

**The United Benefice of  
St Mary Higham Ferrers & St John the Baptist Chelveston**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

# **The First Sunday after Trinity**



Having explored how the Trinity is a perfect community of love where everyone is a precious and valued participant – like the best kind of family – this week, we hear how Jesus interprets ‘family’. Not just those who are our immediate nearest and dearest - as he looks at those who have gathered to meet with him, he says ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’ It’s a radical redefinition of family life – not to take away the importance and significance of our natural families, but to widen the scope of those we love and care for in the same way as our natural families to include and embrace others. It’s a heart-deepening, community-growing, world-changing way of

living and of seeing others – and it’s what we as Christians and the churches we are a part of need to be living out every day of our lives and in everything we do.

## **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> June – The First Sunday after Trinity**

- 9 am Family Eucharist at St John’s  
10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary’s  
2.00 pm Holy Baptism *Jessica Payne*

*Booking no longer necessary for services at St John’s but if you prefer to do so please contact Brenda Elldred on 07816 771702, [brenda@elldred.co.uk](mailto:brenda@elldred.co.uk). Please see notices for information about booking for St Mary’s.*

**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June**                      10 am at St Mary's                      Holy Eucharist

## **SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> June – The Second Sunday after Trinity**

- 9 am Family Eucharist at St John’s  
10.30 am Family Eucharist at St Mary’s  
3.30 pm Family Worship – ‘Wild Worship’ outdoors at St Mary’s

**Sunday Meeting Point** – The **Online Benefice Service** continues – join in alongside either the services in church, or at the usual online time of 10 am – or the service is available on the website all day and on archive pages at [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk) from Monday.



**ZOOM MORNING PRAYER:** all welcome to join in on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 am for a short service of prayer to start the day – the Zoom link is the same every week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847268214?pwd=MmErWkpHVGFMR2lxM3B2dzNUaHRxZz09>  
Meeting ID: 878 4726 8214 Passcode: 270307

**FAMILY WORSHIP** meets again at 3.30 pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June. For further info contact Michelle or Brenda. Look forward to seeing you!



**ONLINE CELTIC SERVICE on Wednesdays** – join in if you can at 7 pm for this peaceful online service of readings, music, prayer and time for meditation – but it will be available to access earlier or later to suit you.

*ORDERS OF SERVICE for these services are available on the website and some are emailed out each week with this news sheet.*

**WEEKLY SERVICES OF HOLY EUCHARIST continue at 10 am on Thursdays throughout the summer months with the THIRD Thursday in the month being held at St John's (17<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August)**



**A PRAYER FOR THE DAY IS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND OTHER PRAYER RESOURCES DURING THE PANDEMIC** are available via the Church of England website at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>.

**RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:** weekly resources for children and families to use at home related to the Gospel such as colouring and activity sheets, crafts, stories, videos and puzzles are emailed each week. If you aren't yet receiving these please let Michelle know: [michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk)



#### **ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES:**

- Services are available via the Benefice website: [www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk](http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk) and information is posted via Facebook, email and our WhatsApp Groups.
- A simple form of Daily Prayer is also available from the website, and can be delivered to homes. There are also many resources available from the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online).
- Bishop Donald's weekly Video message is also available on our website, or on the Diocese website: [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk).
- **VIRTUAL CHURCHYARD PRAYER WALKS:** A Prayer Walk for use out and about (click on the option for 'Prayers for Walkers'), and also 'virtual' versions of the Churchyard Prayer Walks with stations to help you pray and reflect as you meditate on the church, creation, the war memorial, the churchyard and graves.
- **CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY SERVICE** is a weekly online service broadcast from 9 am on Facebook and YouTube – [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online). And there are many other prayer resources available via this link too.
- **DAILY HOPE TELEPHONE LINE:** If you are not online then services, music, prayers and reflections are also available on the **Daily Hope telephone line, a free telephone service available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.**



#### **SUPPORT FOR OUR WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH:**

There is support and resources available via Northamptonshire *Redeeming Our Communities* Community Engagement Charity website: <https://rocnorthants.co.uk>

**SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY:** if you or anyone you know needs help with food shopping, picking up medicines, or just a chat over the phone, do get in touch with any of our Ministry Team, as well as Lynne Pocock who leads our Pastoral Group.



**FACEBOOK & WHATSAPP** – Please help keep everyone in contact by regularly checking and contributing on both Facebook and WhatsApp – if you haven't yet, please like and share our church Facebook pages and do the same for postings, which will help others find the information and generate more traffic!

