

# 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 021 702871



## SERVICES FOR MARCH

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>:

10am Lent 2 Holy communion Service

**Refreshments:** M Holdsworth

**Readings/prayers:** M Holdsworth

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:

10am Lent 3 Holy communion Service

**Refreshments:** T Smithson

**Readings/prayers:** T Smithson

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>:

10am Lent 4 Holy communion Service

**Refreshments:** The Clark's

**Readings/prayers:** The Clark's

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:

10am Lent 5 Holy communion Service

**Refreshments:** M Heaton

**Readings/prayers:** M Heaton



**AGM:** Immediately after the service 26<sup>th</sup> March. It is always brief, and held along with a cuppa. Please see the vicar if you have not served on Vestry and wish to do so

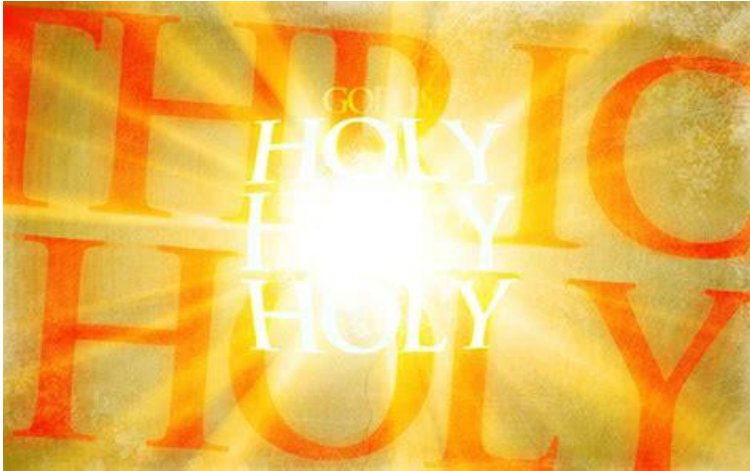
**Palm Sunday Service:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Please bring along Palm or Ponga fronds.

### **Parish Giving:**

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. 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: **02 0410 0103053 00**



## Holiness



In 1 Peter 1:13-16, Peter writes to believers, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" Peter is quoting from Leviticus 11:44 and Leviticus 19:2.

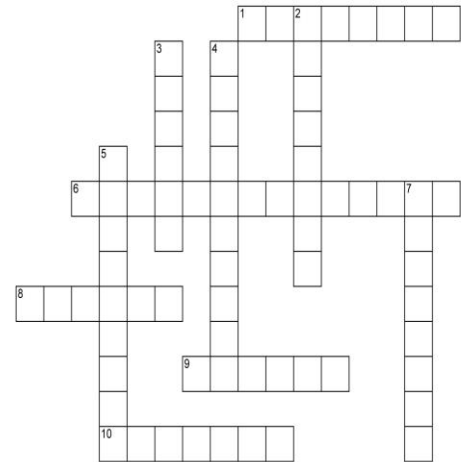
First, let's look at God's holiness. What does it mean that God is holy? Passages like 1 Samuel 2:2 and Isaiah 6:3 are just two of many examples of passages about God's holiness. Another way to say it is absolute perfection. God is unlike any other (see Hosea 11:9), and His holiness is the essence of that "otherness." His very being is completely absent of even a trace of sin (James 1:13; Hebrews 6:18). He is high above any other, and no one can compare to Him (Psalm 40:5). God's holiness pervades His entire being and shapes all His attributes. His love is a holy love, His mercy is holy mercy, and even His anger and wrath are holy anger and holy wrath. These concepts are difficult for humans to grasp, just as God is difficult for us to understand in His entirety.

Next, what does it mean for us to be holy? When God told Israel to be holy in Leviticus 11 and 19, He was instructing them to be distinct from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives. Israel is God's chosen nation and God has set them apart from all other people groups. They are His special people, and consequently they were given standards that God wanted them to live by so the world would know they belonged to Him. When Peter repeats the Lord's words in 1 Peter 1:16, he is talking specifically to believers. As believers, we need to be "set apart" from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by God's standards, not the world's. God isn't calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world. First Peter 2:9 describes believers as "a holy nation." It is a fact! We are separated from the world; we need to live out that reality in our day-to-day lives, which Peter tells us how to do in 1 Peter 1:13-16.

Finally, how can we become holy? Holiness only results from a right relationship with God by believing in Jesus Christ as Saviour (accepting His gift of eternal life). If we have not placed our faith in God's Son alone to save us from our sins, then our pursuit of holiness is in vain. So, we must first make sure we are born-again believers (see John 3). If we truly are believers, then we recognize that our position in Christ automatically sets us apart from the world (1 Peter 2:9). After all, we have a relationship with the living God! Then we must daily live a set-apart life, not trying to "blend in" with the world, but instead living according to God's Word as we study the Bible and grow in it.

## People in the Bible

Daniel



### ACROSS

- 1st of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace
- Made a golden image to worship that was over ninety feet tall
- Was thrown into the lion's den
- Took Daniel to interpret the king of Babylon's dream
- 2nd of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace

### DOWN

- Master of the king's eunuchs
- Put Daniel in charge of all of his princes and presidents.
- A hand appeared and wrote on his wall
- The people of his kingdom were attacked and taken captive to Babylon
- 3rd of three Hebrew boys thrown into the fiery furnace

## Lent Prayer for Strength and Protection

Lord God, heavenly Father, you know that we are set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection, to support us in all danger, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

