

Open to God. Open to one another. Open to the community.

www.stnicolas.org.uk

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Sunday 7 February
2nd Sunday before Lent

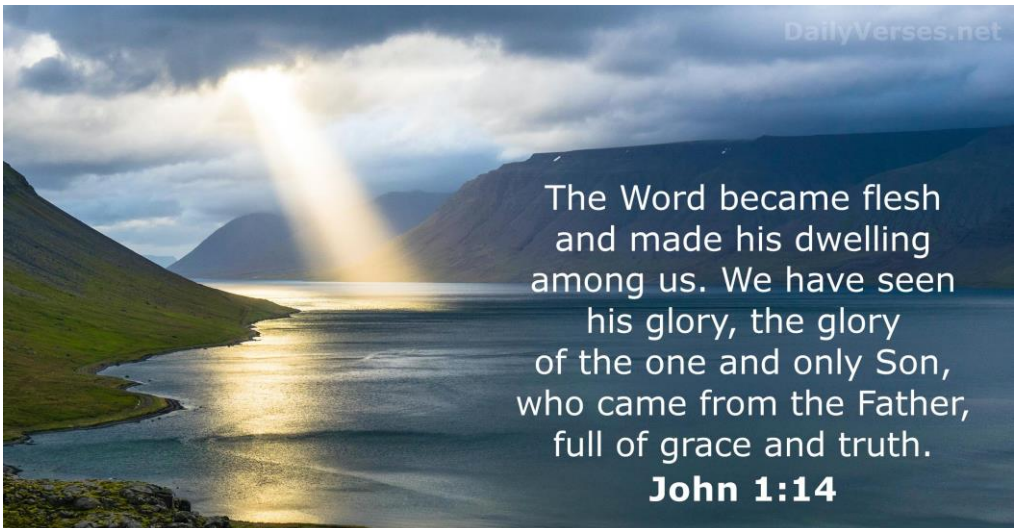
First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31
Colossians 1. 15-20
John 1. 1-14

**To phone in and listen to this week's 10am Sunday Service please call
01184 693023**

Week Commencing 8 February

Mon 8 February	Mark 6. 53-end
Tues 9 February	Mark 7. 1-13
Weds 10 February	Mark 7. 14-23
Thurs 11 February	Mark 7. 24-30
Fri 12 February	Mark 7. 31-end
Sat 13 February	Mark 8. 1-10



The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us. We have seen
his glory, the glory
of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Notices:



Lent Group – Casablanca

Of all the lent groups in all the world.....we're inviting you to walk into ours....

Whether you love the film, never seen it or only know it from the parodies, Casablanca is a most enduring film, dealing with love, loss, regret, betrayal and the agony of making hard choices

Paul Kerensa, a stand up comedian, TV script writer and Christian realised the potential of this iconic film and has written a Lent course which follows the film and its themes. Over the 5 weeks we will watch the film in instalments, discuss its implications for us in the context of particular Bible passages.

We will be meeting on Zoom Tuesdays 7.30-9pm:

23rd Feb, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March

Don't worry if you can't come to every meeting, just come when you can

Is this the beginning of a beautiful Lent group?

Notices:

Refresh and Restore

Mon-Thurs 8.30am
On Facebook, YouTube
Or watch later in the day
www.stnicolas.org.uk



Quiz Evening Saturday 13th February

on Zoom at 8 pm. Led by David & Julia Eversham.

*Come on your own and join a team.
Come as a group with your friends and family.*

To book: phone Jenny Bryce on 0118 926 8561

Or email: jennybryce@phonecoop.coop

Lent Bags – don't forget to email me if you would like a bag of Lent delivered so we can journey through Lent together
<mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk> if you receive the CD and a paper copy of the Sunday sheet I have already added you to the list to ensure you get your bag.

Notices:

Pastoral Care at St Nicolas

We are not alone there is always someone at the end of a telephone!

- If you need any help such as essential shopping, collecting prescriptions.
- If you feel like a chat on the phone or wish to pray with someone

Please contact **Jenny Bryce 01189268561** or **Parish Office 0118 966 9080** (please leave a message) or **April 07951119271**.

St Nicolas Pastoral Care Team will continue with Keeping in Touch and their friendly telephone calls to church members who are not in home groups.

Earley Hub earleyhub@gmail.com 07493784091 is also there to offer help to the community -Collecting prescriptions and shopping, prayer, a listening ear and recommending other help.



