

23rd November 2025



This Sunday's Gospel reading describes Jesus' final hours on the cross; hanging there, between two criminals, as one of them hurls insults at him: "Aren't you the Mesiah? Save yourself and us!". But the other man understands Jesus has done nothing wrong, while they are getting what they deserve. He asks, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus replies, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The scene is full of contradictions. If Jesus is a king, then instead of a throne, he is reigning from a cross, wearing a crown of thorns. Instead of being flanked by royal attendants, he is sandwiched between two criminals. Instead of shouts of praise, he is taunted and abused. But maybe the greatest contradictions are that, in this place of despair and death, Jesus promises life and precisely here, in this place of defeat, his true kingship is revealed.

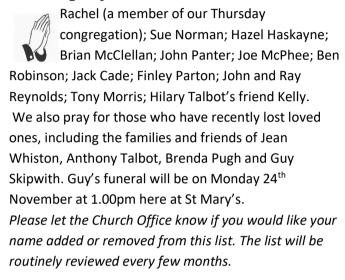
This paradoxical but ultimately hope-filled vision of kingship stands at the heart of the Feast of Christ the King, which we celebrate this Sunday.

Those who mocked Jesus with the challenge, "Save yourself" imagined a king displaying power through self-preservation and domination. But Jesus reveals a different kind of power—the power of self-giving love. His kingship is not about escaping suffering but transforming it; not about preserving his life but offering it for the life of the world – for us. In this moment, the cross does become his throne, and his reign is demonstrated by forgiveness and mercy. The "good thief" sees what others cannot. In Jesus' brokenness and vulnerability, he recognizes his true identity and authority. Jesus is the king who reigns not from a distance, in glorious is isolation, but from right beside us, even in our places of suffering and failure. His plea, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom," is both a statement and an act of faith in this king. Jesus' response, "Today you will be with me in paradise"—is the Gospel in a nutshell: immediate welcome, unearned forgiveness and overflowing mercy.





# Please pray for...



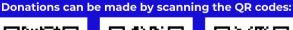
# Message from Guy Skipwith's Family

If you would like to do something in memory of Guy, rather than flowers, it would be very much appreciated if you would make a donation to our local Foodbank, of which Guy was a great supporter. Donations can be made during the funeral service, or alternatively the JustGiving link is

https://www.justgiving.com/page/memory-Guy-Skipwith

# Next Organ Social - 29th November

Our next organ fund raising event will be a social along similar lines to the very successful one held in May. There will be a buffet style meal interspersed with entertainment. Tickets are available from Elaine Cook at a cost of £15.









General fund

**Organ fund** 

Security fund

### Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday 23rd November 9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am CW Morning Worship + Baptism

**Readings** Colossians 1.3-4, 11-20 Luke 23.33-43

### **IONA** Communion



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.30pm Reading: Psalm 72

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzR MR2JXbXRoSCtVRS9PSkZXdz09

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

## Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3 RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

### **Thursday Holy Communion 10.00am**

# Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media

# Christmas and New Year Services

Sunday 21st December

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

No 10.30am Service

7.00pm Carol Service

### Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Holy Communion

#### **Christmas Day**

No 9.00am Service

10.00am Family Communion Service

### Sunday 28th December

### No 9.00am Service

10.30am Songs of Praise Service

Please let Catherine know if you have a favourite
hymn or worhip song you'd like us to sing.

### Games Cafe

The next Games café is on **Tuesday 25th November at 2.00pm** in the
Parish Rooms. Come along and join an afternoon of fun with board games,
coffee and good company! Feel free to



bring your own games or just turn up to join in the fun. Bring your friends and find warmth and a welcome this Winter! Entrance fee of £1

# Foodbank Items Needed

### Stock Items urgently required:



Rice Pudding; Cartons of Long-Life Fruit Juice; Disposable Razors and Shaving Products.

### We have plenty of:

Cereal; pasta; rice; tea; baked beans.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

# Christmas Choir & Carol Singing

Singers and friends needed to join carol singing in December:

December:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am at Joules Place Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 11am at Woodcroft Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm at Tunstall Hall Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm at Mercian Court

'Christmas Choir' practices for St Mary's Carol service on 21st December continue at 7.30pm on Thursdays for harmony singers with tune singers joining from **27th November.** 

Everyone is welcome to all these events.

# Congratulations

...to James and Iris on their marriage and thank you to everyone who contributed to a wonderful service and Bring and Share meal.



# Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton
Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

**Operations Manager:** Elaine Cook **Phone:** 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

Phone: 01630 656943

**E-mail:** <u>vicarofstmarys@gmail.com</u>