



**St. David's Parish**  
**Monastery Road, Pantasaph,**  
**Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**March 17, 2024**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

On the fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to ponder the profound mystery of death, as seen through the compassionate support for Martha and Mary after Lazarus' passing. Marking the beginning of Passiontide, this day deepens our Lenten journey, focusing on re-creation and resurrection. It's a poignant reminder of hope, as we prepare for the final week of Lent, reflecting on the promise of new life emerging from the depths of sorrow and loss.

**MASS TIMINGS**

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:00 pm
Sunday Mass	10:00 am
Weekdays	9:00 am in Denbigh House

**READINGS**

First Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Reading	Hebrew 5:7-9
Gospel	Jn 12:20-33

**REFLECTIONS:**

In the **First Reading** taken from the Book of Jeremiah we hear of God's promise of a New Covenant with his people. A covenant meant an agreement between two unequal persons, freely entered into, binding perpetually,

and sealed by blood. The old covenant was inscribed in stone in the days of the exodus in the desert. It marked the beginning of a special bond between God and his people. God was loyal of the terms of the covenant but the people were not. As Moses warned them, the years of disloyalty to God would eventually lead them to exile outside the Promised Land. But this oracle brings the good news that God is not done with the covenants. The life giving purpose of the old covenant will be carried forward by a new one. But this new covenant will be distinct from the former one in that it will be inscribed in the hearts of the people, so that people's commitment may be made interior.

Today's **Second Reading** from the Letter to the Hebrews teaches us, through the example of Jesus, how we must respond to God's calling that draws us to him. The author tells us that in his human nature, Jesus learned obedience through what he suffered. Through his suffering, Jesus was made perfect. Through perfection, he became the source of salvation for all who obey him. The reading tells us that Jesus also had a fear of death. In his physical body, he was just as human as each one of us. He worked, taught word of God, mixed with people, ate and drank, relaxed and cried like any of us. Even though he was divine, he lowered himself to the level of humanity and prayed to his heavenly Father to take his sufferings away. But he submitted himself to the fullness of the Divine Will of God the Father. From this perfect example of obedience and

submission, we learn that through suffering, our souls are sanctified.

The **Gospel** of today begins with the desire of the Greeks who were among those who had come to Jerusalem to worship at the feast to meet Jesus. As Christ entered Jerusalem humbly, foreseeing his suffering, he was met with both adoration and eventual rejection, reflecting the fickleness of human nature. Despite knowing our weaknesses and the pain ahead, Christ willingly embraced the cross for us, highlighting our often-inadequate response to his immense love and sacrifice. We easily complain about life's hardships, forgetting the profound suffering Jesus endured for our salvation—from betrayal to the agony of the cross.

Christ's message, "He who loves his life loses it," teaches us the value of eternal life over earthly pleasures and comforts. True followers of Christ view their earthly journey with eternity in mind, using their blessings not as ends in themselves but as means to further their heavenly journey.

Let us reflect on the crucifix, comparing our minor sufferings with Christ's monumental sacrifice, and let this reflection motivate us to follow and imitate Jesus more closely, with renewed commitment and gratitude for his unending love.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - March 10 2024**

Loose cash	88.45
Gift Aid	185
Total	<u>273.45</u>

## **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:**

Sacrament of Confession at 11:30 am on Saturday  
On Emergency any time – 0741-749-4277

## **ANNIVERSARIES MARCH 9-15**

Fr. Aelred Colman: Kathleen Jones, '79: Phil & Doug Sides, Benedykt Guzowski, Lavinia Adamson, '04. Mary Bartlett, Sr Bernadette Steele, '07. Catherine McManus, '80: Robert Tudor Davies, '90: Sr. Marie Shannon.

## **HOLY WEEK SERVICE:**

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass	4.00 pm
Palm Sunday Morning Mass	10.00 am
Holy Thursday	7.30 pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm
Good Friday, Passion Liturgy	5.00 pm
Easter Vigil	8.30 pm
Easter Sunday	10.00 am

## **LET US REMEMBER THE SICK IN PRAYER:**

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

## **DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust

Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,

Email: [pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com](mailto:pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com)

Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352711053

Registered Charity No. 70042