

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

With notes on the services and ceremonies



24-31 March 2024

You have turned my mourning into dancing

Psalm 30:11



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

In worship rich in drama, symbol and scripture we follow Jesus through betrayal, suffering and death, to risen life.

The Triduum (Great Three Days) Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – The Last Supper,

The Cross, The Resurrection.

The foundation of our faith.

From the depths of love, new life emerges.



Palm Sunday 24 March

8am Eucharist (with the blessing of Palms)

10.30am Palm Procession and Sung Eucharist

This celebration begins Holy Week and has two parts.

- **The Liturgy of the Palms** our Palm Crosses commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to suffer and die. We praise Christ with our "hosannas" like those who first welcomed him.
- **The Liturgy of the Passion** puts the events of Holy Week into context, with a dramatic reading of St Matthew's Passion and Eucharist. Shouts of "Hosanna" turn to "Crucify."



6.30pm Choral Service: Palms and Passion

Wednesday: 10.30am Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 28 March

11.00am, Diocesan Chrism Eucharist at Lichfield

Cathedral. Oils are blessed for healing, baptism, and confirmation.

Clergy renew ordination vows and lay people their commitment to service.

All are invited.

7.30pm Eucharist of the Lord's Supper

The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper begins the **Triduum (3 Days)**

This has a dual focus:

Washing of feet. The Lord Jesus washed his disciples' feet and taught his disciples to do likewise. We re-enact this loving service.

The institution of the Eucharist.

Christ interpreted his coming death using bread and wine, the gift his Body and Blood, with his disciples. It is particularly poignant to celebrate the Eucharist tonight.



Watch and Pray

In the Garden of Gethsemane, as he agonised over his coming suffering, Jesus said to his disciples, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" We are invited to watch with him as the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar of repose. *You can come and go as necessary.* The watch will finish with Compline (Night Prayer) at 10pm.

Marking Christ's abandonment to suffering and death, the **church is stripped bare** of all ornamentation



Good Friday 29 March

In a bare unlit church, with fasting as you are able, you are invited to keep this day of Christ's suffering and death with devotion and prayer. We believe that Christ died for our good and we worship him with love.

10.30am Family Service

A short service focussed on Jesus' crucifixion and death.

12noon Prayer and Reflection

The church will remain open for quiet prayer and reflection

2pm The Good Friday Liturgy

This service has the character of lament as we come to the moment of Christ's death on the cross. Silence is an important aspect.

There are four main parts of the service

- Dramatic reading of the Passion from St John's Gospel
- Proclamation of the cross
- Good Friday intercession
- Communion from the sacrament reserved from Maundy Thursday.

The Resurrection of the Lord



Easter Night 30 March 7.30pm Easter Vigil

The Passover from death to life, traditionally the night when Christians are buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life.

The four-part Service will last about 2 hours:

- **The Service of Light.** On Good Friday all candles are extinguished. So a new fire is kindled outside the church from which the Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit and carried into the darkened church "The Light of Christ" spreads out to light all our candles. The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is sung by the light of the paschal candle.
- **The Vigil of Readings, Psalms and Prayers** The story of God's creating and saving work in history is told from the Old Testament
- **The Liturgy of Baptism** with the renewal of baptism vows
- **The First Eucharist of Easter.**

Easter Sunday 31 March

8am Eucharist

10.30am Festival Eucharist (and Easter Egg hunt)

6.30pm Evening Prayer