



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

9th May 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here. Today's service is a Holy Communion Service. Due to current restrictions it will be in one kind (bread) only. Please familiarise yourself with the detailed information in this booklet.

Christoph Lindner, Rector

Meekness is not Weakness- Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth:

The only person described in the Old Testament as meek is Moses, one of the strongest and most determined of leaders. Jesus' meekness is a sign of his strength, as love overcomes hate and hope overcomes fear. We equally saw this virtue in the life of Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa. Following Mandela's release, he showed the world what could be achieved by offering a hand of friendship, shared endeavour, trust, forgiveness and love. His example gave hope not just to his country or his continent but to all people.

The word meekness sometimes does have a negative connotation - it is often associated with weakness, and spinelessness. However, the Bible says, 'The man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.' Numbers 12:3. In Moses we see gentleness combined with terrific toughness. Kingdom meekness is controlled strength. Humility is the very foundation of the character of Jesus who, for our sake, emptied himself. Jesus commends meekness (controlled strength) as the foundation of the life of the church. We live fulfilled lives not by competing with others but in humility, counting others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

In his book "Life on the Hill", Chris Spicer describes meekness as an angle of approach to life in which we maintain a willingness and openness for God to and rein us whenever that is needed. It is the Holy Spirit that tames us. Jeremiah 17:9 describe the heart of humans as 'deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?' Mark 7:21 adds, 'For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder.'

We do not have the ability to control the natural self: that is why it is necessary for us to sharpen and develop our character and ministry through the disciplined application of biblical truth. As Jesus called people to follow him, He stated the personal commitment required. When we surrender our lives to Christ, we surrender our rights and as well as our wrongs. Without the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit, the will of the unregenerate person is primed to self-destruct. It is only through the miracle of new birth that human beings become 'a new creation' in which the old has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In our present day, the whole human race needs to learn a new meekness and humility in relation to the earth. Human action is directly affecting our climate. We are depleting the earth's resources. The church needs to be leading the way in meekness and humility before creation in loving and caring for the earth. *Nnamdi Maduka*

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 22)

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

HYMN

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with
thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it,
thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become
mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
the pow'r of human telling;
nor can we guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BANNIS

FIRST READING :Ephesians 4.1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matt. 5. 1-2,5

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN

Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony, the man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

O, what a mystery, meekness and majesty,
bow down and worship,
for this is your God. This is your God.

Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross.
Suff'ring to give us life,
conqu'ring through sacrifice;
and as they crucify
prays: 'Father forgive'

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.

THE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came

down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church. We acknowledge
one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYERS

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our
joy, at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him
you have created all things from the
beginning, and formed us in your own
image. Through him you have freed us
from the slavery of sin, giving him to be
born of a woman and to die upon the
cross; you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own
possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ, and as we follow his example and
obey his command, grant that by the
power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of
bread and wine may be to us his body
and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed, took bread and gave you
thanks; he broke it and gave it to his
disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my
body which is given for you; do this in
remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took
the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all
of you; this is my blood of the new

covenant, which is shed for you and for
many for the forgiveness of sins. Do
this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we
remember his offering of himself made
once for all upon the cross; we
proclaim his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension; we look for the
coming of your kingdom, and with this
bread and this cup we make the
memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high
priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and
praise, and as we eat and drink these
holy gifts in the presence of your divine
majesty, renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love and unite us
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth
and heaven, we worship you, Father
almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and
power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

*At present we receive Holy Communion in
one kind (bread) only.*

*We have devised a one-way system for
receiving the bread and then returning to
your place through the empty first pew.
Please refer to the diagram on page 7 for
details and familiarise yourself with your
pew number. We are inviting people to
come forward by pew number starting
with pew No. 1.*

*Please follow the directions of our
sidesteam and keep a distance of two
meters to the person in front of you. If
you'd like to receive a blessing, please
keep your hands at your sides as you come
forward. Please walk back to your pew
after you receive the wafer and consume
it there.*

The Choir will sing:

*Broken for me, broken for you
The body of Jesus, broken for us*

*He offered his body
He poured out his soul
Jesus was broken
That we might be whole*

Broken for me...

*Come to my table
And with me dine*

Eat of my bread
And drink of my wine

This is my body
Given for you
Eat it, rememb'ring
I died for you

This is my blood
I shed for you
For your forgiveness
Making you new.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit

