

Saint Mary's Newsletter: March

Vicar: David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 07 8243996



SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 7th:

10am Lent 3 Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Rosalie Jennings

Readings/prayers: Katy Cockerton

Sunday 14th:

10am Lent 4 Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Katy Cockerton

Readings/prayers: Katy Cockerton

Sunday 21th:

10am Lent 5 Holy Communion & Baptism

Refreshments: Helen & Charles Clark

Readings/prayers: Charles Clark

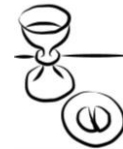
Sunday 28th:

10am Lent 6 Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service followed by the AGM then a Parish Café Lunch

Readings/Prayers: Charles Clark



VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We require a sacristan to set up the altar before the service, and to oversee the altar cloths, wine etc. For more info, please see the vicar



AGM: 28th March will be held immediately after the service. Afterwards we will have a Parish Café Lunch together.

SCRIPTURE FOR LENT:

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS,
HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND
WILL FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND
PURIFY US FROM
ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

John 1:9

What does the Bible say about pride?



There is a difference between the kind of pride that God hates (Proverbs 8:13) and the kind of pride we can feel about a job well done (Galatians 6:4) or the kind of pride we express over the accomplishment of loved ones (2 Corinthians 7:4). The kind of pride that stems from self-righteousness or conceit is sin, however, and God hates it because it is a hindrance to seeking Him.

Psalm 10:4 explains that the proud are so consumed with themselves that their thoughts are far from God: “In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.” This kind of haughty pride is the opposite of the spirit of humility that God seeks: “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). The “poor in spirit” are those who recognize their utter spiritual bankruptcy and their inability to come to God aside from His divine grace. The proud, on the other hand, are so blinded by their pride that they think they have no need of God or, worse, that God should accept them as they are because they deserve His acceptance.

Throughout Scripture we are told about the consequences of pride. Proverbs 16:18-19 tells us that “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.” Satan was cast out of heaven because of pride (Isaiah 14:12-15). He had the selfish audacity to attempt to replace God Himself as the rightful ruler of the universe. But Satan will be cast down to hell in the final judgment of God. For those who rise up in defiance against God, there is nothing ahead but disaster (Isaiah 14:22).

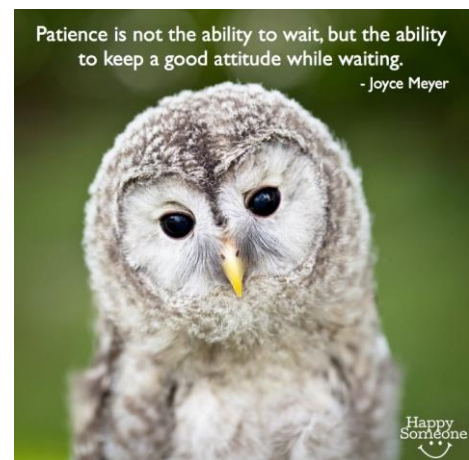
Pride has kept many people from accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. Admitting sin and acknowledging that in our own strength we can do nothing to inherit eternal life is a constant stumbling block for prideful people. We are not to boast about ourselves; if we want to boast, then we are to proclaim the glories of God. What we say about ourselves means nothing in God’s work. It is what God says about us that makes the difference (2 Corinthians 10:18).

Why is pride so sinful? Pride is giving ourselves the credit for something that God has accomplished. Pride is taking the glory that belongs to God alone and keeping it for ourselves. Pride is essentially self-worship. Anything we accomplish in this world would not have been possible were it not for God enabling and sustaining us. “What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). That is why we give God the glory—He alone deserves it.

Parish Giving

St Mary’s has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese. Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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This Month in Christian History:

6th March 1475: The birth of Michelangelo Buonarroti, Italian artist extraordinaire. Michelangelo’s most famous works include the sculptures *Pieta* (1498) and *David* (1504), the architectural plans for St Peter’s cathedral in Rome, and the paintings on the 5,808-sa-foot ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (1508-12)

