

**Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill  
Maidenhead**

**Holy Week and Easter 2023**



**Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament**

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday is the start of the most important week in the Christian Calendar – Holy Week.

This year Fr John, Jo Sheppard and I will be using ***An Easter Book of Days*** by Gregory Cameron. The book focuses on some of the characters and creatures that populate the Easter story.

Seven days from Hosanna! through Crucify! And on to victory Alleluia! Holy Week is not an historical pageant but a living liturgy, when hopefully we experience something new, each time we make this spiritual journey. When we arrive at Maundy Thursday, we begin the Paschal Triduum (trih-dyoo-um), Latin for ‘three days’ which commemorates the essential parts of our redemption: Christ’s sacrifice, his burial, and his resurrection.

The Triduum observance begins on Holy Thursday evening with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The liturgy’s Washing of the Feet recalls Christ’s command that ‘we love one another.’ The liturgy celebrates Christ’s love for us made manifest in the Eucharist and in the sacrifice of Calvary. Good Friday features the Adoration of the Cross in a solemn liturgy focussed on Christ’s death and burial.

The Easter Vigil liturgy begins with the stories of creation, the Passover, of a spirit-filled people before we bless the new fire. We renew our Baptismal promises and receive the gift of new life within the Eucharist before we go forth to channel God’s love by walking in His light, rejoicing in His love and reflecting His glory to the world.

Please take note of the dates, times, and ways of sharing Holy Week so that you can be ready to take part in the great Christian drama.

Do have a Blessed Holy Week,

With my prayers,

*Fr Jeremy*

## Palm Sunday 2 April

What happened? This is when Jesus entered the Holy city of Jerusalem, riding a donkey.

Why is it important? It reminds us that God's Son is not some remote, frightening figure, but a real, humble, fragile, person like us.

How can we join in? Arrive at the Parish Centre to take a Palm Cross. The Palm Cross reminds us of the palms that people threw in Jesus' path, and is for us to keep all year. We re-enact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with a Procession.



**10.00am**

Palm Procession and Parish Eucharist  
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy. Preacher Fr John.  
Theme: ***The Foe! of a Donkey.***

**4.00pm**

Stations of the Cross **for families and children**  
followed by hot cross buns.

## Introduction to Holy Week

Mark's Gospel sets out a consistent order of the events of Holy Week following the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Each evening of Holy Week, until his arrest on the night of Maundy Thursday, Jesus retired from the city to stay at Bethany, maybe in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Bethany was about two miles outside of Jerusalem. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke give a similar order of events, whilst John's Gospel places some of the events differently in time.

### **Monday in Holy Week 3 April**

What happened? Jesus goes into the Temple in Jerusalem and overturns the tables of the money-changers and traders (the 'cleansing of the Temple'), quoting the prophets Isaiah, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations" and Jeremiah, "You have made it a den of robbers." (Mark 11: 15-19)

In our Gospel reading today, we read of the anointing of Jesus in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. (John 12: 1-11).

Join us in our worship today:

**7.30pm** Eucharist: Celebrant: Fr John with Address by Jo Sheppard.  
Theme *Simon of Cyrene*

### **Tuesday in Holy Week 4 April**

What happened? According to Mark, this was a very busy day for Jesus as he returns to the Temple and engages in disputes with the Scribes, Sadducees and Chief Priests who question his authority and test him on many things. Jesus denounces the Scribes and Chief Priests, telling against them the parable of the wicked tenants of the vineyard (Israel). He goes on to predict the destruction of the Temple, which occurred in 70AD. (Mark 11: 27-13: 37).

In our Gospel reading today we hear Jesus predicting his death, saying "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." (John 12: 20-36).

Join us in our worship today:

**7.30pm** Eucharist: Celebrant: Fr John, with Address by Fr Jeremy.  
Theme *Barabbas*

### **Wednesday in Holy Week 5 April**

What happened? Mark records the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, Jesus saying "She has anointed my body beforehand for its burial." Judas meets the Chief Priests and agrees to betray Jesus to them. (Mark 14 1-11).

Our Gospel reading today is taken from John's account of the Last Supper at the point where Jesus says clearly that one of his disciples will betray him. At that point Satan entered into Judas and he left the meal to arrange for the arrest of Jesus. John adds poignantly "And it was night". Jesus says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified." (John 13: 21-32). The events that will lead to the death of Jesus are set in motion.

Join us in our worship today:

**10.00am** Eucharist: Celebrant: Fr Jeremy with Address by Fr John.  
Theme *Longinus*

**7.30pm** Stations of the Cross with Fr John

### **THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

#### **Maundy Thursday 6 April**

What happened? Jesus held a Last Supper with his disciples, when he washed their feet, asked them to receive his Holy Communion, and commanded them to love one another. Following that, he went and prayed until his arrest.

Why is it important? Through receiving Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion, we can join with Jesus in his death and in his new, risen, life. As we witness the washing of the feet, we are reminded of the need to love and serve one another.

How can we join in? By coming to the Mass of the Last Supper, witnessing or joining in the washing of the feet and then if we wish, staying to pray in the beauty and silence of the altar of repose, at any time until midnight.



**7.30pm**  
Watch

Eucharist of the Last Supper and Gethsemane  
Celebrant: Fr John Preacher: Fr Jeremy  
Theme ***Peter the Apostle***

**11.50pm**

**Night Prayer**

### **Good Friday 7 April**

What happened? Following his arrest and trial by religious and political figures we hear how Jesus died on the Cross.

Why is it important? Jesus died to show that God is involved in all of our lives and takes all the sin and death of the world onto himself. This tells us that Jesus is with us in our own struggles in life even at our death. What appears to be a terrible defeat leads to new life.

The 3.00pm service contains a dramatized reading of the events of Good Friday and a time to reflect on the meaning of the cross.



**10.00am**

Morning Prayer and The Litany from Common  
Worship

**11.00am** An opportunity to join with other Christians in the town for a Walk of Witness, starting from Sainsbury's Piazza in Provident Place and finishing at High Street Methodist Church.

**3.00pm** The Liturgy of the Day. Celebrant Fr Jeremy, Preacher Fr John. Theme ***The Cross of the Saviour***

We focus on the Crucifixion with readings, hymns, reflection, prayers, Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament which is brought from the Altar of Repose.

The service ends around 4.00pm. Hot Cross buns will be served at the back of church.

### **Holy Saturday 8 April**

What happened? Jesus' body is sealed in the tomb, his disciples experience the Risen Jesus. Why is it important? Jesus' resurrection proves that life has a meaning, that death is not the end and that new and transformed life has been won for us.

How can we join in? At 8.00pm we will gather in the Parish Centre to hear the readings of salvation history before lighting the fire and then the Easter candle. This is taken into church, and everyone receives a lighted candle. From then on, a wonderful service, the Vigil, unfolds with light, colour, sound, and scent. It is followed by drinks and hospitality to celebrate Easter.

**8.00pm** **Easter Ceremonies and First Mass of Easter.**

## **EASTER DAY 9 April**

***Alleluia! Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!***

**10.00am** The Parish Eucharist with Procession during which the Easter Garden is blessed. A festal celebration for all.

Celebrant: Fr John Preacher: Fr Jeremy



Easter-tide lasts for fifty days from Easter Day until Pentecost. As we have kept the forty days of Lent in reflective and penitential mode let us now keep the Feast until the coming of the Holy Spirit on the birthday of the Church.

***We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our name!***

*St Augustine*

***With prayers and every blessing for a Joyful Eastertide***

***Fr Jeremy & Monika***

***Fr John***

***The Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council.***