



# Welcome to St Mary's Church

*Following Christ, serving you*

**THE CHURCH IS NOW OPEN  
EVERY DAY FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8am Holy Communion in Church

10.15am Parish Communion  
on Zoom  
Zoom ID 890 4559 5577  
**passcode 2021**

### **Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Prayer for growth and renewal**

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 St Mary's to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community of Long Ditton, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **I<sup>st</sup> Reading – Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.’ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.’

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Romans 4: 13-end**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## **Gospel – Mark 8: 31-end**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Please pray for all preparing for baptism and marriage, those who are sick or in hospital, and those who have died, and all who mourn**

## **Church Diary**

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### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

to help you prepare to worship next Sunday

**Exodus 20: 1-17 | I Corinthians 1: 18-25 | John 2: 13-22**

## **Weekly News Letter**

**YOUR SUNDAY CLUB NEEDS YOU!** Sunday Club is in desperate need of extra helpers. At the moment there are only two leaders. Please think and pray if you could help out with this ministry. For further information please speak to Christine 07970 691211.

### **100 CLUB REACHES RECORD NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS!**

Thank you so much to everyone who joined 100 Club 18. I am pleased to announce that we have been able to allocate 80 membership numbers. A Record!!! As a result we have been able to boost Church Funds by £750. Good luck to everyone who joined. Ann Leeson

**100 CLUB** The February draw of the 100 Club took place on 7th February during the post-service Zoom chat. The results were as follows:

1st Prize: No. 24

2nd Prize: No. 82

3rd Prize: No. 7

Congratulations to all the winners. The next draw will take place on Sunday 7th March. Good luck to everyone.