

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – 23rd February, 2025**

### **The Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent**

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.

### **Psalm 37:1-8, 39-40**

Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;  
for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.  
Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
he will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret – it leads only to evil.  
The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.  
The Lord helps them and delivers them;  
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

### **Luke 6:27-38**

Jesus said: 'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what

credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'