suspended until further notice. This follows the most recent Government guidance about avoiding all non-essential contact.

Your parish churches remain open.

The Revd John Paul Hoskins and the Revd Rachel Murray will continue to offer prayer and worship on your behalf and on behalf of the whole community.



The Readings for this Sunday:

Exodus 2. 1-10

Colossians 3.12-17

John's Gospel 19.25b - 27

Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

You might find this form of intercession helpful:

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

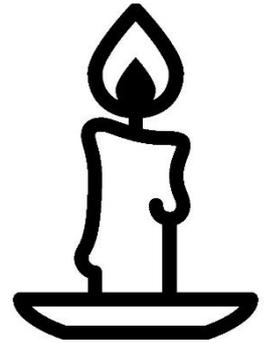
We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Notices

Light a Candle of Hope

The Archbishop of Canterbury and other church leaders have called for a National Day of Prayer and Action this coming Sunday, 22 March: 'At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving heavenly Father and the future that he holds.'



On Sunday evening at 7.00pm, please light a candle in your window at home. It will be a visible symbol of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. And as you light the candle, please pray for those in leadership, for those working in health and social care, and for all who are vulnerable.

Live-Streamed Audio of Holy Communion

Public worship has been suspended, and so we cannot gather together at the Lord's Table. However, John Paul and Rachel will continue to offer prayer on your behalf and on behalf of the wider community.



This Sunday morning, Rachel will celebrate Holy Communion at 10.30am at St Peter's Church. John Paul will preach a short homily for Mothering Sunday. Join us – not in person! – but by listening in via the parish website. Go to winchcombeparish.org.uk/links.php and follow the link to join in with the service on our audio stream.

In addition, **every weekday, Monday to Friday,** there will be a short service of Holy Communion at 12.30pm. Just like on Sunday, this service will also be streamed on the parish website.

Daily Prayer

The Church of England's daily prayers are available online at churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer. Scroll down the page to find links every day to Morning Prayer, Prayer during the Day, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer.

Prayer Requests

At St Peter's, you can light candles and leave written prayer requests. Alternatively, do get in touch with John Paul or Rachel if you want them to pray about particular individuals or situations. All your prayers will be offered daily at Holy Communion.

Keeping in Touch

We will continue to send out regular emails to keep in touch with one another. Please contact the office if you are not on our mailing list.

If you are on Facebook, do follow [facebook.com/ParishofWinchcombe](https://www.facebook.com/ParishofWinchcombe) for frequent updates there. Do also encourage other people to follow us too.

Pastoral Support

It's vital that we keep in touch with each other, even while practising social distancing or even self-isolating. Pick up the phone. Look after each other. Look out for anyone who might be particularly vulnerable. Let us know if you are worried about yourself or anyone else.

There is work going on to ensure a joined-up approach to pastoral care and practical support. More details will follow soon.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the moment, the APCM is still scheduled for Sunday 26 April. It will probably be postponed, but we are waiting for official guidance. The bring and share lunch previously advertised is definitely not happening.

Summer Fête

St Peter's Summer Fête is currently still planned for Saturday 4 July. Details will be in the Parish Magazine. If you can help, please contact Simon Andrews at fete@winchcombeparish.org.uk or on 07842 168451.

Contacts

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[winchcombeparish.org.uk](https://www.winchcombeparish.org.uk)

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