Traidcraft items are still available to order from Pam Thompson. She is travelling to work in Reading every other day, so is very happy to deliver as she passes through Earley. Items can be seen on www.traidcraftshop.co.uk or Pam can deliver a physical catalogue. The Easter eggs and cards have just come online, if you like to be prepared early! Drop Pam an email on lady.pam@hotmail.co.uk or call or text on 07984179753. All orders very welcome!

Many parents have understandable concerns about their children's education This will be your opportunity to ask questions to Christian leaders: Education Forum 7.30-9.00 p.m. on Monday 8th February 2021.

Email your questions in beforehand, should you wish to

<mailto:michael@pennyfamily.co.uk> The Zoom link for the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82425564816?pwd=TDdOeGp0UDNJSUJ3STdva0tuNDhxdz09>

University of Reading Annual Chaplaincy New Year's Lecture

23rd Feb 7-8 pm hosted by Reading University and its Chaplaincy, An interview with Tom Holland on his remarkable new book -"*Dominion about the enduring legacy and formative role of Christianity in Western culture.*"

All welcome. Attendance is free, but you will need to register.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/378794303213451> for information and to register for Annual Chaplaincy New Year Lecture

PRAYER

Collect: Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep.**

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.

Rest your weary ones.

Bless your dying ones.

Soothe your suffering ones.

Pity your afflicted ones.

Shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

Attributed to St. Augustine

JPEG's Three Things JPEG (St Nicolas Justice, Peace and Environment Group) would love it if you joined us in prayer for the following items. You can click on the links to find out more.

- ✚ Thank God for Biden's commitment to limit climate change. However, his raft of great executive orders will only have long term success if he is able to get Congress on board. Do pray for eyes to be opened and hearts changed.
- ✚ Pray for an equitable distribution of vaccines within Israel/Palestine. Israel, starting in December, has vaccinated more than a quarter of its population, whereas the Palestinians received their first doses at the beginning of February. The WHO, the UN and human rights groups have all condemned the situation as immoral as well as illegal.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/55800921>
- ✚ The Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, commissioned by the UK Treasury in 2019, has called for transformational change in our economic approach to nature. Pray that the government responds.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55893696>

Prayer Ministry Prayer Chain Requests

via Janice Williams, office@stnicolas.org.uk or 07453 859159

Find St Nicolas on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @earley_stnics Registered Charity No. 1138037

Notices:

Earley Environmental Group Hedgehog Talk with Herbies

Hedgehogs We are delighted to invite you to a hedgehog talk on Tuesday 9th February at 7pm on the following Zoom link. We will be hearing from Earley based Herbies Hedgehog Rescue about the challenges and joys of caring for these beautiful and endangered creatures.

Wild About Reading Berkshire is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6395288328?pwd=RldHWldoVHZxcIhmUml4cVZKlhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 639 528 8328

Passcode: h19Nce



I am deeply saddened to hear that Captain Sir Tom Moore has died. I pray for his family and friends, and I join millions across the country in mourning with them. Captain Tom was the very best of us.

His courage, compassion, resilience, hope and generosity have been an inspiration to millions - and an example to us all. Where he walked, a

nation followed. I give thanks to God for such a long life, so well lived. May Captain Tom rest in peace. *Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

Cruse Bereavement helpline

Charity offering free advice, information and support to adults, young people and children who are struggling to cope with grief.



Call the Thames Valley Berkshire team on: **01344 411 919**



Visit: www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/local-services/south/thames-valley-berkshire



#InItTogether

"More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love." Archbishops

**Pause, Reflect and Pray
for 10 minutes at 6pm
every day in February with**

Earley 
Help Hub

Everyone welcome.
Please come along and invite
your family and friends.



Joining details:
Zoom account 212 125 0156
Passcode EHH2021



Prayer for the Nation

Psalm 23 - a source of strength

Psalm 23 has been a source of strength for thousands of years. Let's pause and say it every day at 6 pm through this crisis we now face.

When we are isolated and alone, we remember God is with us; we place our hands in his hands...

- > The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

When we are tired and confused...

- > He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

When we are worn out with worry...

- > He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

When we are sick and afraid and if we lose those we love...

- > Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

When we face difficulties today and we hope for a better tomorrow...

- > You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

In the face of trouble & difficulty of all kinds, we remember Jesus' promise of life beyond death...

- > Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



Finish reading Psalm 23 with the Lord's Prayer. Bible verses used here are NRSV, the commentary is by the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford.