



# *Holy Week - the definitive Pilgrimage of Hope*



*Gospels and Readings for Palm Sunday,  
Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter 2025*

# Holy Week Masses and Liturgies

## **Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Masses: Saturday 6.30pm  
Sunday 9.30am\* and 11.30am

## **Holy Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April**

7.00pm\* Mass of the Lord's Supper  
*The church remains open for private prayer until 10.00pm*

## **Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00am Children's service for Good Friday (there is a separate booklet for this service, which will be given on the day)  
11.30am Prayer with town centre churches in the Market Place  
3.00pm\* Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
7pm – 8pm Church open for private prayer by the cross

## **Easter Vigil, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

11.00am Traditional blessing of Polish Easter baskets  
7.30pm Mass (this Mass is full of light and radiance, including the joy of welcoming six adults as members of the Catholic Church. Please note this is a longer Mass, finishing around 10pm)

## **Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Masses: 8am A quiet dawn Mass  
9.30am\* Music animated by the Youth Band and Choir  
11.30am Music animated by the Choir

\* These Masses and Services will be on the parish **Livestream**, which you can access via the parish website: [www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/livestream](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk/livestream) or directly at <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>. For those who are unable to be present, or watch live, the Holy Week liturgies remain on the Livestream to watch and pray later in the day.

# Welcome

**If you are visiting the parish for the first time this Holy Week, or if you are returning after a while, you are very, very welcome here.**

Holy Week 2025 is in the Jubilee Year with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.”

On Christmas Eve 2024 Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, in a very public moment. Less well known is that a couple of days later he visited Rebibbia Prison in Rome, and opened a Holy Door there. This is the picture on the front cover.

There are many moments of doors and doorways in Holy Week – including the most definitive door of all, the rolling back of the rock from the tomb, at the moment of Jesus’ Resurrection. This is an excellent week to consider the doors in our own lives, and this theme will guide us all week.

This booklet provides you with the readings for the key Masses and Services of Holy Week. For most, there will also be an additional music sheet, and we warmly encourage you to join with the musicians and singers leading the music. You are very welcome to take this booklet home with you, to take time in personal prayer with the readings. Please just remember to bring it back, to use later in the week.

If you are new to the parish, you will find lots of information on the parish website, [www.stedwards-romford.org.uk](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)

You are also warmly welcome to get in touch at any time – speak to Fr Dominic, or to Julia, our Administrator, by phoning 01708 740308 or emailing [romford@brcdt.org](mailto:romford@brcdt.org)

Everyone is welcome here. Holy Week most especially shows us that Jesus opens doors with love, sacrifice, forgiveness and hope – to the point where after the Resurrection he is able to enter the Upper Room even though the door is locked! Such transformative love is the heart of our faith; no door is ever too firmly bolted, too hidden or too difficult for Jesus to open.

**With many blessings for Holy Week and Easter**

Fr Dominic

# Palm Sunday

*We begin Mass with the  **blessing of palms.***

*Depending on the weather, this will either be outside the church, on the piazza, or in the Walsingham Hall in the parish centre.*

## Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

### Gospel

**Luke 19:28-40**

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this: "The Lord has need of it."'

So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' And they said, 'The Lord has need of it.' They brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near — already on the way down the Mount of Olives — the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.'

*As we process into church please use all the doors. We commemorate the first Palm Sunday, waving the palms and joining in song with the musicians*

## THE MASS

### Opening Prayer

### Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Christ was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

---

Luke 22:14-23:56

### The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Jesus. S. Other single speaker. C. Crowd – all join in.*

**N.** When the hour came, Jesus reclined at table, and the Apostles with him. And he said to them,

✠ I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

**N.** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,

✠ Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

**N.** And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

✠ This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

**N.** And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying,

✠ This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!

**N.** And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them,

✠ The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest

among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

**N.** Peter said to him,

**S.** Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.

✠ I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.

When I sent you out with no money bag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?

