

# St John's, Pevensey Road



## Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 21st March 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Lent  
*Passiontide begins*



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

St John's is still routinely closed for private prayer for the time being. And the Midweek Mass will not be restarting until further notice.

However, **THIS TUESDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup>, the church WILL be open for private prayer, for the Covid-19 National Day of Reflection.**

**Sunday Parish Mass is held at 10:30 a.m.** with a socially-distanced congregation; recorded and broadcast via our church website, by about Sunday lunchtime.

**Lent Course**, or Pilgrimage, is being presented by Fr David via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. If you would like to take part, please send him an email.

**Online "Zoom" service:** 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

**People for whom our prayers are asked:**

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Jo,  
Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Libby V, Kath Q, Linda, Jude, and Ralph T.

**Please pray also for...**

...the repose of the souls of the departed,

... especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time:

Pat Keene, Christopher Anniston, Derek Reade, Ken, and Michael Aldridge,

...and all who mourn.

***A true story – with Passiontide in mind...***

Several years ago, a notice appeared on the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire, after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion*.

The choirmaster wrote '*The Crucifixion* – well done, everyone!'

Later that day, someone had added, '*The Resurrection* – well done, God!'

***HYMN OF THE WEEK: It is a thing most wonderful***

... was written by the Rev'd William Walsham How (1823 - 1897). He served various congregations and became Suffragan Bishop in east London in 1879 and Bishop of Wakefield in 1888. Called both the "poor man's bishop" and "the children's bishop," How was known for his work among the destitute in the London slums and among the factory workers in west Yorkshire. He wrote a number of theological works including an attempt to reconcile biblical creation with the theory of evolution, and some sixty hymns, including many for children. His hymns have been described as "enthusiastically practical". Perhaps because of this, it is challenging to find any "theological reflection" on today's hymn by Bishop How – the words are rather self-explanatory!

# Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

## The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

[Come to me, all who labour and are  
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.]

God shows his love for us  
in that, while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him  
by confessing our sins in penitence  
and faith.

**All Lord God,**  
**we have sinned against you;**  
**we have done evil in your sight.**  
**We are sorry and repent.**  
**Have mercy on us according to**  
**your love.**  
**Wash away our wrongdoing and**  
**cleanse us from our sin.**  
**Renew a right spirit within us**  
**and restore us to the joy of your**  
**salvation,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray:

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his  
passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's  
blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

*Jeremiah 31.31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.



But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

For the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

*Hebrews 5.5-10*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';  
as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of  
Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

For the Word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

### **Gradual Hymn**

It is a thing most wonderful,  
almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come from  
heav'n,  
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:  
He chose a poor and humble lot,  
and wept and toiled and mourned and  
died  
for love of those who loved Him not.

But even could I see Him die,  
I could but see a little part  
of that great love which, like a fire,  
is always burning in His heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;  
but 'tis more wonderful to see  
my love for Him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
and I will love Thee more and more,  
until I see Thee as Thou art.

*W. Walsham How (1823-97)*

### **Gospel 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 Lord be with you  
**All And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 12.20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came  
down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and  
the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the  
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

Lord of the church,  
may we bring others to know you,  
in knowing you to love you,  
and in loving you to serve you,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom.  
Guide and strengthen the mission and outreach of your people...

Lord, in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer**

We pray for leaders of nations, for rulers of peoples, that they may work with sensitivity and in humility.

We pray for countries where freedoms are curtailed, and for all who work for liberty...

Lord, in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer**

We remember all who have been generous to us, all who have shared their resources and their lives.

We pray for parents and carers who sacrificed for us, for their giving of time and of attention.

We pray for those who have been less fortunate, all who have been deprived of care and well-being.

Lord, in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the passion and cross of our Lord, for the gift of redemption.

We pray for all troubled souls, those anxious about their health or their future...

We remember all who are being persecuted for their beliefs or their principles.

Lord, in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer**

Lord, give comfort to the bereaved, give courage to the dying.

We pray for all who have entered where sorrow and pain are no more...

We remember those who have entered into eternal life, and we join with them to sing your praises.

