

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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

***The Birth of John the Baptist  
and Two Healings***



John the Baptist is unique in the Biblical narrative – part Old Testament prophet with his dramatic words and interesting lifestyle, but mostly a prophet in a whole new way – he is the herald, the forerunner, the proclaimer who points always to Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Messiah. Even before he is born, he recognises Jesus, when his mother Elizabeth, in her sixth month of pregnancy, greets Mary, only just herself with child, John leaps in his mother’s womb. John is a rather miraculous child too, set apart from the first for this special purpose of preparing the way for Jesus, proclaiming his coming and baptising him in the River Jordan. He challenges us, as he challenged those of his own time, to recognise Jesus and to call others to do the same. The readings for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity demonstrate what can happen when we recognise Jesus and come to him – Jairus with his desperately ill daughter and the woman who has bled for twelve years know that Jesus has the power to transform things despite the disbelief of others – Jesus is the Lord of Life and when we recognise him and truly believe in him, anything can and does happen!

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June – The Birth of John the Baptist/Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

- 10 am** Celebration Eucharist for the Patronal Festival at St John’s  
**10.30 am** Family Eucharist at St Mary’s for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity  
**3.30 pm** Family Worship – ‘Wild Worship’ outdoors at St John’s

*For **this week only at St John’s** please book for the Celebration Eucharist with 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 1<sup>st</sup> July** 10 am at St Mary’s Holy Eucharist

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> July – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

- 9 am** Family Eucharist at St John’s  
**10.30 am** Family Eucharist 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=MmErWkpHVGFMR2IxM3B2dzNUaHRxZz09>  
Meeting ID: 878 4726 8214 Passcode: 270307

**FAMILY WORSHIP** meets again **TODAY, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June**, 3.30 pm at St John’s when we celebrate St John’s Patronal Festival. 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 (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.

### **CELEBRATIONS** 😊

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.

### **WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS**

It's great that weddings and baptisms can again take place in church - please pray for Emma & Jack to be married on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at St Mary's and for Lauren & Chris to be married on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at St Mary's.

There are several families bringing their children for baptism over the coming months which, due to the current restrictions on numbers for our 10.30 am, have to take place at an afternoon service for now. Please pray for Reginald, Emmeline-Jayne, Marnie, Mason and Eva – all of whom will be baptised over the summer.

### **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, Peter 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, Freda Pack, Dora Paynton, Paul Paynton (Revd), Peter Paynton, Lynne Pocock, 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:**

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

Edgar Underwood, Kate Sanders, Frederick Wookey, William Groome, Lily Miller, Joseph Richardson, John Holland, Lucy Hall, Cyril Sturgen, Florence Bradshaw, Albert Tilley, Louisa Lawrence, Nicola Harris, Hylton Thirkell (Priest), Ada Tearle, Edith Goodwin, George Pentelow, Ida Davison, George Turton, Ellen Webb, Amy Sabey, Gertrude Saddington, Neil Patrick.

**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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Debbie Smith-Wilds as she is ordained priest this Sunday at Peterborough Cathedral, and for those ordained alongside her. Pray too for James, Edward and Bethany and for the Benefice of St Peter & Paul, Uppingham, where Debbie is curate.

## **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>	<p>This Sunday we give thanks for John the Baptist and pray that we may follow his example to point to Jesus, our Saviour and call others to follow him. We pray for our church family at St John's as we celebrate our Patronal Festival and for the communities of Chelveston, Caldecott and Chelston Rise.</p> <p>Pray too for all those being ordained deacons and priests today at Peterborough Cathedral and for the parishes where they serve.</p>
<b>Mon</b>	<p>For those coming for Baptism in the coming months and any considering confirmation.</p> <p>For our couples preparing for marriage – at St Mary's we pray for Jack &amp; Emily, and Lauren &amp; Chris.</p>
<b>Tues</b>	<p>Today we give thanks for the apostles St Peter and St Paul – for their courage and leadership in taking the Gospel to all peoples.</p> <p>We pray for all leaders across the world, that they may be courageous, faithful and honest and lead by example. For the wider world, and all continuing to suffer the ongoing effects of Covid amid concerns over the Delta variant.</p>
<b>Wed</b>	<p>For our NHS staff addressing the current health emergencies.</p> <p>For all those involved in administering the vaccination programme across the world.</p> <p>For the nations working together to respond to the challenges of climate change and world vaccination.</p>
<b>Thurs</b>	<p>We pray for our local schools, children and families and for our local shops and businesses hoping for a summer with fewer restrictions.</p>
<b>Fri</b>	<p>We continue to remember those who have died as a result of the Pandemic and for all who have lost loved ones.</p>
<b>Sat</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>We pray for the Leading Your Church into Growth programme that it may help us grow our churches, our faith and our mission.</p> <p>We give thanks today for the apostle St Thomas, may we like him, despite our doubts, come to recognise Jesus as 'My Lord and my God.'</p>