to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

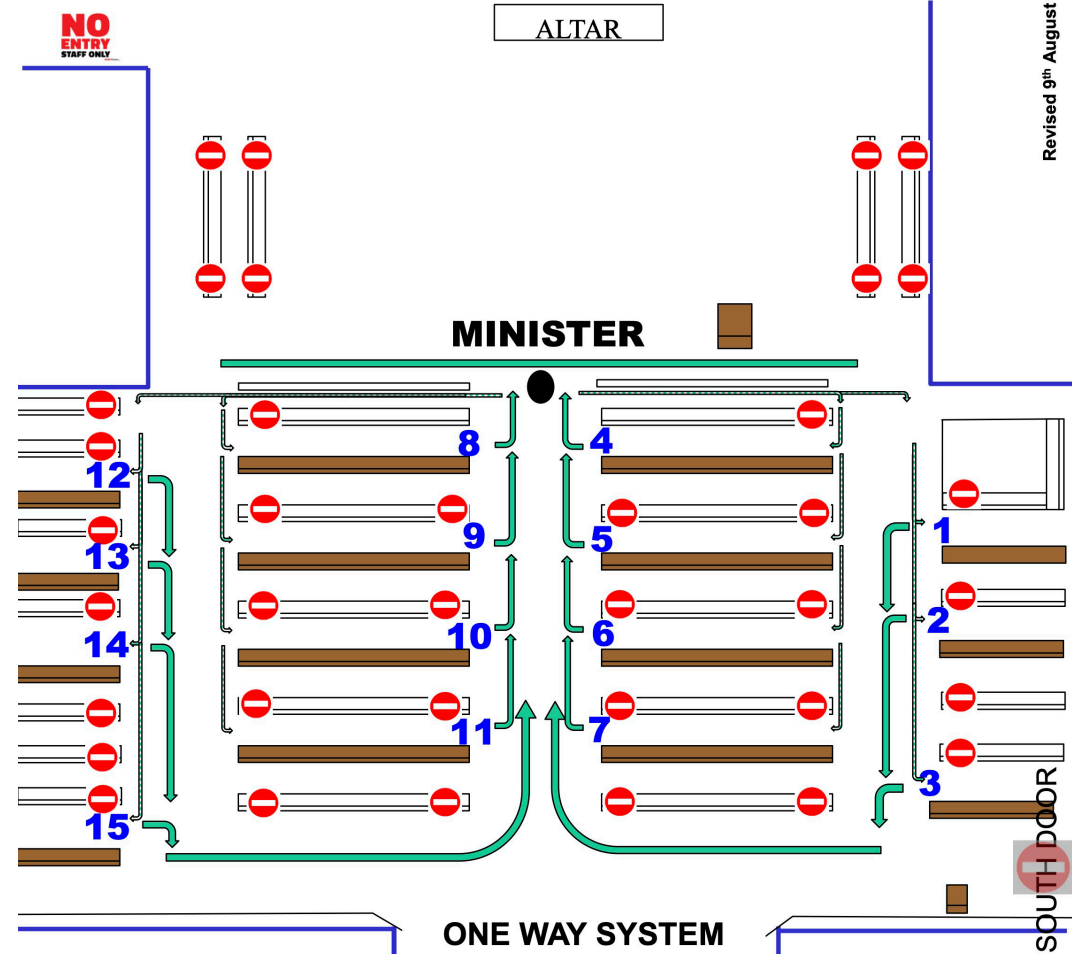
Blessed are the merciful, for

they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

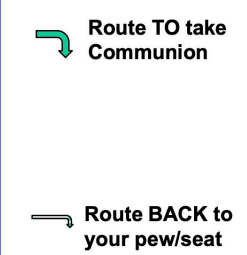
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for



HOLY COMMUNION

ONE WAY SYSTEM
Starting with pew 1, follow the bolder arrows to the front. Once you have received the bread, please follow the circular route back through the empty 1st pew) to your eat and consume your bread there. Thank you



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

23 May 2021, 10.30am

Our APCM will again be a hybrid meeting - both at St Mary's and online on Zoom. You will be able to take part and vote, no matter whether you are onsite or online.

Please sign up in advance at www.denhamparish.church/events.

Everyone who is a member of our Electoral Roll is entitled to vote.

To vote for our two churchwardens for the coming year, you are also eligible to vote if you are a resident of Denham Parish.

We will publish our Annual Report 2020 in advance (both in paper form and online as a PDF). Please take the time to read it in advance and bring it to the meeting.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: ON SITE

St Mary's Church: 9.30am

Onsite Sunday morning worship. Please register in advance by calling our church office or going to denhamparish.church/events

Online: Sundays 10.30am
Stream any time afterwards:
tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



Let's pray together..

- pray God would deepen our trust in him during this time.
- For medical experts, politicians and public leaders – for wisdom, compassion and integrity.
- those who are sick and those suffering from bereavement especially the families of Peter Jones.

Thy Kingdom Come

Join us from Ascension Day (13 May) to Pentecost Sunday (23 May) for Thy Kingdom Come Prayer:

Pick up **prayer journals** (for adults and children/families) from church or the Rectory
We will set aside **Saturday 22 May as a day of prayer leading into Pentecost Sunday.**

We will pray for 10 hours from 9am in the morning to 7pm in the evening. All through the day you can join us on Zoom - whether that is for one hour or for several hours spread out through the day.

Each hour will consist of time to be still, worship, readings from the bible, a short thought to lead us into prayer and a variety of ways to pray together.

There will be special hours to focus on particular prayer requests.

When will you join us in prayer on the day?

Please sign up here to receive the Zoom login details:
www.denhamparish.church/prayer

ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

Church Coffee Online:

Sundays, 11.15 on Youtube and Facebook. or on Zoom.

Telephone: Available any time for a week, Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**



ONLINE DONATIONS



If you wish to make a donation to Denham Parish Church, please scan this code with the camera or QR app on your smartphone and follow instructions.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: **01895 832771**