

Ponder Over... First reading, Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, explained: The Church gives us this story of Abraham at the beginning of Lent for two reasons. First, we are called to have the same Faith as Abraham. Second, what Abraham did with Isaac foreshadows God the Father's sacrifice of His only-begotten Son 1800 years later; this is what we are preparing to celebrate at the end of Lent. Abram (God later changed his name to Abraham), is presented as the first person since Noah to hear and heed the Voice of God. At God's prompting, Abram moved his considerable holdings from the ancient city of Ur in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), to a land he knew not (modern Palestine). As a reward for Abram's trust and obedience, God promised him numerous descendants. He also promised Abram a land for himself and his family. When Abram asked for a sign that would seal this promise, God entered into a unilateral contract with him, using an ancient ritual of contract. The parties who wanted to seal a contract would split the carcass of one or more animals, lay the halves on the ground, and walk between them,



saying "May I be so split in half if I fail to keep the agreement we are sealing here." Abram fell into a trance and witnessed the procession of the fire pot and torch moving between the carcass halves. This symbolized God's presence and action. As this was a unilateral contract between God and Abraham, Abraham was not asked to walk between the carcass halves. The Holy Spirit, through the

Church, has chosen this reading for us today because the story of Abraham prefigures the unwavering Faith of Jesus Christ who strengthens the Faith of his disciples for the Paschal event of his passion, death and Resurrection glory. Today's Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 27), provides words for us to express our own Faith in God and in His unfailing love that supported Abraham, Paul and Jesus in their trials. God was willing and able to change the identity of a man by the name of Abram to Abraham a name of promise = "the father of many" God did so because Abram was willing to allow God to change him. Are we willing today to allow God to change us? The promised land of God's blessing lies before us, and the darkness of this present world lies behind us, will we travel the path of Abram.

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WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 17th MARCH 2019
(Readings- Sundays: Cycle C, Weekdays: Cycle 1, Psalter Week 2)

This Sunday - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass 8.30am (Lynne Roper)

Mass 10.30am (Parishioners)

Monday - Mass 9.30am (Private Intention): St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity

Tuesday - Mass 9.30am (Private Intention)

Wednesday- Mass 7.30pm (The Dodd Family)

Thursday – Mass 9.30am (Mary & Susan Helsby)

Friday – Mass 9.30am (Deceased priests of our Parish); Stations of the Cross 7.00pm

Saturday - Mass 12.00 noon (Children in War Zones)

Next Sunday – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass 8.30am (Parishioners)

Mass 10.30am (Neil Dodd)

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 9.15am

NO EVENING PRAYER THIS SUNDAY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Tues:10-11am,Thurs:6-8pm

CONFESSIONS THIS SATURDAY : 11.00 – 11.45am and on request

Diocese of Shrewsbury, a registered charity (NO 234025)

ST CATHERINE'S NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR all who have died recently, especially Stan Orton, Margaret Manson, John Morris, Moira Bradshaw, Brian Dunning. Also please pray for those who are ill or housebound including, Jo Power, Ann Brown, Betty Roberts, Norah Stuart, Kathleen Bennett, Joseph Conway, Amy Duke, Sue Green, Geoffrey Roberts, Geoff Milton, Timothy Wild, Francis Hayes, Ann Marie Heald, Katie Hogan, Ellis Longley-Brown, Joan Nulty, Neil Monaghan, Justin Williams, and Jo Clark.

(Please advise Fr. Thomas of any changes to this list in order that it may be kept up to date).

FR THOMAS HOME VISITS, ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, DEATH, etc. – please contact at the presbytery on 632 4388.

RECENT DEATHS. If anyone has a friend or relative who has died in the last year please give names to Fr Tom.

SICK: A reminder to let you know it is really important that if anyone you know is ill, and particularly those who might be going into one of our hospitals, to please inform Father Thomas as soon as possible.

COFFEE will be served today by the Ladies Guild , next Sunday by the Friends of Jerusalem .

LENTEN LUNCHESES will be held this year at St John's Church, Meols on **FRIDAYS** 22nd March and 5th April . Service at 12noon followed by Bread and Soup Lunch in the Hall. All are welcome.

OUR SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION will take place on **Thursday 11th April** at 7.00pm in the church. All are welcome. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

HOLY WEEK. Will all altar servers, readers, people for feet washing, cantors and organists who will be able to assist please give their names to Fr Thomas or Deacon John.

A MUSICAL EVENING WITH THE UKULELE BAND will be held in the Parish Centre on Friday 29th March at 8pm. Tickets £6 . A light supper will be served; bring your own drinks.

THE SATURDAY CLUB has ended. The remaining members now go to Our Lady's Club in Birkenhead but Summer and Christmas events will still take place here. A big thank you from the club organisers and members to all who supported them over the last 35 years

THE CTS BOOKSTAND at the back of church contains some new and interesting titles.

EASTER CARDS are now available at the back of church. Payment by donation should be placed in the CAFOD box provided. £270 was sent to CAFOD from the sale of Christmas cards.

SUNDAY OFFERING 10th March: £559.70

DIOCESAN NEWS

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND and our Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, lead by Bishop Mark will take place from 21-28 October this year. Both Pilgrimages will run alongside each and give a wonderful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the Lord and visit and pray at all the main sites associated with his public ministry. For the Youth Pilgrimage there will be an opportunity for our young people to meet with Palestinian Christians and learn directly from them the challenges of living and practicing their faith today. Brochures can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CARITAS SHREWSBURY CURRENTLY HAS ONE VACANCY for a P/T Family Support Worker, Shropshire (closing date 19th March) For further details and an Application Pack, please contact us: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk ('Job Vacancies' can be found under the 'News' Section) / Tel: 0151 652 1281 / info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

VACANCY There is a vacancy for a Family Support Worker at Chester Catholic High School; see poster in porch for details.

CALLED TO HOLINESS, GIFTED FOR MISSION. The second of 4 diocesan talks will be by Fr Jonathan Brandon, Wed 20th Mar at St Columba's, Chester 7-9pm. Details on the diocesan website.

A DAY OF REFLECTION WITH SAINT OSCAR ROMERO: Our Lady of Lourdes, Leasowe CH46 2RR, Saturday April 13th 2019, 10.00-4.00 led by Deacon Tony Crisp and Fr Peter Phillips. No charge. Tea and Coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch

CARING FOR THE EARTH with Fr Eamonn Mulcahy at St Agnes on Sat 23 March from 10.30am - 3pm. Own lunch: tea and coffee provided. Register on 678 6201