

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 28th March 2021

Palm Sunday



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - also viewable later via the Broadcast Page of our church website www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

This week (Holy Week) – Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. each day. Church open for private prayer 9:30-12:30

Wednesday, 10 a.m. – Zoom Service online

Maundy Thursday, 1st April – Mass at 6 p.m.

Good Friday, 2nd April – Good Friday Liturgy at 2 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 4th April – 10:30 a.m. Mass (Please book a place via the Parish Office by lunchtime THIS Tuesday, 30th March)

The services held in Church will of course be recorded for those following from home, and will be available online via the church website as soon as technically possible after each service.

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Kath Q, Linda, Jude, Alison Nunes, and Jackie A.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the recently departed, especially Sandra Parnell and Ralph Thompson,

... and those whose Years Minds fall around this time: Christopher Anniston, Derek Reade, Ken, and Michael Aldridge,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: My Song is Love Unknown

... was written by Samuel Crossman (1623-83). The hymn tells the story of Christ's passion, starting in verse two with his descent to earth, and his rejection by those he came to save. The following two verses refer to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, then his trial and crucifixion. This story is topped and tailed by verses one and five, which give a personal response to these events.

But underlying this obvious storyline, the hymn explores the "Unknown" – i.e. the mysterious, not-fully-understandable – love of Christ. Verse one expresses amazement that Jesus died for the loveless. Verse two, the "strange" situation that when Christ came to his own, they rejected him. Verse three, the irony that those who joyously welcomed him on Palm Sunday turned on him and wished him dead a few days later. Verse four, how they rejected the "Prince of Life", who had raised people from the dead ("they rise"), in favour of a man who was a murderer. These ironies build and build, until we can but express amazement in the unfathomable love that Jesus displayed through his atoning death.

A Bible passage that reflects this hymn's sentiment may be found in Romans 5:7-8: *Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

Palm Sunday Mass



The Greeting

Hosanna to the Son of David,
the King of Israel.

Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All And also with you.

Introduction

The Priest introduces the celebration

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

*The priest blesses the palm crosses,
saying this dedication prayer:*

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem
as Messiah to suffer and to die;
let these palms be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to
eternal life;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Palm Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 12.12-16

The great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord –

the King of Israel!

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Collect for Palm Sunday

Let us pray for a closer union with
Christ in his suffering and in his glory:

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love
you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

All Amen.

Hymn

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.

O, who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die.

He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my friend,
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1623-83)

The Passion Reading

Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became
obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above
every name.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of
eternal glory**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark

Mark 15.1-39(40-47)

As soon as it was morning, the chief
priests held a consultation with the elders
and scribes and the whole council. They
bound Jesus, led him away, and handed
him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are
you the King of the Jews?' He answered
him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests
accused him of many things. Pilate asked

him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the

father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of

James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Peace *is introduced*

Once we were far off,
but now in union with Christ Jesus
we have been brought near
through the shedding of Christ's blood,
for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We may exchange a sign of peace, with
those around us*

Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.*

Music: *God so loved the world, from
The Crucifixion (J. Stainer)*

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might
live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.
All Amen.

The Priest takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you
thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For as the time of his passion and
resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge
his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come
upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our
cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and
archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St John the Evangelist, St Peter, Mary the Mother of God, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the Cross,
let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei is said:
**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to
his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive
you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

Communion is received

**Music: Droop, sacred head from
“Olivet to Calvary” (J.H. Maunder)**

Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post Communion
for the day:*

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form
of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross
for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

**All Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
All And also with you.

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
All In the name of Christ, Amen.

**Concluding Voluntary: Grand March
from “Aida” (G. Verdi)**

Coronavirus reopening roadmap: comment from the Bishop of London



The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Coronavirus Recovery Group, has recently responded to the Prime Minister's roadmap for reopening the country, saying that "we will refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead.

"When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter.

"This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world. But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and the way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational.

"Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago. As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions, we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope."

Interchange: Have you read something inspiring you would like to share?

Churchwarden Mike has just finished reading Pope Francis' recent book *Let us Dream*, and shares this helpful quote with us:

"There is only one word for the church that becomes a stranger to the poor - scandal."

... and Fiona M reminds us that last Wednesday was the anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop (now Saint) Oscar Romero in El Salvador in 1980. He made an appeal to "soldiers, national guardsmen and policemen" in which he stressed that by killing the campesinos they were killing their own brothers and sisters, and told them to remember the word of God telling them "Thou shalt not kill". He concluded: "No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. It is time for you to come to your senses and obey your conscience rather than follow a sinful command."

30th March: Saint John Climacus and his Ladder to Paradise

Saint John Climacus (d. 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends; during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote *The Ladder to Paradise*, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.





100 years of the PCC

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business, had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils

(PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (i.e. Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

Our Parish Electoral Roll

At this time of year we update our parish electoral roll so it is ready for the annual church meeting in April. If you would like to be added to the roll, which allows you to vote at the church meeting, please let me know. If you are already a member but have changed your address during the year it would be helpful to know your new address.

There are forms at the back of church for those who wish to join the roll. Completed forms can be left in the sacristy or posted through the rectory door. If you are not coming into church then email me on cw1stjohns@gmail.com so I can send you a form by email. *Clare Cooper (Electoral Roll Officer)*

The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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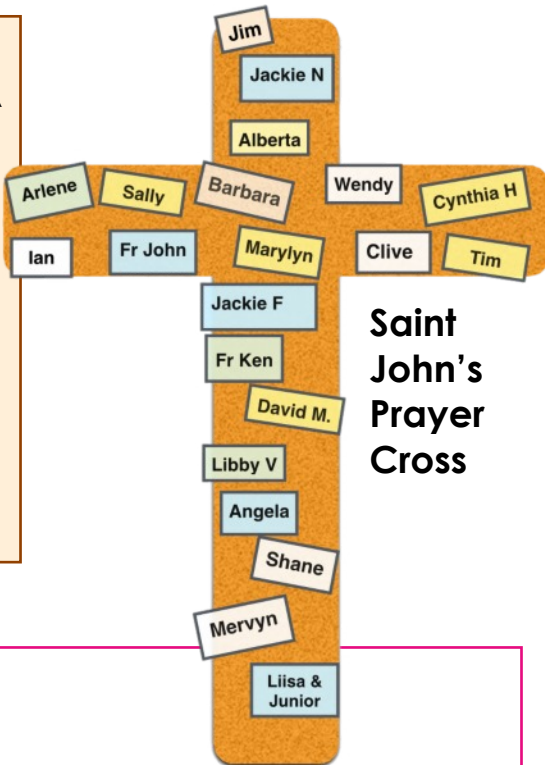
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Hymn of the week info from *40 Favourite Hymns for
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Some other items from *Parish Pump*, March/April 2021



Saint John's Prayer Cross

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