



# Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## II Before Lent

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## Prayers and Readings for this Sunday

**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.

**Psalms 136. 1–9, 23–26** 1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious \* and his mercy endureth for ever. 2 O give thanks unto the God of all gods \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 3 O thank the Lord of all lords \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 4 Who only doeth great wonders \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 5 Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 6 Who laid out the earth above the waters \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 7 Who hath made great lights \* for his mercy endureth for ever; 8 The sun to rule the day \* for his mercy endureth for ever; 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble \* for his mercy endureth for ever; 24 And hath delivered us from our enemies \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 25 Who giveth food to all flesh \* for his mercy endureth for ever. 26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven \* for his mercy endureth for ever.

**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** ‘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 clothing? 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 Collect** 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.**

## Notices

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 4.15pm, St Andrew’s church, Hetty Kothari will be giving a contemplative reflection on **Psalm 51 and the Mercy of God**, with words, music & silence. All are welcome.

**Pancake Party**, Musbury Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Join us for our annual mission community pancake party and quiz! Donations welcome to cover the cost of the food. Please let the office know if you are planning to come. Email: [office@holyford.org](mailto:office@holyford.org) or leave a message on the answerphone 01297 552307.

**Family Pancake Party**, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10am until 12 noon in St Andrew’s Church, Colyton. Pancakes, crafts, games, lego and pancake races. We are looking for helpers with this event, please contact Fr Steven if you can come along: [rector@holyford.org](mailto:rector@holyford.org)

**Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February:** Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 10am in St Andrew’s Church, Colyton. Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist at St Michael’s Church, Colyford at 7.30pm. Mission Community choir rehearsals will be on: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am in St Andrew’s Church, Colyton and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm (before the service). Please let Fr Steven know if you want to sing.

**Holyford Lent Course.** Our annual lent course will begin on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February in St Michael’s church, Colyford. This year’s theme is **The People of Holy Week**. The evening will begin at 7pm with refreshments, followed by a talk and discussion at 7.30pm. Please see flyers at the back of church for more information.

*“The Gospels are written so that we may see ourselves in those who meet Christ.” Origen*

# Services and Events this week and next Sunday

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Sexagesima</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist (BCP), St Michael's, Musbury
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	3.30pm	Evening Prayer, St Michael's, Colyford
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer, St Giles's, Northleigh
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Scholastica</i>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.00am	ColyTots, St Andrew's, Colyton
	2.00pm	Pastoral Care Team meeting, The Vicarage
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	11.00am	Good Grief Tea & Chat, SSB, Colyton
	4.15pm	Contemplative reflection, St Andrew's, Colyton
	7.30pm	Southleigh PCC meeting
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Colyton Primary School Assembly, St Andrew's
	1.00pm	Colyton Bell Ringers, St Andrew's church
	2.15pm	Mothers' Union meeting, SSB, Colyton
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Friendly Friday, St Andrew's, Colyton
	1.30pm	Catherine Ilsley's Funeral, St Andrew's church
	6.15pm	Junior Choir Practice, St Andrew's, Colyton
	6.45pm	Choir Practice, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Ss Cyril &amp; Methodius</i>	9.30am	Mission Community Choir rehearsal, Colyton
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Quinquagesima</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Michael's, Colyford
	11.15am	Eucharist & Baptism of Isabelle Hollis, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Michael's, Musbury
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	6.30pm	Evensong, St Andrew's, Colyton