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

# 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.



**GROWING & GIVING IN LOVE & FAITH:** Thank you to all who have already responded – the Stewardship Refreshed Campaign has now concluded, but you can still respond if you haven't yet had a chance to – anything you can give, or any additional amount you can add, however small, will make a huge difference to the mission of St Mary's! 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.

**SAVE THE DATE!!! 'COME ON BOARD!'** Here's an invitation to you all to 'Come on Board' with LyCiG. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August come along to The Bede House at 8.00 pm- **please note later start time-** to share (we hope!) some Middle Eastern nibbles and wine and explore together some of the ideas of LyCiG and how we can use this to help our church and mission grow even more.

The LyCiG Prayer:



*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.*

Here are two things that are already happening partly as a result of LyCiG

**Litter Picking:** Litter has become even more of a problem and many of our local areas are spoiled by rubbish and litter which poses a threat to the environment and wellbeing. Sue Clarke began to do some litter picking during Lent and she and Dave Stuttle have now come up with a way of helping us address this problem and have provided some equipment which any of us can use while out and about, including hi-vis jackets (with St Mary's logo), pickers, refuse sacks and hoops to make the sacks stay open when picking up litter. They are currently stored in the Bede House but please let Sue or Dave know if you would like to borrow them. We will look to organise some litter picking teams together too.

**Blessing Our Schools:** Our local schools have been doing a fantastic job during the last very challenging year and we would like to show them how much we value them. We are planning to take into each school a special card and gift before the end of term and offer any assistance they might like from us when that is possible in the new school year – this may include assemblies, hearing children read, help in the playground etc. If you would be interested in helping as part of a future 'Schools Team' please speak to Rev Michelle.

**THE TREASURES OF ST. MARY'S HIGHAM FERRERS** project is now complete and online.

To access it visit the church website, where you'll find a link on the home page to the twelve stunning picture, and beneath them, a sound commentary. Click on whichever one(s) you want to know more about, and listen to a three minute tour. Happy listening 😊

**ST JOHN'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND!!:** 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 book with Brenda for the Patronal Festival Eucharist so we can manage social distancing for a larger number in church. Thank you.

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.

**ST MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION** are meeting again! We will gather informally and socially distanced in church this Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, at 2 pm for a short meeting to catch up with one another and discuss how the branch can move forward. We hope all members will feel able to join us, for further information please speak to Ruth or Jane.



**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!

**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.

**STOP PRESS!** 'First Steps...Walks' are now planned for the first Tuesday of each month, starting on 6<sup>th</sup> July – meet at St Mary's ready to leave on foot at 11 am for a walk arranged by Chris & Graham Newell – each walk will be an hour, hour and a half max and will be an opportunity to walk and talk together about life, faith, Covid, God, hope or whatever you want as we go along together. Please let Chris & Graham know if you'd like to join and are looking forward to a series of mini pilgrimages together. The next dates will be 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**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: [Al Ahli Hospital Appeal 2021 | jmecca.org.uk](https://www.jmecca.org.uk).

