

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

The sick and those unable to attend church

Those who have died recently

**Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Budworth Road, Buerton Close, Calder Avenue.

Those who work in Veterinary Services.

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	John 5: 1-18
<b>Tuesday</b> Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155	John 5: 19-29
<b>Wednesday</b> Ember Day	John 5: 30-end
<b>Thursday</b>	John 6: 1-15
<b>Friday</b> Ember Day	John 6: 16-27
<b>Saturday</b> Ember Day; George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633	John 6: 27-40

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## FROM THE VICAR

Dear friends

*wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are Ember days—that is, days set apart for prayer, fasting and abstinence. Ember days appear in each of the four seasons of the year, and they were introduced in the earliest days of Christianity to provide occasions for thanking God for the gifts of nature and for assisting those in particular need.*

*Later on, Ember Days lost this original connection to the agricultural year and also their original purpose. From the fifth century onwards, the Saturdays of each Ember week became days when ordinations to the diaconate and the ministerial priesthood took place. For this reason, Ember Days are today kept as days of prayer for those who serve the Church in ordained and licensed ministries, and for vocations.*

*Ember Days were introduced in England by St Augustine, who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the late sixth century.*

*On this week's Ember Days, I invite you to join me in praying for Bishop Mark and his new ministry among us and for Bishop Keith as he retires from his ministry in our diocese. Please pray also for those who currently serve our church community in lay and ordained roles—that their ministries may be fruitful in bringing us closer to God and in helping many to come to Christ for the first time.*

Joe

## THE PARISH OF OXTON ST SAVIOUR WITH ST ANDREW NOCTORUM

### Growing Together in Christ

21 February 2021:

### The First Sunday of Lent

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#### Sunday @ Parish Church

To keep you and our staff safe, our PCC has suspended public worship.

#### Prayers by Telephone

No internet access? Dial 0151 318 0581 from 10.00am today to hear this Sunday's Scripture Reading, a sermon and prayers. Standard rates for telephoning an 0151 number apply.

#### Online Sunday Services

**9.15am Eucharist** with Choral Music

President: Revd Dr Tina Dixon

Preacher: Revd Dr Joe Kennedy

James 3: 1-12 and Mark 1: 9.15

This service has been pre-recorded at our Parish Church. Available from 9.15am at [www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour/](http://www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour/)

**10.45am All-Age Service**

This service is being led by the Revd

Dr Joe Kennedy and Mrs Tracey Williams.

This service has been pre-recorded at our Parish Church. Available from 10.45am at

[www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour/](http://www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour/)

#### Today's 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.

#### Giving to Church

We have closed our church's doors in order to play our part in our national effort to stay at home, protect the NHS, and save lives. But our church's life continues and so our expenses continue too. If you don't currently give by Standing Order, please consider scanning this QR code and visiting our online Giving Page.



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It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

# A prayer in time of epidemic

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer (1604)*

## Notices

**REVD JOE'S BIBLE STUDIES** continue this Monday (22 Feb). Bible Study from 8.30pm till 9.30pm. Optional chat from 8.00pm. This week we're taking a second look at Numbers 25:10 to 30:1. All are welcome. If you'd like to come along, please read the Bible passage in advance and email us before 7.00pm on Monday at [office@oxtonstsaviour.co.uk](mailto:office@oxtonstsaviour.co.uk) so that we can send you the Zoom access code.

**ONLINE COMPLINE IN LENT:** One of our priests will lead Compline (Night Prayer) on our Church Facebook Page at 8.00pm on the following Wednesdays—24th February, and 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th March. All are welcome; you don't need to have a Facebook account to watch these Services. Visit [www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour](http://www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour)

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS:** The Diocese of Chester, led by the diocesan Environment Forum (which Revd Joe co-chairs), is inviting you to join in with a Lenten journey. Leading the way are 40 individuals from around our diocese who will each reflect on God's word and God's world. To read the daily reflections visit [www.chester.anglican.org/Lent](http://www.chester.anglican.org/Lent)

**THE LENTEN FAST:** Since the 2nd century, there has been a fast in the days before Easter—first, 'catechumens' (that is, those preparing for Easter Baptisms) fasted; then by the 3rd and 4th centuries baptized Christians kept the catechumens company in fasting. The 40-day Lenten fast is mentioned in the records of the Council of Nicæa in 325AD, when the Nicene Creed was written. We continue to fast today, 'giving up' something for Lent in order to focus our minds and hearts on God and His grace

### APPLYING FOR ST SAVIOUR'S SCHOOL?

Our PCC operates a scheme which allows parents to record their attendance each week. If you wish to apply for a place at school as a result of 'faithful and regular' attendance at our church, you normally need to record your attendance by completing the slip available when you arrive. However, during the period when our Church is closed, you can't do this, so this period is 'credited' to you.

**FOODBANK:** The Foodbank urgently needs tinned fish, sugar, rice pudding, tea, squash, drinking chocolate, toilet rolls, nappies size 5 & 6 and coffee. Thank you.

**Parish Office, St Saviour's Parish Centre, Bidston Road, Oxton, Wirral, CH43 2JZ**  
Telephone 07597 018001 [office@oxtonstsaviour.co.uk](mailto:office@oxtonstsaviour.co.uk) [www.oxtonstsaviour.co.uk](http://www.oxtonstsaviour.co.uk)  
Registered Charity: St. Saviour's PCC, Oxton. Charity Number: 1136160

## Our Online Services

Day	Date	Time	Service	Feast Day
Monday to Friday		9.00am	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday	24 Feb	8.30pm	Compline (Night Prayer)	Ember Day
Sunday	28 Feb	9.15am 10.45am	Eucharist with Choral Music All-Age Service with Communion	2nd Sunday of Lent
Monday to Friday		9.00am	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday	3 March	8.30pm	Compline (Night Prayer)	
Sunday	7 March	9.15am 10.45am	Eucharist with Choral Music All-Age Service	3rd Sunday of Lent
Monday to Friday		9.00am	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday	10 March	8.30pm	Compline (Night Prayer)	
Sunday	14 March	9.15am 10.45am	Eucharist with Choral Music All-Age Service with Communion	4th Sunday of Lent
Monday to Friday		9.00am	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday	17 March	8.30pm	Compline (Night Prayer)	Patrick, Bishop and Missionary
Sunday	21 March	9.15am 10.45am	Eucharist with Choral Music All-Age Service with Communion	Passion Sunday

### PLEASE NOTE:

- These services are available online at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/oxtonstsaviour>
- Our All-Age Services provide opportunities for both children and adults to worship. All are welcome!