

## *Parish of Ribbleton*

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC)

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January*  
*The Third Sunday of Epiphany*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
*Jesus said to them,*  
*“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”*  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father*  
*and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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.  
Amen

### **FIRST READING** (Isaiah 9:1-4)

There will be no more gloom for those who were in  
distress.  
In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land  
of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of  
the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan –  
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has  
dawned.  
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.  
For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their  
shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Psalm 27:1,4-12)

*The response to the Psalm is:*

**The Lord is my light and my help.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid? **R/**

One thing have I asked of the Lord  
and that alone I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek his will in his temple. **R/**

For in the day of trouble  
he shall hide me in his shelter;  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock.  
And now shall he lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me; **R/**

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.  
Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy upon me and answer me. **R/**

My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me,  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.  
You have been my helper;  
leave me not, neither forsake me,  
O God of my salvation. **R/**

## SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say

and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

What I mean is this:

one of you says, 'I follow Paul';

another, 'I follow Apollos';

another, 'I follow Cephas';

still another, 'I follow Christ.'

Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you?

Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I did not baptise any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptised in my name.

(Yes, I also baptised the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptised anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the gospel –

not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## GOSPEL (Matthew 4:12-23)

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.

Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali –

to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –

the people living in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.'

From that time on Jesus began to preach,

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew.

They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John.

They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets.

Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and illness among the people.



## ***Intercessions***

God, our light, you called the fishermen to turn from the world, to follow Christ and proclaim your kingdom.

We pray for your church, during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. May we be united in our response to your calling, celebrating always those beliefs and views that we hold in common and exploring with love and hope those issues that yet divide us.

We hold before you those you have called to be leaders, prophets and pastors - and for all who teach and guard the faith, among them our Bishops, Philip and Jill. We ask your blessing on them as they care for your people and on Philip as he prepares for his new role.

We pray for all your children who live in fear of persecution or death because of their faith and hold before you the Christian communities of Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

May they know the peace of your presence with them.

We pray for RevLinda, for Pete and for Fr Chris as they minister to us, for our PCC and parish wardens, and for all who work to maintain and encourage our life of work and witness within our communities.

We ask your blessing on Emily and her family as she continues her training.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our help and stronghold, you break the rods of oppression and set your people free.

We pray for the leaders of nations and for those in authority under them. May their hearts be open to your kingdom of justice and mercy, and to the needs of the poor, the weak and the destitute.

Let your light dawn on a world where all people are free to live with hope, dignity and joy.

Bless, Lord, those who work for peace and justice in this broken world. May we be inspired to treat your world, its resources and its peoples with respect and dignity.

We ask your blessing on those in need and despair: on those whose lives are damaged and destroyed by wars, disputes and natural disasters.

We hold before you the people of Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, and all forced to live in refugee camps or temporary accommodation.

We pray for the peoples of Ukraine and Russia and say together the prayer for Ukraine.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our Father, you call us to be brothers and sisters in one family with Christ.

We give thanks for those you have called us to share this life with. May the light of Christ shine through us into

our communities of neighbours, friends, workmates and families.

We ask your blessing on our parish: on all who live and work within its boundaries, and those who work in our health services and local government, providing the services we need.

We hold before you those of our neighbours who are hungry, homeless or without work, or who need to turn to the foodbanks and Community Pantry for support.

May we be open and sensitive to their needs, and work to support and care for them.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our strength, your power to save is shown in the cross of Christ.

Raise up all who are in anguish or whose burdens are hard to bear. Let them rest secure in your arms.

We ask your blessing on those named on our prayer list, and those known to us personally, who need the comfort of your healing touch.

We hold before you those who fear they have no-one to pray for them, and those whose needs are known only to you.

Comfort and encourage those in the presence of death, and those bowed down with grief.

May Christ, your living Word, bring hope and healing.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God, our hope and salvation, your great light dawns in the darkness of our lives.

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ, may we share with them the joy of your eternal kingdom.

We remember before you those who have died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters of our world.

We pray for those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary is around 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*

God, our light and help, our hope is in you alone.

You call us to live in your house all the days of our life.

May we take heart, and hold firm to your call.

We pray for ourselves and those dear to us, bringing our needs and thanks to God in the quiet of our hearts

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

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

The Diocesan prayer for Ukraine

*Almighty God,  
seated above all the affairs of humankind  
and sovereign over nations and leaders,  
hear our prayer for Ukraine at this time of war;  
that lives may be spared,  
that national boundaries be respected  
and that forces of aggression be restrained.  
Grant, Lord God,  
peace in your world in our time.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen*

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**Coffee at The Ascension:**

Rev Linda and Pete invite you to join them at 9am on Sunday mornings for coffee and a chance to chat before the service at 9:30am



**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
(Candlemas)**

*President: Rev'd Linda Tomkinson*

9:30am Eucharist at The Ascension  
11:00am Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene's

**Readings**

*Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 24:7-10;  
Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40*

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**Mid-week services and activities**

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC

Wednesday 10am – Eucharist in the Parish Hall

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**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Eucharist and PCC meeting 7pm at The Rectory  
– please note change of date

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- details and resources here:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023/>

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