St Mary's FB page can be found by searching for @highamchurch, and St John's at @StJohn'sChelveston.



### **CELEBRATIONS** 😊

A Very Happy Birthday from all the parish family to Margaret Tuffnail, who is hoping to be in church with us to celebrate her birthday today, 6<sup>th</sup> June.

If you have happy news/events (birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, etc) to share with the rest of the parish family via the news sheet please let me know - [jane@smeathers.com](mailto:jane@smeathers.com) or 01933 357707.

### **BAPTISMS**

It's great that baptisms can again take place in church and there are several families bringing their children for baptism over the coming months. Please pray for Jessica, to be baptised at St Mary's **today**, 6<sup>th</sup> June, and for her parents, Hayley and Andy, her older brother Daniel, and her godparents, Michael & Ruth.

### **OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR:**

Karen Addis, Richard Bedells, Madge Boxall, Daniel Boxall, Tony Brown, James Christie, Ken Clarke, Allison Cox, Marian Cox, Hazel Cragg, Gillian Dixon, Pat Ellis, Henry Flynn, Christine Franklin, John Garley, Iris Gilbert, Cllr David Hamblin, Cynthia Hobson, Noreen Holmes, Peggy Horsfield, Sarah Knight, Tim McGuire, Laura May, Catherine (nee Matthias) & Tom Mayer, Sally Mayes, Roy Morgan, Freda Pack, Dora Paynton, Paul Paynton (Revd), Peter Paynton, Val Robinson, Jean Shield, Pat Spencer, Simon & Katie Stafford, Elizabeth Swindley, Martin Sykala, Margaret Tuffnail, Garth Ward, Sara Whatley.

**Chelveston:** Ralph Allen, Joan Amos, Joy Coker, Brittany Fowler, Hilary Goodman, Dinu Johns, Eric Kilsby, Brenda May, Tony Norman, Muriel Palmer, Margaret Sheppard, David Webber, Diana Wright.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Annette Norman, Georgina Weston, Shirley Lovell.

A Service of Celebration for the life of **Shirley Lovell RIP** will be held at St Mary's on 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11am, following a funeral service at Nene Valley. There will be some spaces available so if you would like to attend please let Dave Stuttle know at [dchs50@virginmedia.com](mailto:dchs50@virginmedia.com) or 07941 306391. Please pray for Martin, Andrew and Nicola and all Shirley's family at this time.

### **YEAR'S MIND ANNIVERSARIES:**

Selina Allen, William Hendry, Bernard Mayes, Edna Fletcher, Frederick Banham, Herbert Stewart, Dorothy Goodes, David Hughes, Percy Smith, Allen Goulsbra OBE, John Browning, Arthur Wright, Frank Felce, Helen Driver, Linda Smith, Dorothy Blackwell, Michael Warde, Irene Britchford, Ellen Bonfield, Daphne Robinson, Betty Chamberlain.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Moheb, Therese & Lilly - our family from Egypt who are applying for permission to reside in the UK because as Coptic Christians their lives have been in danger in Egypt – their first request has been denied so they will now need to go to an Appeal. Please pray for them during this very anxious time and for their family back in Egypt.

## BENEFICE PRAYER GROUP – Daily Intentions for the coming week

**AIM: To grow in faith as followers of Jesus Christ and to serve our local communities in love.**

<b>Sun</b>	This Sunday we pray for our family life – for those who are part of our own families, and the wider family of our church, community and world. Today we welcome a new member of our church family as Jessica comes to be baptised this afternoon. Yesterday was World Environment Day and so we pray that as Christians we may remember our responsibility as stewards of God’s creation.
<b>Mon</b>	Today pray for those preparing for ordination this summer, for those coming for Baptism in the coming months and any considering confirmation. For our couples preparing for marriage – at St Mary’s we pray for Jack & Emily, and Lauren & Chris.
<b>Tues</b>	For honesty and integrity in public life and for those in leadership. For the wider world, and all continuing to suffer the ongoing effects of Covid. For the people of Hong Kong and China with increased tensions due to the anniversary of Tiananmen Square massacre.
<b>Wed</b>	For our NHS staff addressing the backlog in health care. For all those involved in administering the vaccination programme across the world, that the wealthy nations may help the poorer nations to access vaccines and medical care.
<b>Thurs</b>	We pray for our local schools, children and families, and for teachers in the return to school after Half Term and for the final term, and all now awaiting results of end of year assessments. For our local shops and businesses as restrictions ease.
<b>Fri</b>	We continue to remember those who have died as a result of the Pandemic and for all who mourn.
<b>Sat</b>	We pray for the Church and all God’s people – for all who have taken up new roles and ministries on our PCCs and Deanery Synod. We pray for the Leading Your Church into Growth programme that it may help us grow our churches, our faith and our mission. We pray for the ‘Giving & Growing in Love & Faith’ Stewardship Refreshed campaign at St Mary’s – that we may respond as generously as we can to help our church make even more of an impact in our community in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Please use this news sheet to help you pray for our churches  
and their mission during the week.**

