Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. ***Psalm 126.6***

**Collect 1 - Prayer of the Season**

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy

you breathed into dust the breath of life,

creating us to serve you and one another:

call forth our penitence and acts of love,

and strengthen us to face our mortality,

so that we may look with confidence

for your salvation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

**Collect 2 - Prayer of the Day**

Christ, whose feet were caressed

with perfume and a woman’s hair,

you humbly took a basin and towel

and washed the feet of your friends:

wash us also in your tenderness,

that, embracing your service freely,

we may accept no other bondage

in your name. ***Amen****.*

**The first Reading is from Isaiah 43:16-21**

**16**Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, **17**who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: **18**Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. **19**I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. **20**The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, **21**the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Hear the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 126**

**1**When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:

 **then were we like those restored to life.**

**2**Then was our mouth filled with laughter:

 **and our tongue with singing.**

**3**Then said they among the heathen:

 **‘The Lord has done great things for them.’**

**4**Truly the Lord has done great things for us:

 **and therefore we rejoiced.**

**5**Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:

 **as the streams return to the dry south.**

**6**Those who sow in tears:

 **shall reap with songs of joy.**

**7**They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:

 **shall come again in gladness,**

 **bringing their sheaves with them.**

**The second Reading is from Philippians 3:3-14**

**3**For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— **4**even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: **5**circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;**6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. **7**Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. **8**More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9**and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **10**I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, **11**if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **12**Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. **13**Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, **14**I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

**Priest:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

***Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***

**The Holy Gospel according to John 12:1-8**

**1**Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2**There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. **3**Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4**But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, **5**‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ **6**(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7**Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8**You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’

This is Gospel of the Lord

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

**🙏**

**Please pray for the sick** and their families, especially those who are suffering the effects of the earthquake in Myanmar and those known to us who have asked us to intercede on their behalf - *Fr Graham Head*, *Ian,* *Natasha, Ida,* *Lynton,* *Jim, Paul, Enid, Maureen, Janet, Anita and Max, Joan, James G., Merlin Morgan, Georgina, Baby Charles, Samantha, Millie and Sophie, Susan and Paul, Therese,* and give thanks for healing blessings received. Pray for those who are in need about whom only God knows and give thanks for His presence with them.

***Please pray for those who have died recently****,* especially those who have died during and as a result of the recent earthquake and other natural disasters, and we bring to you those suffering as a result of domestic violence, war, and terrorism, and we remember our loved ones who also are now resting in peace with you. *Rest eternal grant to them oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

**NOTICES**

**Happy birthday** this week to Lynne Walker and David Shepherd.

**Thank you to the Mothers’ Union and the group** that met after the Wednesday Service last week and to the individuals who took palm fronds home to work on individually for the making of over 300 palm crosses last week in preparation for Palm Sunday next week. The planned workshop after the Wednesday service this week (9 April) will now **NOT** be required. **And a big thanks to Laura Abraham** for coordinating the project.

**Tuesday April 8: 7.00pm in the hall:** Fifth meeting of the Lenten study group.

**Wednesday April 9**: 9.30am Holy Communion service with Lenten Meditation 5 and prayers for healing.

**Next Sunday: Sunday 13 June, 9.30am**: Palm Sunday Service including short procession.

Please see the Holy Week and Easter leaflet at the back of the Church for details of all services leading up to Easter.

**Saturday 19th April: 9.30am: Morning Prayer and Working Bee** (to prepare the Church for Easter Sunday). Followed by tea and coffee and hot cross buns.

**Op-Shop and WFTD**: For the next three weeks Joyce will be away for well-deserved holiday time, and Work for the Dole and the Op-Shop will not happen during that time. Op Shop will be closed from Thursday 20 March to Tuesday 29th April when it will re-open.

I am very grateful to Brenton one of the WFTD volunteers who has generously offered to help us out weekly by coming to Church on a Wednesday and cleaning the church and the toilets. This is a very generous offer. Thank you, Brenton! **However, some vacuuming of the hall and corridor will be necessary after Sunday and Wednesday morning teas. Please do not hesitate to help with that.**

**Confirmation, Admission to the Anglican Church and Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows** Bishop Sophie will visit St Catherine’s on Trinity Sunday, 15th June to lead our service, preach and offer the opportunity to be confirmed, be admitted to the Anglican Church, or reaffirm baptismal vows. The Sudanese congregation will join us for this service, and have 6 candidates for confirmation. It is unlikely that St Catherine’s congregation will have any confirmees this year, but so far we do have one candidate for admission to the Anglican Church and one to reaffirm baptismal vows. Perhaps some others of our congregation may wish to be admitted to the Anglican church, if they have come to us from another denomination; or reaffirm baptismal vows if they have come back to church after some time away. A study course to prepare candidates will be made available. Please speak to me if you are interested.

**Greg Trenowden** is again, in May this year, going to do the **WALK FOR AUTISM.**  Would you like to sponsor him in his great effort to support this very good cause? Please speak with him to hear all the details, or type the following into your search engine: walkforautism.org.au You’ll be asked to search for a name. Search for “Greg Trenowden,” and Greg’s page will come up with a button you can press to donate. Easy!