Lord, in your mercy  
**All Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father,  
**All accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **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*

## Preparation of the Table

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

**Music:** *Chorale Prelude: O Lord my God, I cry to thee* - J.S. Bach

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
accept all we offer you this day;  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**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 Saint John the Evangelist, Saint 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**

Trusting in the compassion of God, 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**

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:**

**All 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**

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:** *Prelude on the 'Passion Chorale'*  
- D. Buxtehude

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our  
brothers and sisters,  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be  
the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign,  
now and for ever  
**All Amen.**

**All** Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off,  
you met us in your Son  
and brought us home.  
Dying and living,  
he declared your love,  
gave us grace,  
and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body  
live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup  
bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights  
give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have  
set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise  
your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Notices**

### **The Blessing and Dismissal**

**Priest** 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.**

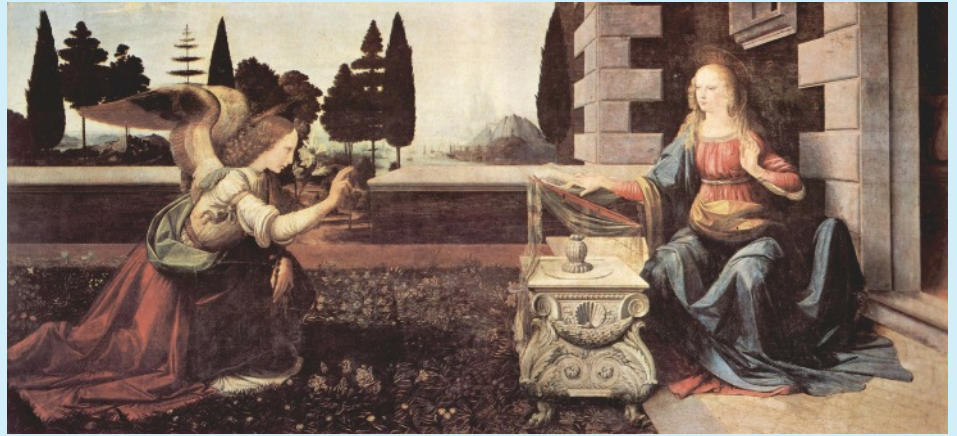
**Priest** Go in peace to love and serve the  
Lord.  
**All** In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Concluding voluntary: Chorale Prelude:**  
*From heaven above to earth I come*  
- J.S. Bach



## Thursday is the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

As we saw in Rev Jill's Advent Calendar art series last year, the subject of the Annunciation particularly inspired the Italian painters of the Renaissance period. Here is Leonardo da Vinci's interpretation of the scene, as Mary the young Jewish girl encounters the resplendent Gabriel - Angel of the Lord.



This painting in turn inspired this poem, by C Day Lewis:

There never was a morning quite so tremendous again.  
The birth, you think? I'm not for setting great store  
By birth. Births aren't beginnings. And anyway  
She only wanted to sleep off the pain  
Which had made her a beast among beasts on the cow-house floor.

Shepherds and magnates tiptoeing through the hay  
(You get all kinds at an inn, she drowsily thought),  
Even the babe - they were part of a snowdrift trance,  
Almost unreal. He was to prove a good son  
In his way, though his way was beyond her.  
Whatever he sought  
When he left home and led his friends such a dance,  
He did not forget her as other boys might have done.

Her morning of mornings was when one flew to bring  
Some news that changed her cottage into a queen's  
Palace; the table she worked at shone like gold.  
And in the orchard it is suddenly spring,  
All bird and blossom and fresh-painted green.  
What was it the grand visitor foretold  
Which made earth heaven for a village Mary?  
He was saying something about a Saviour Prince,  
But she only heard him say, 'You will bear a child',  
And that was why the spring came. Angels carry  
Such tidings often enough, but never since  
To one who in such blissful ignorance smiled.

C Day Lewis *Annunciation:Leonardo*

## Holy Week and Easter Services 2021

*(Sadly rather curtailed again due to Covid restrictions)*

Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March – 10:30 a.m. Mass as usual

Holy Week – Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. each day. Open for private prayer 9:30-12:30

Maundy Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April – Mass at 6 p.m.

Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Good Friday Liturgy at 2 p.m. (no veneration of the Cross)

Easter Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> April – 10:30 a.m. Mass (Please book a place via the Parish Office by lunchtime on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 30<sup>th</sup> March)



## “Get One, Give One”



There is currently a campaign called #getonegiveone, set up in appreciation of the freely available Covid-19 vaccinations that are being rolled out to us in this country. We have the opportunity to donate so that people in poorer countries may also receive the vaccine via the Gavi COVAX AMC scheme. If you are so moved, the donation web page link is: [covaxamc.ctdonate.org](https://covaxamc.ctdonate.org)

## *This Tuesday is...*



### ***Reflect - Connect - Hope***

Since the first UK Covid-19 lockdown began on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, millions have been bereaved. The **National Day of Reflection**, officially supported by the Church of England, has been designated a special day to reflect on collective loss and grief. ***St John's will be open for private prayer during that day.***

God of Love,

As we think about all that has changed this year,  
help us to trust that you are always with us.

As we remember those who have died,  
help us to trust they are at peace with you.

As we reach out to others with kindness and care,  
may hope shine out in every heart and home.

Amen

## **Vacancies at Abbeyfield South Downs – St Leonards-on-Sea**

If you, or someone you know, are above retirement age, living alone and feel lonely, you may benefit by moving into an Abbeyfield House.

All meals supplied, so no more shopping!!

Come and see what we offer at Ridge House, 27 Boscobel Road,  
St Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 0LX

To make an appointment please call our House Manager - Anna McNulty  
on 01424 439013 or Email - [Anna.mcnulty@abbsd.co.uk](mailto:Anna.mcnulty@abbsd.co.uk)



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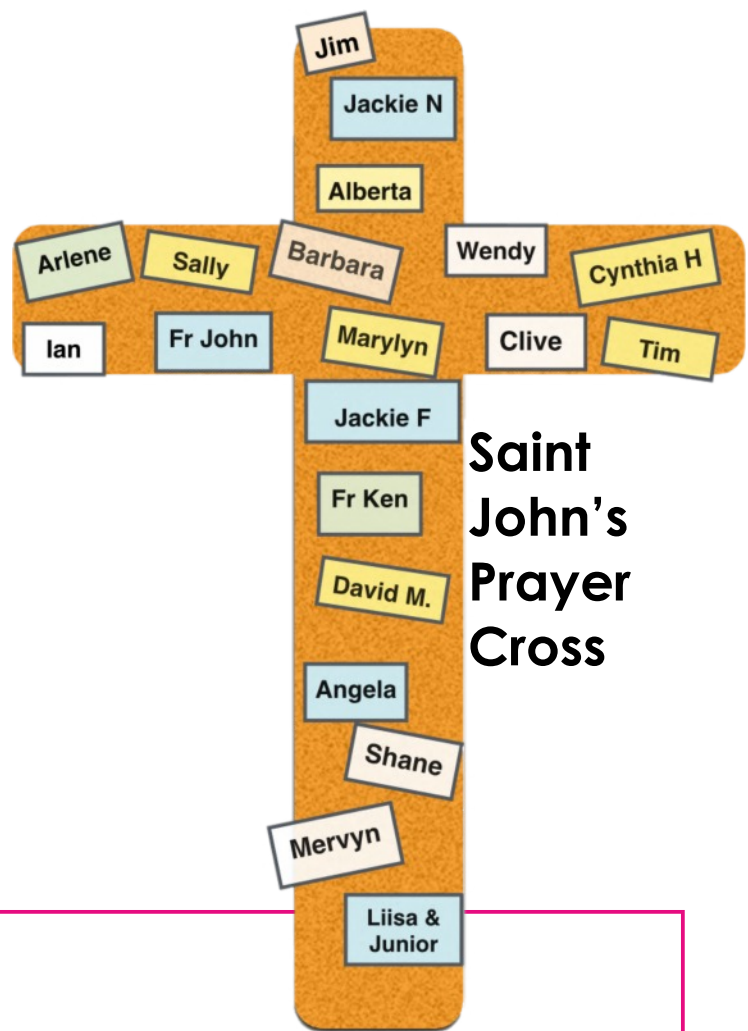
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Hymn of the week info from Hymnary.org

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Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

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