

LENT 2019



A FUTURE full of

# HOPE



*'Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive.'*

*Pope Francis, Message for Lent*

## RECONCILIATION LITURGIES

**Wednesday 13 March**  
St Bernadette, Whitchurch

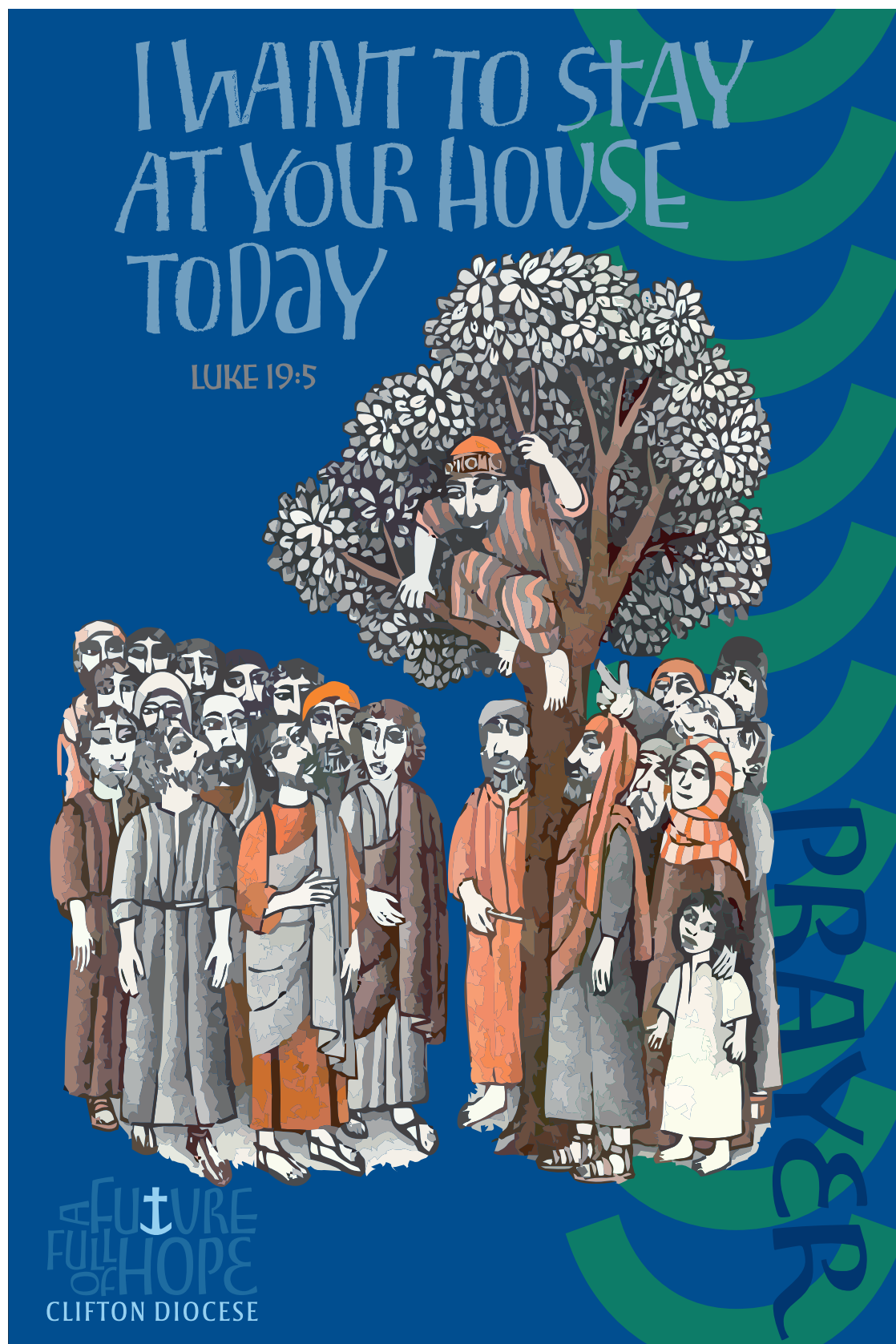
**Thursday 21 March**  
St Osmund, Salisbury

**Thursday 28 March**  
St Gregory, Cheltenham

**Thursday 4 April**  
Holy Family, Swindon

**Thursday 11 April**  
St George, Taunton

*Each Liturgy will start at 7pm.*



## CELEBRATING THE FATHER'S MERCY

A FUTURE  
FULL of HOPE  
CLIFTON DIOCESE

*Lent is a time for remembering. It is the time to reflect and ask ourselves what we would be if God had closed his doors to us. What would we be without his mercy that never tires of forgiving us and always gives us the chance to begin anew? Lent is the time to ask ourselves where we would be without the help of so many people who in a thousand quiet ways have stretched out their hands and in very concrete ways given us hope and enabled us to make a new beginning?*

*Lent is the time to start breathing again. It is the time to open our hearts to the breath of the One capable of turning our dust into humanity. It is not the time to rend our garments before the evil all around us, but instead to make room in our life for all the good we are able to do. It is a time to set aside everything that isolates us, encloses us and paralyzes us.*

*Pope Francis  
Homily, Ash Wednesday 2017*

*'Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.'*

*Pope Francis  
Message for Lent 2019*

## OPENING HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.



## **GREETING AND WELCOME**

*Bishop* In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All     Amen.**

*Bishop* Grace and peace be with you from God  
the Father of merciful and compassionate love,  
from the Holy Spirit, our healer and our sanctifier,  
and from Jesus Christ who loved us  
and washed away our sins with his blood.

