

Saint Mary's Newsletter: Aug 2026

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Lay Minister: Charles Clark 021 02691764

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 022 107562

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 021 702871



SERVICES FOR AUGUST

Sunday 2nd:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Kay

Prayers: Kay

Sunday 9th:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Melanie

Prayers: Melanie

Sunday 16th:

10am Holy Communion Patronal Service

Refreshments: Rosalie

Prayers: Rosalie

Sunday 23rd:

10am Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Majella

Prayers: Majella

Sunday 30th:

10am 1662 Holy Communion Service

Refreshments: Parish lunch at a Cafe



Calf Fundraising Scheme: Donate a calf (if you are a farmer), or townies can donate \$300.00 which will cover the costs of purchasing a 4 day old bull old calf and rearing costs. Or you could wait until the calves are sold and donate the average cash price of what all the calves sold for. It is an easy and low maintenance fundraiser that has the potential to raise \$450 per calf sold. The better the calf, the higher the price we get for it. Forms and info on the Welcome table, or see Sally-Ann & Richard



Bible Study Group meets Weds 7pm at the church. Looking into the fascinating world of **Paul and his letters**



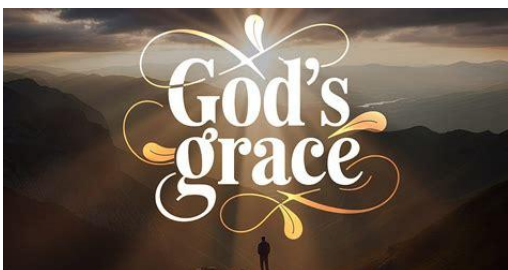
GRACE

Grace is a constant theme in the Bible, and it culminates in the New Testament with the coming of Jesus (John 1:17). The word translated "grace" in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *charis*, which means "favour, blessing, or kindness." We can all extend grace to others; but when the word *grace* is used in connection with God, it takes on a more powerful meaning. Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. It is His benevolence to the undeserving.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "*For by grace are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves.*" The only way any of us can enter into a relationship with God is because of His grace toward us. Grace began in the Garden of Eden when God killed an animal to cover the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). He could have killed the first humans right then for their disobedience. But rather than destroy them, He chose to make a way for them to be right with Him. That pattern of grace continued throughout the Old Testament when God instituted blood sacrifices as a means to atone for sinful men. It was not the physical blood of those sacrifices, per se, that cleansed sinners; it was the grace of God that forgave those who trusted in Him (Hebrews 10:4; Genesis 15:6). Sinful men showed their faith by offering the sacrifices that God required. The apostle Paul began many of his letters with the phrase, "*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:3). God is the instigator of grace, and it is from Him that all other grace flows.

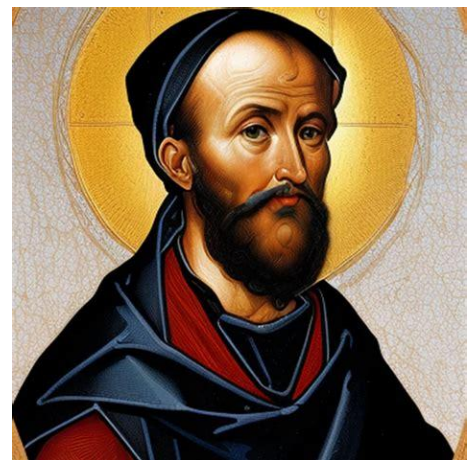
God shows both mercy and grace, but they are not the same. Mercy withholds a punishment we deserve; grace gives a blessing we don't deserve. In mercy, God chose to cancel our sin debt by sacrificing His perfect Son in our place (Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21). But He goes even further than mercy and extends grace to His enemies (Romans 5:10). He offers us forgiveness (Hebrews 8:12; Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation (Colossians 1:19-20), abundant life (John 10:10), eternal treasure (Luke 12:33), His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13), and a place in heaven with Him some day (John 3:16-18) when we accept His offer and place our faith in His sacrifice.

Grace is God giving the greatest treasure to the least deserving—which is every one of us.



Words of St. Augustine

"Look upon me, O Lord, and let all the darkness of my soul vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill me with holy love, and open me to the treasures of your wisdom. All my desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun, and what your Spirit has awakened me to ask in prayer. I seek your face, turn your face to me and show me your glory. Then my longing shall be satisfied, and my peace shall be perfect."



Why do Anglican Churches have Crucifixes?

Many Anglican churches have crucifixes to remind worshippers of the pain and suffering that Jesus went through on the cross for our sins. In an Anglican church you will commonly find them behind a pulpit or lectern, also as a reminder of St Paul exhorting us to "*preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness*" (1 Corinthians 1:23)

