

## Reflection

This week, I have had the privilege of being a guest at the Northern European Cathedrals Conference, held in our Cathedral. A wonderful 4-day biennial conference bringing together a mix of delegates from across Northern Europe to explore, amongst other things, the role of cathedrals in our societies. It was a chance to celebrate the diversity of Christians worshipping in our cathedrals and also reflect on the injustices that can fracture our communities, both here and further afield.

Today, all churches in the UK and Ireland will observe Racial Justice Sunday, established in 1995 following the murder of Stephen Lawrence. In recent days, voices from within our own society have reminded us that this struggle for justice continues. We have heard a prominent leader of the National Black Police Association speaking out about alleged efforts to marginalise him for calling out racism in policing – a harsh reminder that the fear of speaking truth still silences many who seek justice.

Racial justice is not just something we think about on the second Sunday of February. It is a daily call to reflect Christ's love in how we treat each other – to listen, to repent where we have failed, and to work tirelessly for a community where every person is treated with respect and dignity as made in the image of God.

Rev Sarah



**NEXT SUNDAY 15.02.26 Giving Sunday**

10.30am in the Hall



OT Exodus 24: 12-end  
NT 2 Corinthians 8: 18-25  
GOSPEL Mark 12: 41-44

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# St Thomas, Exeter

8th February 2026

**Second Sunday before Lent**

*10.30am in the Hall*

### Today

**Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

*514 Thou, whose almighty word*

*442 Seek ye first the kingdom of God*

*186 Great is thy faithfulness*

### Thursday 12th February

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

### Friday 13th February

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 14th February

**9am** Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers

**10-12noon** Distribution of Valentine Hearts in Cowick Street



## Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Genesis 1: 1-2, 3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth'. And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the

earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

## Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

## Matthew 6: 25-34

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than cloth-

ing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

## Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Notices

Would you like to know more about what goes on in our Diocese and wider church? If so, do subscribe to the weekly newsletter Roots and Shoots, available through the Diocesan website. Do have a look on the Diocesan website for more information or speak to Rev Sarah.

Please join us in making some hearts after the service that we will be distributing in our community on behalf of the church on Saturday 14 February. If you would like to come along and hand out some hearts, please do let Rev Sarah know – she would love you to join her, even if just for 30 minutes!

Are you or is someone you know interested in some creative training? The Diocese is offering some excellent training on pioneer mission from April 2026 to March 2027 (in person and on zoom during evenings and weekends) Please speak to Liz or email for details.