**N.** They said, Nothing.

✠ But now let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfilment.

**N.** And they said, Look, Lord, here are two swords.

✠ It is enough.

**N.** And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them,

✠ Pray that you may not enter into temptation.

**N.** And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying,

✠ Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.

**N.** And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them,

✠ Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.

**N.** While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him,

✠ Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

**N.** And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, Lord, shall we strike with the sword? And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

✠ No more of this!

**N.** And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, ✠ Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

**N.** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said,

**S.** This man also was with him.

**N.** But he denied it, saying,

**S.** Woman, I do not know him.

**N.** And a little later someone else saw him and said,

**S.** You also are one of them.

**N.** But Peter said,

**S.** Man, I am not.

**N.** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.

**N.** But Peter said,

**S.** Man, I do not know what you are talking about.

**N.** And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. They also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

**C. Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?**

**N.** And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said,

**C. If you are the Christ, tell us.**

✠ If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

**C. Are you the Son of God, then?**

✠ You say that I am.

**C. What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.**

**N.** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying,

**C. We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.**

**N.** Pilate asked him,

**S.** Are you the King of the Jews?

✠ You have said so.

**N.** Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,

**S.** I find no guilt in this man.

**N.** But they were urgent, saying,

**C. He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.**

**N.** When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them,

**S.** You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.

**N.** But they all cried out together,

**C. Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas.**



**N.** A man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting,

**C. Crucify, crucify him!**

**N.** A third time he said to them,

**S.** Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.

**N.** But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will. And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, ☩ Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us', and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

**N.** Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said,

☩ Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

**N.** And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying,

**C. He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!**

**N.** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying,

**C. If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**

**N.** There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying,

**S.** Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!

**N.** But the other rebuked him, saying,

**S.** Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of

our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

✠ Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

**N.** It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ✠ Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!

**N.** And having said this he breathed his last.

*All kneel for a period of silence.*

**N.** Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying,

**S.** Certainly this man was innocent!

**N.** And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**We pause for a time of reflection on all that we have heard.**

Then the Mass continues in the usual way.

Please continue to join with the music; the tone of the Mass changes now – from the joyful waving of Palms, we are now preparing ourselves for the events we have just read about. The music feels more sombre. We leave the church mindful of the week ahead of us.

You are very welcome to take this booklet home with you, to follow and to pray with the Holy week readings. Please bring it with you to the Mass on Holy Thursday, and the service on Good Friday, as well as to Easter weekend Masses.

# Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

*For the hymns during this Mass, please see separate sheet.*

*We thank the choir for leading hymns this evening –  
please join with them*

We process in with the **Oil for Anointing the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of Chrism**, all blessed by the Bishop at the Mass of Chrism, which was celebrated yesterday morning at Brentwood Cathedral.

## Penitential Rite

## Gloria

*For the first time since the beginning of Lent, the Gloria is prayed – in song!  
Please join with the choir, using the hymn sheet.*

## Opening Prayer

## First reading

**Exodus 12:1-8,11-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ‘This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbour shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male, a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

‘Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

‘In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all

the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

'This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute for ever, you shall keep it as a feast.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 115(116):12-13,15-18**

*The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.*

How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?

The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

*The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.*

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

*The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.*

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people.

*The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ.*

## Second reading

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Brothers and Sisters: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Jn13:34**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another just as I have loved you,  
says the Lord.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

## Gospel, including The Washing of the Feet.

**John 13:1-15**

Before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it round his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped round him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, do you wash my feet?' Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter

said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

### **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**The Offertory**

**The Communion Rite**

#### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

*For those watching and praying at home*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The Blessed Sacrament is processed through the church to the Altar of Repose, in the side chapel, as a focus for Adoration and prayer. This reminds us that this is the night where Jesus, after celebrating the first Eucharist with his disciples, now sweats blood in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemene, is arrested late into the night, and awaits trial and crucifixion the following day. It is a sacred and solemn moment.*