<b>For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:</b>	
Revd MICHELLE:	Tel: 01733 569147 / 07961 003352 or <a href="mailto:michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk">michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk</a>
BRENDA Elldred (Reader):	07816 771702, <a href="mailto:brenda@elldred.co.uk">brenda@elldred.co.uk</a>
PASTORAL TEAM:	Lynne on 07800 636943, <a href="mailto:lynnem pocock@netscape.net">lynnem pocock@netscape.net</a> for St Mary’s Brenda Elldred (as above) for St John’s
PARISH OFFICE:	01933 741140 or <a href="mailto:stmarys.higham@gmail.com">stmarys.higham@gmail.com</a>
BEDE HOUSE ENQUIRIES:	01933 741140 or <a href="mailto:thebedehouse@gmail.com">thebedehouse@gmail.com</a>
WEBSITE:	<a href="http://www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk">www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk</a>

# NOTICES

**ST MARY'S & ST JOHN'S CONTINUE TO REMAIN OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:** St John's will be open daily during daylight hours and St Mary's will be open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 12-4 pm, and where possible on Thursday mornings. Necessary safety measures are in place for everyone to be safe.

**BOOKING SEATS FOR SUNDAY MASS AT ST MARY'S:** With one or two extra people returning to church each week it is advisable to let me know if you are attending. This is so that you can be allocated a seat and we can keep everyone safely socially distanced. Please note that you need to let Dave know you are coming to Sunday Mass by 5 pm on the Saturday, either by email at [dchs50@virginmedia.com](mailto:dchs50@virginmedia.com) or by text message or ringing 07941 306391. Thanks, Dave Stuttle.

## **CHARLOTTE HAS COMPLETED HER CHALLENGE:**

The amazing Charlotte Mantle has completed her Half Term Nene Challenge walking, cycling and canoeing from Higham Ferrers to the Wash. She did it in 5 days and has raised an amazing £1495 (inc Gift Aid for her three causes:

- St Mary's 600 Appeal
- Nene Valley Scouts (to support groups struggling in the pandemic)
- Save the Children

Well done Charlotte!!! And thank you to all who have supported her already – you can still donate via the link to her JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-mantle21](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-mantle21)

For more details contact Leona Mantle at: [leonamantle@googlemail.com](mailto:leonamantle@googlemail.com)

**MARGARET WHITEMAN RIP:** Margaret's ashes will be interred in the Rose Garden on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 11 am and her family invite us to join them for that, as well as for coffee at Coffee Barne afterwards. They also wish to offer items of furniture (including a sofa) or household items free to anyone who might need them.



**GROWING & GIVING IN LOVE & FAITH:** St Mary's is holding a Stewardship Campaign – the first for many years. This coincides with our 600 Appeal and awareness of the necessary ongoing work on our three magnificent buildings, as well as a thorough-going review of our finances. Absolutely key to all this though is our wish to reach out more fully in mission to our whole parish family. There are special Stewardship Envelopes at the back of church – please look for yours and if you can help deliver any to others too that would be really helpful – thank you! The Stewardship Refreshed Campaign will conclude on 20<sup>th</sup> June so please return your responses by then. Thank you! 😊

**LEADING YOUR CHURCH INTO GROWTH (LyCiG):** We continue to pray for growth in this new stage of the life of our churches as we share in praying the LyCiG prayer in our public worship and personal prayer. This builds on all we have been doing over previous years to grow in numbers, spiritual commitment and impact on our communities and needs all of us to play our part. Watch out for ways you can join in too! Here is the LyCiG Prayer which we will be using as we pray together for growth in numbers, growth in our discipleship and growth in our mission:



*God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**AL AHLI HOSPITAL, GAZA:** The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, part of the Anglican Communion, supports the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The hospital is on the front line of the major humanitarian crisis, and is in desperate need of funds. Archbishop Hosam, the new Archbishop in Jerusalem, has issued an appeal to Anglicans worldwide.