## TOURISM SUMMER EVENTS:

- **The Music Festival** will run over the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> July/1<sup>st</sup> August this year with live music at the new Duchy Barns Garden on Saturday - and Brass on the Grass in St Mary's Churchyard at 3pm on Sunday with refreshments to raise funds for the Heating Appeal.
- **The Garage Sale/Hidden Gardens and Summer Art Exhibition** will be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August with an Art Exhibition in St Mary's and refreshments being served in The Bede House throughout.
- Further details on all these events to follow. See below too:

**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!

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

**Long-life semi-skimmed milk; Sugar** (small bags); **Custard; Jam** (sadly we can't use homemade 😞); **Coffee** (small jars); **Washing powder; Anti-bac spray; Shampoo; Conditioner; Men's deodorant.** Donations can be put in the box at the back of the church. Thank you for all your continued support.

**THIS 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@smeachers.com](mailto:jane@smeachers.com).

<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@eldred.co.uk">brenda@eldred.co.uk</a>
PASTORAL TEAM:	Lynne on 07800 636943, <a href="mailto:lynnempocock@netscape.net">lynnempocock@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>
 	

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

**The Summer Supper** at No 1 Hind Stile on Thursday evening was a truly lovely event, supported by our church family, and raising £270 for the '600 Appeal'.

There is going to be an 'Open Garden' at number No 1 Hind Stile on the afternoon of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July - again to raise funds for our appeal - more details next week but pop the date into your diaries.

**HIGHAM HOT 100:** here's the latest easy way we can all help with the Heating Project and 600 Appeal - a monthly draw in which you'll have the chance to win £150, £75 or £25! Each participant pays £5 per month, and with 100 contributors it will generate £3,000 per year for the Appeal just like that! Please see the flyer attached (also available in church) or contact Sue Dennis for further information 07773 586352 or [suedennis1105@gmail.com](mailto:suedennis1105@gmail.com).

### Volunteers Needed....

to distribute leaflets which have been produced to circulate our news around the town, and to ask for the last few donations which will enable the work to begin on the new heating system, as well as the other projects concerning the 600 Appeal.

Will you take a suitable amount of the leaflets and distribute to homes in streets around you?

They will be available in church, on Sundays and Wednesdays, with a chart showing street names and numbers, for you to take away and pop through letter boxes as soon as you're able.

We thank you again, for your help and enterprise, the leaflet may not only bring some welcome donations, but will serve as promotion for St Mary's and all that we strive for.

**Avril Harlow (Appeal Treasurer)**

### Reminders:

- On the church website is a really short survey that we would encourage you all to complete please. It will be useful information to use when we are submitting future bids for pots if money that may be available - your thoughts and opinions are really important to us. If you prefer to complete a paper copy then please let one of the appeal group know and we will provide one. Currently only 25 people have completed it.
- If you have been sorting out bric a brac items that we can use for the Town Garage Sale at the end of August please do bring them to church where will be storing them in the Vicarage garage until the big day.

There are lots of exciting things being planned for when Boris gives us the go ahead for the world to open up once more so do please watch this space! In the meantime, thank you for the support that you have already given - we are pretty confident that the church will be warmer this winter.

**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)

## READINGS FOR THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST CELEBRATED AT ST JOHN'S

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you raise up prophets in every age. Let your Spirit, who filled John the Baptist from his mother's womb, full us with joy as we celebrate his birth. May the example of his life, the urgency of his preaching, and the power of his prayers make us ready to receive the one he announced, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING      **Isaiah 40.1–11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

### PSALM 85.7–13

### SECOND READING      **Galatians 3.23–29**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

<sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

<sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

### GOSPEL      **Luke 1.57–66,80**

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

<sup>60</sup>But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' <sup>61</sup>They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'

<sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### FINAL PRAYER

Merciful Lord, whose prophet John the Baptist proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: grant that we who in this sacrament have known your forgiveness and your life-giving love may ever tell of your mercy and your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY CELEBRATED AT ST MARY'S

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING **Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24**

because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. <sup>14</sup>For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. <sup>15</sup>For righteousness is immortal.

<sup>23</sup>for God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity, <sup>24</sup>but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

### PSALM 30

### SECOND READING **2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

<sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.

<sup>9</sup>For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— <sup>11</sup>now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'

### GOSPEL **Mark 5.21–43**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' <sup>24</sup>So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' <sup>29</sup>Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' <sup>32</sup>He looked all round to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

<sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' <sup>37</sup>He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

<sup>38</sup>When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup>He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### FINAL PRAYER

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**