



## From Rev Canon Maree



**Holy Communion:** Home communion will be given today. Please pray for our extended faith community.



**Annual General Meeting:** Please take resource nomination form if you wish to nominate someone for that committee. Please make sure that you asked them and they sign. PLEASE TAKE AGM BOOKLET THIS MORNING. If you have any questions of the reports. Please put in writing and give to me by 8th March.



**Jesmond Hall & Church:** Sister Di Santleban and the group called “Zara’s House” are currently hiring our facilities for teaching English, craft and gatherings. The church is being utilised for a crèche with a facilitator looking after children while the parents learn and gather. Sister Di has sent an invite to our parish to attend a celebration for women’s Day. (details below). I would love you to come and visit Jesmond premises and see the work and the life of the community there. So you are very welcome.

Blessings

Rev Canon Maree



### Also this Week:

Wed	9am 9.15am 10-12	Morning Prayer Lenten reflection in the church. Lollypops playgroup
Thurs		SRE starts back. Rev Maree’s day off
Fri		Rev Maree’s day off



### Mission for February – Anglican Aid Abroad

Readings for next week	Exodus 20 : 1 - 17 1 Corinthians 1 : 18 - 25	Psalm 19 John 2 : 13 - 22
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#### Coming:

Wed till 28/3	9.15am	Lenten reflections. Please take a Lenten reflection for week 2.
Tues 6/3	9.30am	Mothers’ union service followed by a meeting in the hall.
Thurs 8/3	7.30am – 9am	Symbol celebration for Womens’ Day at Jesmond Hall
Sun 11/3	10.15am	AGM

### A Prayer to be used through Lent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.



Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Lent

Reflect.

We are the people of dignity

Down the ages we have been the people of God,

The people who know themselves to be called to freedom, courage and truth.

We are the people who weep for the suffering of the word.

We are the people who walk with Christ

Towards all who grieve,

Who are oppressed and exploited.

We are the people of hope and faith.

In the Spirit we celebrate our energy

And strength, our power to heal

And our calling to work with God.

Remember says Jesus “I am with you, even to the end of the age.”

We are never alone!

### John and Rosemary Hyde

Today we farewell John and Rosemary. John has been a member of our church for over 30 years. He has been actively involved in so many aspects of our worship and ministry during this period including serving in church, being a valued member of Parish Council, Men’s Society, bible studies and a member of synod for many years as well as a Cursillo.

We will greatly miss them and wish them all the best in their new location in Singleton Heights.

May God bless them in their new venture.

Dear sisters and brothers,

### Flourishing by Grace -a Pastoral Letter From the Bishop

Last week, the clergy of the diocese in active ministry had the privilege of meeting together for two days to reflect on our diocesan life. It was an encouraging time where we prayed, worked hard and deepened our relationships.

We celebrated the signs of a healthy future emerging in the diocese but recognised fully that we are in difficult times. Our crisis arises from changing patterns of religious expression, our static ministry structures and resourcing, and the past failure to protect people in the church. Together we affirmed that the status quo is not an option. We affirmed that together we must embrace some further and significant changes.

There was a clear resolve to offer more opportunities for lay people to explore and deepen their faith. Over the coming months, your priests will be exploring opportunities for bible study and theological reflection for people attending the church and in the community. I invite you to pray about this work and get involved. Each faith community will be doing it differently. Our hope is that across the diocese there will be more opportunities to discover, experience and explore the wondrous loving grace God has bestowed on his creation.

We also reaffirmed the power of a personal invitation to friends and family to join in a church-based activity. For some, this will be an invitation to join in worship but for others that would be too demanding. Yet we can invite people to events, study groups, and activities in which grace and relationship can be experienced. I encourage you to pray for those whose life might be touched or transformed by a positive and helpful encounter with church community. Who are they? What might you invite them to?

We spent some time coming to terms with the reality that the way we use currently use our resources, physical and human, limits our mission and ministry decisions. Our goal is to ensure that we apply the gifts we have been given in the best way possible for God's mission. After our careful discussions, I indicated to the clergy that I would ask the Newcastle Anglican Church Corporation Board to undertake a review of our assets across the diocese as well as our needs. I have also asked it to propose some strategies to us. We have both our rules and our commitments are to ensuring good communication and consultation through these processes. Each step along the way needs to be shaped by our intention to flourish by God's grace.

It was impossible to meet without being aware of the story of abuse in our diocese and our response. The resolve to ensure a safe church and a prompt pastoral response to survivors was clearly evident. We have been touched greatly by our learnings and we have a strong resolve to embrace the findings of the Royal Commission and ensure the diocese serves its communities well.

I am delighted at the joy that has been shown that Sonia Roulston and Charlie Murry will join me in episcopal leadership in the diocese. Please pray for them, for Arthur Copeman, Katherine Bowyer and Stephen Phillips as they join with me as the senior leadership team of the diocese.

I have begun celebrating the Eucharist in the Cathedral each Wednesday, when I am in the Diocese. The focus of prayer for those who gather is the parishes in a specific deanery and a diocesan agency. Please know of my prayers for you all.

I commend to you the matters in this letter for your prayer and reflection during Lent -that we will spend time deepening our discipleship, that we will for and invite people to draw closer to Christian community, and that we will make good decisions about using our resources for mission.

With every blessing,  
Your servant in Christ,  
Bishop Peter Stuart

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF LAMBTON

St John the Baptist  
Lambton

25 February 2018

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## Today's Scripture Readings – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17 : 1 – 7, 15-16	Psalm 22 : 24 - 32
Romans 4 : 13 - 25	Mark 8 : 31 - 38

### Intervention

It's a terrible harsh word. One in which we use in this 'modern' world. Sometimes intervention comes in the form of a health crisis, addictions or the like. If someone is not coping or neglecting themselves or others, then there will be an intervention! Many, who need help feel ashamed and isolated, and may be reluctant to seek support from family or friends and it becomes so bad that intervention by others like medical or police becomes the solution. Its hard!

We hear this intervention in the gospel this morning. Peter's exchange with Jesus. Jesus rebukes Peter. Peter wants everything to just go along swimmingly and without too much fuss! Jesus tells him. He intervenes in this misunderstanding of what it is to be a follower of Christ. "Get behind me Satan!" he cries out. It will not be the easy smooth path, but one of death and resurrection, dying to self and rising to God. Jesus intervenes in our misunderstandings and confusion.

He shows us the path that we need to take to be his disciples. If anyone wants to follow, they will need to deny themselves and take up their cross daily.

Following our Saviour into a hard place of suffering, rejection and even death, Jesus intervenes and lets us know that when we give up, we actually are giving up control of the situation and letting God take control. The good news is that no matter how difficult the journey gets, we do not walk into this life alone. And we do not continue our journey alone.

By the Holy Spirit, Christ goes with us.