*During the procession we will sing the “Pange Lingua Gloriosi” (“Of the glorious Body telling”), which you will find on your sheets. We pause before the last two verses, to place the Eucharist on the altar of repose. After singing the last two verses (beginning “Tantum ergo”) you are invited to leave the church in silence, or to remain in quiet prayer. The church remains open until 10.00pm.*

*The altar is stripped of all decoration, as we enter solemnly into Good Friday.*

# Good Friday - Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord

*For those watching and praying from home, please have a crucifix near to the screen where you are watching, as a focus for prayer when the crucifix in church is being venerated.*

---

*Fr Dominic processes in silence from the back of the church, and you are asked to stand, if possible.*

*In silence, Fr Dominic prostrates himself before the altar, in a moment of solemn prayer; please kneel, and then stand when Fr Dominic stands. Please remain standing for the Opening Prayer, and the Gospel – if you are able. Please also feel welcome to sit, if that is more comfortable.*

---

## Gospel Acclamation

**Phil2:8-9**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
Christ was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

---

Fr Dominic: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**John 18:1-19:42**

*Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Jesus. S. Other single speaker. C. Crowd – please join in*

**N.** At that time: Jesus went out with his disciples across the brook named Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them,

✠ Whom do you seek?



### **C. Jesus of Nazareth.**

✠ I am he.

**N.** Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again,

✠ Whom do you seek?

### **C. Jesus of Nazareth.**

✠ I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.

**N.** This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: 'Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.' Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter,

✠ Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?

**N.** So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter,

**S.** You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?

**N.** He said, I am not. Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

✠ I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.

**N.** When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

**S.** Is that how you answer the high priest?

✠ If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?

**N.** Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him,

**C. You also are not one of his disciples, are you?**

**N.** He denied it and said, I am not. One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

**S.** Did I not see you in the garden with him?

**N.** Peter again denied it, and at once a cock crowed.

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said,

**S.** What accusation do you bring against this man?

**C. If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.**

**N.** Pilate said to them,

**S.** Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

**C. It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.**

**N.** This was to fulfil the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him,

**S.** Are you the King of the Jews?

✠ Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?

**S.** Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you up to me. What have you done?

✠ My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.

**S.** So you are a king?

✠ You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.

**S.** What is truth?

**N.** After Pilate had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them,

**S.** I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?

**C. Not this man, but Barabbas!**

**N.** Now Barabbas was a robber.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying,

**C. Hail, King of the Jews!**

**N.** and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them,

**S.** See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.

**N.** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

**S.** Behold the man!

**N.** When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

**C. Crucify him, crucify him!**

**S.** Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.

**N.** The Jews answered him,

**C. We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.**

**N.** When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus,

**S.** Where are you from?

**N.** But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him,

**S.** You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?

✠ You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.

**N.** From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,

**C. If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.**

**N.** So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,

**S.** Behold your King!

**N.** They cried out,

**C. Away with him, away with him, crucify him!**

**S.** Shall I crucify your King?

**N.** The chief priests answered,

**C. We have no king but Caesar.**

**N.** So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified

him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

**C. Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'**

**S.** What I have written I have written.

**N.** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another,

**C. Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.**

**N.** This was to fulfil the Scripture which says, 'They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.' So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

✠ Woman, behold, your son!

**N.** Then he said to the disciple,

✠ Behold, your mother!

**N.** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture),

✠ I thirst.

**N.** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,

✠ It is finished,

**N.** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*All kneel for a period of silence.*

**N.** Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth — that

you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken.' And again another Scripture says, 'They will look on him whom they have pierced.'

