

Parish of Ribbleton

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

Sunday 24th October
Last Sunday after Trinity

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our
learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and
inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy
word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of
everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING (Jeremiah 31:7-9)

This is what the Lord says:
“Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the
nations.
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’
See, I will bring them from the land of the north and
gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant
mothers and women in labour; a great throng will return.
They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring
them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path
where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 126)

The response to the psalm is:

**The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.” **R/**

Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them. **R/**



SECOND READING (Hebrews 7:23-28)

Now there have been many priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest truly meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people.

He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

GOSPEL (Mark 10:46-52)

Then they came to Jericho.

As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout,

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more,

“Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said,

“Call him.”

So they called to the blind man,

“Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”

Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said,

“Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.



Sunday Reflection

What do you want me to do for you?

...a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging...

Sadly, this has become an everyday part of our society, desperate and destitute men and women with little hope.

Perhaps we give them a copper or two, or buy them a meal and direct them to a drop-in centre or night shelter. But mostly people either ignore them or abuse them.

They pass by.

In our gospel reading Jesus and his disciples are on a journey – the journey that brings them to Calvary. It started from their home territory around the Sea of Galilee and it's brought them south as far as Jericho. If you look back over the readings for the last six weeks or so, you'll see some of the highlights of that journey. It begins with the healing of a blind man, then the disciples eyes being opened as Jesus asks them, "Who do you say that I am?"

We see the transfiguration and the plight of the rich young man with the empty heart.

We see arguments between the disciples over power and position.

Now Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving Jericho.

Sat by the roadside is a blind beggar – Bartimaeus.

"What's going on?" Bartimaeus asks.

"Oh, it's just Jesus from Nazareth and his friends." is the reply.

And Bartimaeus is ignored.

But Bartimaeus is galvanised!

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

The bystanders ignore or abuse him, telling him to shut up.

He has seen something in Jesus that they seem to have failed to see.

He sees him as 'Son of David' – The Messiah promised by God, a political and military leader, and a king to set the Hebrew people free from Roman oppression.

And it's from this Messiah that he begs mercy, again and again.

Jesus hears his call: he stops and makes time for Bartimaeus,

"Call him!"

"Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Bartimaeus is told,

Bartimaeus responds and comes face to face with Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The same words he used to James and John in last week's gospel.

They wanted power and glory.

In that moment Bartimaeus opened his heart to Jesus in total faith:

"Rabbi, I want to see."

Like Bartimaeus we, as individuals first but also as the church, need to be ready to recognise Jesus, to hear his call and to respond to it.

Jesus is saying to us:

"What do you want me to do for you?"

We need to stand before Jesus in faith, and say:

"Rabbi, I want to see."

And, like Bartimaeus, as we receive our healing and our new sight we will be able to follow Jesus down that road.

Love and prayers,

Barbara



Intercessions

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on your Church.
Pour out your healing Spirit on our divisions and cure the spiritual blindness that prevents us hearing and following your call.

Open our eyes to the needs of your children who live in fear and suffering because of their love for you.
We ask your blessing on the Christian communities in Bangladesh and Iraq and pray for the safety of the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti. Grant them courage and strength.

We hold before you those you have called to lead and teach your church - among them our bishops - Julian, Philip and Jill, - and Archdeacon David.
And we give thanks for Bishop Philip's ministry to us today.

Guide and encourage those who minister to our parish - Fr Chris, Linda, Captain David, - and our parish wardens, Ron and Jacqueline.

We pray for our worshipping communities and all who meet in your name around our parish.
Open our eyes, Lord, to a vision of your plan for your church, and renew in us that flame which draws others to you.

We hold before you those who will seek a new incumbent for us, grant them wisdom, vision and courage in their task.
We ask your blessing on the person you are calling to serve this parish.
May we be open and ready to receive them.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on the nations.
Pour out your healing Spirit to bring peace and justice to all people, and open our eyes to see the consequences of environmental destruction and pollution.

Open the eyes of those positions of power, influence and authority to your plan for your creation.
As they prepare to make decisions about the future of our world in the coming weeks, grant them wisdom and compassion, and a vision, that looks beyond personal gain or political agenda to the needs of the poorest and weakest among us.

We hold before you those who live in fear, need and turmoil. Be present to the children and families fleeing violence and devastation, and desperate for a safe haven.

We pray today for the people of Afghanistan and Lebanon, of India and Nepal, and those living in makeshift accommodation as winter draws in.
Open our hearts to their needs and to your service.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on our communities.
Pour out your healing Spirit to unite us in mutual care and fellowship.

Open our eyes to the needs of all those you trust to us as family, friends, workmates and neighbours.

We ask your blessing on all who live in our parish, and on those who work for their comfort and well-being, praying today for the staff of our schools.
Grant us the love and wisdom to cherish and guide the children and young people you have placed in our midst.
Hold them safe through the half term break.

We hold before you those in our communities without proper homes or jobs, and those who need to use the Community Pantry and the foodbanks in our city.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on all who call out for relief in their suffering. Pour out your healing Spirit upon them and bring comfort to all in need.

Open our eyes to those who have lost heart through pain or grief, through suffering or sin. May we cherish them and comfort them, knowing that none are beyond your grace.

We ask your blessing on all who need your healing touch in their lives – on those known to us, those named on our prayer list and those among us now,.

Bless those who care for them, whether at home or in hospital and support them by your Spirit.

May your healing love work in them all and assure them of your presence.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us all at the hour of our death. Pour out your life-restoring Spirit on the faithful departed, and grant that, by your intercession, we may find true peace with the Father.

We pray for those who have been died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters in our world, among them the flood victims of India.

We commend to your loving mercy those known to us who have died recently, and those whose anniversary is about this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us.
May we be steadfast in prayer and ready always to proclaim with joy the great things you have done for us.

Pour out your healing Spirit in our lives as we bring the silent prayers of our heart for ourselves and those we love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Amen

If you would like to sing:

Make way! Make way for Christ the King!

<https://youtu.be/aICQ7fb0hEA>

Thou whose almighty word

<https://youtu.be/BkLMD1eJA4s>

Just as I am

<https://youtu.be/gvPJMBzEPp8>

Walk in the Light

<https://youtu.be/BEYCzoqEYss>

Praise my soul the King of Heaven

<https://youtu.be/i3dHeRB2c3g>

Sunday 31st October

All Saints Sunday

9:30am Service at The Church of the Ascension
11:00am Service at St. Mary Magdalene

Readings

*Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24:1-6;
Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44*

Mid-week services and activities

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC
Tuesday 2pm – Service at Preston Private Nursing Home
Wednesday 10am – Service at SMM
church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 27th October

We will not be open for private prayer because of a funeral at 11am

Sunday 31st October –

All Saints Sunday

Wednesday 3rd November, 10am, SMM –

All Souls Commemoration

(Please pass any names for this service to Barbara)

Sunday 14th November –

Remembrance Sunday, Parade Service at SMM

Sunday 14th November, 4:00pm, SMM –

Time to Remember Memorial Service

Baptism Preparation Class :

Monday 8th November, 7.00pm at St Mary Magdalene's
(To arrange a baptism please contact the Parish Office)

Confirmation Classes

We are hoping to run confirmation classes in the new year. These are open to anyone from age 11 (year 6) to 111. If you would like more information about confirmation or would like to join the classes please contact Barbara (01772 702675) or the Parish Office



Don't forget the Community Pantry:
open on Tuesdays 10am -12noon.
Donations urgently needed.

PARISH OFFICE

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PARISH CONTACTS

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WARDENS – Church of The Ascension

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