

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 20th March 2022



3rd Sunday of Lent

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Readings for the Week:

Psalm 146: 5-10
Matthew 25: 34-45

Thought for the Week

Throughout Lent we follow Jesus on his urgent mission to deliver his message to as many as possible before the events awaiting him in Jerusalem. We learn from Luke 13.1 that a group of pilgrims, whilst preparing their sacrifices in the temple, had been massacred by Roman troops acting on Pilate's orders, in keeping with his irrational judgments. It's a story that resonates with us today as we see and read of the atrocities in Ukraine, asking in despair 'Why?'

Luke then recounts Jesus's words of warning that a failure to repent puts us all at risk of a punishing death. Whilst of course today we've moved on from seeing death as a sort of divine retribution, what Luke then writes (13.6-9) can perhaps help us see through the horrors in Ukraine to something far greater and more eternal than the lethal tantrums of a tyrant even more deranged than Pilate.

In Jesus's parable the lifeless fig-tree is threatened with the axe. But, with a little organic help, it comes back to life and fruits for another year. Might this image help raise our spirits? Might it help us to celebrate the cheering stories emerging from the conflict? Might it help reassure us that there'll still be life beyond the current nightmare?

For example.... The 11-year-old boy walking alone for 700 miles out of Ukraine with only a plastic bag for his phone and his mother's phone number on his wrist.... And the father escaping the country with his family, then saying goodbye at the border and going back to fight.... And the 7-year-old girl in a bomb shelter defiantly singing a patriotic song and going viral on social media.... And throughout, the inspiring presence, defiance and words of President Zelensky.

As has always been true, and will be forever, the human spirit is indomitable and will eventually prevail. The resilience of God's people faced with evil, their determination never to yield, their capacity to fight for survival and believe in a future: together these qualities far outweigh any individual's warped purposes.



Following the supreme example of Jesus Christ's own sacrifice, humanity is eternal and will overcome any attempt to destroy it.

~Michael Pennington~

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear Father, We place into your loving arms the people of Ukraine who have become victims of the hand of evil: innocents... babies, nursing mothers, families attempting to flee the horror.... and serving forces protecting their nation. Because of their sacrifice may we renew our own fight against cruelty and injustice, against prejudice, tyranny and oppression.

Still, we cry out from the darkness of our divided world. May the hopes of your people never perish. Turn to yourself the hearts and wills of rulers and peoples, that a new world may arise where all may live as one in the bond of your peace. Amen

~Jim Cotter (adapted)~

Let us continue to support and strengthen each other

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

Our Services:

20th Mar 2022 3rd Sunday of Lent	10:00am Group Eucharist with Tim Turner, The Future of Foodbanks	Topcroft Church
	6:00pm Lent Evening Service <i>Join Zoom Meeting:</i> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84480050005?pwd=OXh5eU1JS3UrbnkrUjRCZGRTVjJoQT09 Meeting ID: 844 8005 0005 Passcode: 429043	Via Zoom
27th Mar 2022 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	9:30am Family Service	Hempnall Church
	11:00am Family Service	Morningthorpe Church
	11:00am Family Service	Topcroft Church
	11:00am Family Service	Hardwick Church
	6:00pm Lent Evening Service with Julian of Norwich	Via Zoom

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ Those preparing for baptism and confirmation
- ◇ Those serving through leadership
- ◇ Those looking for forgiveness
- ◇ Those misled by the false gods of this present age
- ◇ All who are hungry
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

Food Bank

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

Sunday 3rd April 2022

Any items can be left at

Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm.

Please phone before arrival - 498157

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

FRUIT JUICE ***URGENT***

TINNED TOMATOES

LONG LIFE MICROWAVEABLE SPONGE PUDDINGS

SMALL JAR COFFEE

PASTA SAUCE

COOKING SAUCE TO GO WITH RICE

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian, Vievenne

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie

Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED:

John Wall, Kathleen Waddington,
Jo Fleming, Quinton Ford

Please ring us if you need:

Liz Billett -Team Vicar 07891 854219

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com