You can find a link to this here: [AlAhliHospitalAppeal2021 | jmecca.org.uk](http://AlAhliHospitalAppeal2021.jmecca.org.uk).



**COMMUNITY SURVEY:** As part of the St Mary's 600 Appeal we are wanting to ask our local community what St Mary's means to them and how we as a church can best serve our community post Covid. We have put together a very short Community Survey which is available via the website – please have a look and complete it – and also encourage people you know from other community groups as well as friends and neighbours to do so too. We need the widest possible demographic and wish to consult as broadly as possible so please help us!



**MAKE YOUR WALK COUNT:** The Church of England would like to find out what flora and fauna are living in our churchyards across the country and are asking us all to note down what birds, butterflies, insects and flowers etc we see as we walk through our churchyards between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a book in both church porches for you to write in whatever you see on your rambles! This will help the Church of England create a database of how our churchyards are contributing to supporting the wildlife of England.

**FIRST STEPS.....** As we emerge from lockdown and wonder how our world will be, and as a result, how the church will be, Rev Michelle would like to find ways of having conversations with as many people as possible, both from our church family and within our Benefice over the summer months. What are we longing for and needing as life picks up pace again? Where have we most found God, and what has brought us peace during lockdown? How have St Mary's and St John's made a difference and what should the church be for people now? What is God calling us to do, or to stop doing? These were the questions we began to look at during our Vision Days back in 2019 – they are even more relevant now! Please let Michelle know any ideas you might have for how to set up some informal opportunities to talk together and to include community groups too so as a church we can explore our own 'Listening Project' – ideas might include walks together (Chris & Graham Newell are looking to offer some walks for small groups to join), coffee & chat in the vicarage garden, Zoom talks over a glass of wine, a meet up over Afternoon tea and cakes and so on. More on all this to follow but do share ideas and thoughts.

**ST JOHN'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND 26TH & 27TH JUNE:** Join a weekend of celebration at St John's!



- On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June we will have the church decorated with flowers, refreshments served in the churchyard from 10 am – 4 pm (weather dependent of course), a plant stall, book stall and a jams and craft stall by the Raunds Brownies.
- On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a Celebration Eucharist at 10 am followed by refreshments.

Please do come along, and if you can help at all with cakes, plants or books or would like to help out on either day please speak to Brenda 07816 771702 or Shirley and Richard on 01933 354810.

**GARAGE SALE:** the Tourism Garage Sale is being planned for 28<sup>th</sup> August – St Mary's will be selling items on a stall in the churchyard in aid of the Appeal, so if you have bric-a-brac or items to sell, please let Sue Dennis know – we are happy to receive items any time from now on if you are spring cleaning!



**FACE COVERINGS FOR SANGAM:** I am a member of Girlguiding and visited the world centre in Pune, India called Sangam. Currently the people at Sangam are keeping safe concerning COVID, but I thought it would help them if we could send re-usable face coverings of the type that people have been making themselves, myself included. I am asking for people to make face coverings so we can send them as we understand the effectiveness of wearing them. I can provide a pattern if needed, or you can use your own. My phone number is 07519 396654 for any advice. Thank you in anticipation of your assistance, **Sandy Coleman**

**FOOD BANK:** If you're able to add something to your weekly shop we currently need :-

**Longlife semi-skimmed milk; Sugar; Custard; Coffee; Jam** (sadly we can't use homemade 😞)  
Thank you so much to all who continue to support those who are less fortunate.

**THE NEWS SHEET** is emailed out widely each week. If you know of anyone who doesn't receive it and would like to, please let me know on [jane@smathers.com](mailto:jane@smathers.com).

# BENEFICE FUNDRAISING UPDATES



## ST MARY'S 600 APPEAL

### A DIFFERENT WAY TO SUPPORT THE APPEAL

From: Stewart Wiles, Member of St Mary's 600 Appeal Group

Dear Church Members,

Now is your chance to see if you can win a £1,000 donation from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company\* who insure our Church, Chantry Chapel and Bede House. All you have to do is complete the on-line form on the link below for both the Church and the Bede House.

### Our 2021 Movement for Good awards

Today we're launching our £1m Movement for Good awards. We're proud to be giving back **to the communities we** serve and championing the issues that really matter to them, especially in this time of need – working together to build a movement for good.

### Just imagine what you could do with a £1,000 donation

Designed to give eligible charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland the financial assistance they need to help them make a real difference, we're donating £1,000 to 500 charities. And you could be one of them.

