

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

from the Church of St. Michael's Bray



The Parish Church of Bray with Braywood, Holyport & Moneyrow
Green, Fifield, Touchen End and Oakley Green

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



Dear Friends,



Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

We come to Lent with our need to seek God's direction for our lives and our Church and our world.

Our Lent book this year is "The Lord's Prayer" in the Pilgrim series. You can join a study group each Wednesday in Lent at 1.30 pm in the Church Hall. You don't need to have a copy of the book to join the sessions but if you would like a copy please contact Helen Pearson dandhpearson@btinternet.com

The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do) use it as a time for prayer and penance. There is also a practise of spending time reading and studying Scripture and spending more time in prayer.

Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular item such as favourite food/s or pastime.

Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline and a making space for God to speak to us.



continued



Why 40 days?

40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The colour purple

Purple is the symbolic colour used in church throughout Lent, for vestments, drapes and altar frontals.

Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with penitence and reflection, a time of preparation and cleansing to ready us for the celebration of Easter.

Notable dates: Mothering Sunday 10th March a special service at 10.00 am

Palm Sunday 24th March 10.00 am

The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week** when we recall the last days of Jesus's life and prepare for the great celebration of Easter and resurrection.

During Holy Week a Eucharist with a time for reflection will be held in church at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 25th March, Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March. The service on Maundy Thursday 28th March will be at 8.00 p.m. and on Good Friday 29th at 3.00 pm.

Revd Ainsley



March 10th

Victor Braojos (piano)

Young prize-winning Spanish pianist Victor Braojos makes a welcome return with **Schubert, Chopin** and **Granados** *Romantic Scenes*

April 7th

In Springtime

Join St Michael's Choir and friends for an afternoon of music in celebration of spring.

Admission free with Afternoon Tea

St Michael's Church will again be host to Cantorum Choir when on Saturday 23 March, they perform the Durufle Requiem.

CONTACT LIST

The Vicar: Ainsley Swift 633113

For general enquiries (Christenings, Weddings etc) in the first instance please contact our Parish Administrator, Richard Severn: 01628 633113 stmichaelsbray@gmail.com

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