**All     And with your spirit.**

## **WELCOME**

*Bishop* My brothers and sisters, we come together in our need of  
God, knowing that in our weakness and vulnerability, we  
have broken the ties that join us together as the Body of  
Christ. We seek forgiveness of ourselves, of God and of one  
another, conscious that our deep commitment to be re-  
united with one another is a sign to the world of our desire  
to be one, once more, with Jesus, our Lord and God.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

*Bishop* Let us pray

God of the Covenant, your presence fills us with awe,  
Your word gives unshakeable hope.  
Fix in our hearts the image of your Son in glory,  
that, sustained on the path of discipleship  
we may pass over with him to newness of life.  
Grant this through Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

**All     Amen.**

*We sit to listen to the Word of God.*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **READING**     Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy*

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**     **Your Love is Finer than Life**     **Marty Haugen**

*O God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Praise to you O Christ, King of Eternal Glory x 2**

*Repent, says the Lord, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand*

**Praise to you O Christ, King of Eternal Glory**

## **GOSPEL : Luke 18:9-14**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**      *Bishop Declan Lang*

## **EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

*Stand*

*Bishop* God offers us a choice: life or death. Choosing life will bring us many blessings but in a world which presents us with so many choices, it can be easy to choose those things which bring darkness into our lives. We turn to the Lord, like the tax-collector, in humility and sorrow, asking him to renew us in our prayerful desire to choose life in all its fullness.

*Reader* **We ask the Lord's mercy for those times when we have turned away from the light and chosen darkness.**

For the times when we have not followed God in what we say or do...For the times when we have not allowed God, in his Word and Eucharist, to lead us in our life...For the times when we choose to listen to what the world tells us and ignore our relationship with God....For the times when we have lacked care or concern for the world and its people by our words and actions.

*Bishop*



*Reader* **We ask the Lord's mercy for the times when we have failed to see and to serve the presence of God in others.**

For the times we have damaged our relationships with others by our attitudes, behaviour or our insensitivity or selfishness...for the times when we have failed to act with justice and show mercy to others...for those times when we have refused to forgive but instead held onto past hurts, letting them fester and control how we act and relate to others. For the times when we have been determined to do things our way lacking any care or concern for how we might hurt other people.

*Bishop*



*Reader* **We ask the Lord's mercy for the times when have failed to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel.**

For the times when I have been afraid or unwilling to witness to my faith...for the times when I do not reflect the words or actions of a disciple of Jesus. For the times when I have not responded to Christ's call in me and been unfaithful to the mission that God has entrusted to me, my family – to work – to my vocation

*Bishop*



*Bishop* Lord our God, you have called us to choose life not death. You have called us out of darkness into your wonderful life. We acknowledge that we have not lived up to our calling, but have turned away from you.

Renew once more, through our sincere repentance, that gift that came to us in the waters of baptism.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **OUR FATHER**

### **INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*You may now make your confession to one of the priests. If you are unsure about what to do or say, don't worry - the priest will guide you; just tell him your sins and receive absolution. Pray for one another at this time of quiet prayer.*

*The bishop will draw our liturgy to a conclusion at 8pm. The priests will continue to be available for individual confession after that time.*



He is waiting for you,  
He is close to you,  
He loves you,  
He is merciful,  
He forgives you,  
He gives you the strength  
to begin again from scratch!  
Everybody!

-Pope Francis

## **FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS**

*Stand*

**All**      **Lord God,**  
we thank you for your abundant mercy  
and your compassionate care for us;  
as you call us to turn back to you  
so you offer us salvation and life.  
**May we who have encountered the presence**  
**of Christ your only Son,**  
go and live what we have received,  
and preach what has been proclaimed to us  
so that through us others may come to experience  
and encounter the gentleness  
of that same healing touch of salvation.  
**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*Bishop*    The Lord be with you.

**All**      **And with your spirit.**

*Bishop*    May almighty God bless you, ✠ the Father, and ✠ the Son,  
and ✠ the Holy Spirit.

**All**      **Amen.**

Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful; go in peace.

**All**      **Thanks be to God.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing:  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father like He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;  
Dwellers all in time and space,  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him, praise Him  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## MISSION



*“ God of salvation,  
we stand before you on holy ground,  
for your name is glorified  
and your mercy revealed  
wherever your mighty deeds are remembered.*

## PRAYER



*Since you are holy and forbearing,  
turn us from every rash and shallow judgment  
to seek the ways of repentance.*

## COMMUNION



*We ask this through Christ,  
our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.”*