All you need to do is visit [movementforgood.com](https://movementforgood.com) and enter your details.

The more nominations a charity gets, the greater its chance of receiving a £1,000 donation, so start spreading the word to your friends and family with our [handy toolkits](#).

**The closing date for nominations is Sunday 13 June 2021.**

Good luck

The only information you need to know is the name of the charity, or just its charity number, as below :

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary The Virgin Higham Ferrers  
Charity No 1132678

The Chichele Bede House Trust                      Charity No 1067756

There are a few more questions which shouldn't take you more than a few minutes to complete.

**HAVE A GO, YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MAY WIN US £1,000**

Kind Regards,  
Stewart

We are so very close to being able to start the work on our new heating system, if you are still mulling over your potential giving then now would be a wonderful time - your gift could be the final pounds we need to get the project started and how marvellous would that be? Thank you to everyone who has been giving since the 600 Appeal began because each and everyone of you has got us to this point - here's to warmth in church this winter!

We have **stalls booked at two future Farmers Markets** to raise funds and awareness of the 600 Appeal and are beginning to put plans in place for fundraising events as the world opens up once more. A lot of time and effort continues to be put into grant applications too.

**Donations** to the appeal in the form of cheques should be made payable to St Mary the Virgin PCC Higham 600 Appeal, or can be made using the BACS system (sort code 30-96-09; account number 84427260; account St Mary the Virgin PCC Higham 600 Appeal). Be assured that whatever you can raise, in whatever format, will be very gratefully received...thank you!

**Fundraising contacts:-**

Sue Dennis, Chair of the Fundraising Group, 07773 586352, [suedennis1105@gmail.com](mailto:suedennis1105@gmail.com)

Avril Harlow, Appeal Treasurer, 01933 314694, [avrilharlow@gmail.com](mailto:avrilharlow@gmail.com)



Two simple **no cost** ways of supporting **St Mary's or St John's**, as fundraising opportunities are so limited due to the pandemic. As many of us are now shopping on line, both help us to raise much needed funds for both churches **at no cost** to the shopper.

**easyfundraising**

**St John's** have **9** supporters and have to date raised over **£70**, also for general funds. This really is a great result – please keep up the good work.

**St Mary's** has 32 supporters, but 14 of them have not purchased anything through Easyfundraising. It may be because they are forgetting to make purchases through Easyfundraising?

A quick reminder - Maybe put a note on your computer screen to remind you to go to Easyfundraising, then search for the retailer you want to use, if they are in the list then select them from the Easyfundraising page and shop as usual. The more you spend, the more you raise for our church but it's imperative to access your retailer by going to Easyfundraising first. Once you get into the habit of it you really can make lots of money for the church. Currently retailers such as H&M, Boots and ASOS are offering up to 3% donations! If you are using any of the services such as Confused.com or Go Compare they give particularly generous donations - £12.50 currently. Let's make lots of money for nothing - and thank you to those 18 people who are spending while using Easyfundraising and have so far raised £140.93 for St Marys!

Maybe you are a keen Amazon shopper? Again, if you register with **Amazon Smile** and select **St Mary's** as your cause to support then you can shop with Amazon and ensure even more donations to our church.

As St. John's does not need to be registered with the Charity Commission (a requirement for Amazon Smile) this is not an option, but Amazon also donate via easyfundraising which please continue to do.

**Remember, money raised in these ways goes to each church's general funds and not to the 600 Appeal.**

Please, if you haven't yet signed up to support our churches in these ways will you do so? If you are not an online shopper yourself then you will definitely know someone who is, so please ask them if they would sign up to support St Mary's or St John's.

For further information please contact

Sue Dennis on 07773 586352, or email [suedennis1105@gmail.com](mailto:suedennis1105@gmail.com) for St Mary's

or John Eldred, St. John's Treasurer, on 07929 328827 or email [john@eldred.co.uk](mailto:john@eldred.co.uk).

**Thank you!**

## READINGS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen**

### FIRST READING: Genesis 3.8–15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' <sup>10</sup>He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' <sup>11</sup>He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' <sup>12</sup>The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' <sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

### PSALM 130

### SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>5</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

### GOSPEL: Mark 3.20–35

Then Jesus went home; <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' <sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' <sup>23</sup>And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'—  
<sup>30</sup>for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' <sup>33</sup>And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' <sup>34</sup>And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

### FINAL PRAYER

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**