

Sunday February 22nd 2026. The First Sunday of Lent

FIRST HYMN: 67

FIRST READING: Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."


Now the serpent was craftier than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."


So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM 32 Forgive me, O Lord, the guilt of my sin.

Response
cf. v. 5 For-give me, O Lord, the guilt of my sin.



Verse



T R

Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, // and whose sin is covered.
Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For I held my tongue; // my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.
Your hand was heavy upon me day and night; I was dried up like the drought in summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide. //
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble; //
mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. //

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice, shout for joy, all who are true of heart. R/

SECOND READING: Romans 5.12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Cleanse our hearts and minds almighty God,
that we may hear your Gospel in true faith and love.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4.1-11

OFFERTORY HYMN: 383	
<p>DURING COMMUNION: O God, you search me and you know me, all my thoughts lie open to your gaze. When I walk or lie down, you go before me: ever the maker and keeper of my days.</p> <p>You know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar: and with love everlasting you besiege me: in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.</p> <p>Before a word is on my tongue, Lord - you have known its meaning through and through. You are with me beyond my understanding: God of my present, my past and future too.</p> <p>For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb. For the wonder of who I am, I praise you: safe in your hands, all creation is made new.</p> <p>PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray (<i>a moment of silent prayer follows</i>) Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p>FINAL HYMN: 70</p>	
<p><i>This week:</i> MONDAY 23rd 1930 Eucharist THURSDAY 26th 1930 Eucharist SATURDAY 28th 1000 Foodbank SUNDAY 29th 1000 Sung Eucharist for Lent 2.</p>	<p>Rector: The Revd Richard Young ✉ richardyoung09@gmail.com Associate Priest: The Revd Jane Walker www.holyinnocentsff.org Church Office: 0161 224 0535</p>

LENT CHARITY
Manchester & Salford Samaritans

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

The links to pages for information about their work and the pages to make a donation during Lent.

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/samaritans-manchestersalford>.



Last Prayer: Peter Howson



Peter Howson's *Last Prayer*, etching, (1987) reflects the uncompromising figurative style he developed as part of the New Glasgow Boys – an artistic movement born in Glasgow School of Art in the late 20th Century. Like others in that group, he turned away from abstraction to focus on real people and the harsh realities of urban Scottish life. His figurative language combines stark realism with compassion, portraying vulnerable subjects with dignity and pathos, and underscoring his commitment to confronting social dislocation through art.

The work also connects to Howson's own struggles. A veteran himself, and later a war artist in the Bosnian War, he has spoken openly about living with traumatic memories and severe mental health difficulties, and his figures often carry a sense of psychological as well as physical strain. After his conversion to Christianity in 2000, his faith became central to his outlook, and images like *Last Prayer* take on a deeper spiritual weight. His depictions of homeless men and damaged veterans are not detached observations — they come from lived experience, and are shaped by compassion, trauma, and belief.

Prayer

By George Herbert

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.