



8th February 2026
2nd Sunday Before Lent

St James' Church

www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Day off: Thursday

Parish Office

office@stjamessexeter.org

Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Lent Course

At 2.30 pm on Tuesdays from 24th February to 24th March, this course is an exploration of the Passion story. It is led by Fr Tony Dickinson and based on his book, *Faces in the Crowd*. If you plan to come, please add your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

Sunday Parking: A Gentle Reminder

Please park in the church car park on Sundays only if you have limited mobility or a Blue Badge. Free parking is available for all at Mount Pleasant Health Centre, only 100 metres away.

Palm Crosses

Please place your palm crosses in the box at the back of the church, if you them to be used in this year's Ash Wednesday ashes.

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Post-Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

10.00 am Music

Music Setting: Mass of St Thomas (by David Thorne)

Processional hymn 386 Let Us, With a Gladsome Mind

Offertory hymn 167 For the Beauty of the Earth

Recessional hymn 238 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

Psalm 136: 1-9 & 23-26

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever; who alone does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever; who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever; who laid out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever; who made the great lights, for his mercy endures for ever; the sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever; the moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever; [...] who remembered us when we were in trouble, for his mercy endures for ever; and delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever; who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever.

New Testament Reading: Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 25-34

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