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about thirty-five kilograms in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **Homily**

### **The Solemn Intercessions**

#### **For Holy Church**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquillity and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations,  
watch over the works of your mercy,  
that your Church, spread throughout all the world,  
may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For the Pope**

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope Francis,  
that our God and Lord,  
who chose him for the Order of Bishops,  
may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church,  
to govern the holy People of God.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
by whose decree all things are founded,  
look with favour on our prayers  
and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us,  
that, under him, the Christian people,  
governed by you their maker,  
may grow in merit by reason of their faith.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**For all orders and degrees of the faithful**

Let us pray also for our Bishop Alan,  
for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church  
and for the whole of the faithful people.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is sanctified and governed,  
hear our humble prayer for your ministers,  
that, by the gift of your grace,  
all may serve you faithfully.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**For catechumens** (*those preparing to be received into the Church*)

Let us pray also for catechumens,  
that our God and Lord  
may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts  
and unlock the gates of his mercy,  
that, having received forgiveness of all their sins  
through the waters of rebirth,  
they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring,  
increase the faith and understanding of catechumens,  
that, reborn in the font of Baptism,  
they may be added to the number of your adopted children.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**For the unity of Christians**

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ,  
that our God and Lord may be pleased,  
as they live the truth,  
to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who gather what is scattered  
and keep together what you have gathered,  
look kindly on the flock of your Son,  
that those whom one Baptism has consecrated  
may be joined together by integrity of faith  
and united in the bond of charity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**For the Jewish people**

Let us pray also for the Jewish people,  
to whom the Lord our God spoke first,  
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name  
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants,  
graciously hear the prayers of your Church,  
that the people you first made your own  
may attain the fullness of redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**For those who do not believe in Christ**

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ,  
that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit,  
they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant to those who do not confess Christ  
that, by walking before you with a sincere heart,  
they may find the truth  
and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love  
and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life,  
may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



### **For those who do not believe in God**

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God,  
that, following what is right in sincerity of heart,  
they may find the way to God himself.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
who created all people  
to seek you always by desiring you  
and, by finding you, come to rest,  
grant, we pray,  
that, despite every harmful obstacle,  
all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love  
and the witness of the good works  
done by those who believe in you,  
and so in gladness confess you,  
the one true God and Father of our human race.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **For those in public office**

Let us pray also for those in public office,  
that our God and Lord  
may direct their minds and hearts according to his will  
for the true peace and freedom of all.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
in whose hand lies every human heart  
and the rights of peoples,  
look with favour, we pray,  
on those who govern with authority over us,  
that throughout the whole world,  
the prosperity of peoples,  
the assurance of peace,  
and freedom of religion  
may through your gift be made secure.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the afflicted in time of war**

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of war, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God, only support of our human weakness, look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children who suffer because of war and pandemic; relieve the pain of the sick, give strength to those who care for them, welcome into your peace those who have died and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For those in tribulation**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travellers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

*Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:*

Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand.

**Amen.**

## The Adoration of the Holy Cross

### The Showing of the Holy Cross

Behold the wood of the Cross,  
on which hung the salvation of the world.

**Come, let us adore.**

---

### The Adoration of the Holy Cross

*You are invited to come forward and venerate the cross with a bow, or by touching the feet of the cross, or by kissing the feet of the figure of Jesus.*

*For those watching and praying at home, this is a moment to hold and to venerate the crucifix that you have in front of you, where this is possible.*

*We will be led in simple music by the choir – please join with this, using the sheets given for this service.*

*During the time of veneration, this reading – usually read at the beginning of the Good Friday service – could also be a focus for your prayer and reflection:*

### Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at you —  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind —  
so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,  
for that which has not been told them they see,  
and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned — every one — to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.  
By oppression and judgement he was taken away;  
and as for his generation,  
who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?  
And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.  
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

*At the end of the time of veneration, Fr Dominic will bring the Blessed Sacrament to the altar, for the distribution of Holy Communion. Please kneel. We pray the **Our Father** together and then Fr Dominic prays:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

*For those watching and praying at home*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### **Prayer after Communion**

#### **Dismissal**

*Today as we leave the church, we genuflect to the cross. We leave as solemnly and silently as possible – please be guided by the Stewards.*

*On your way from church there will be a special collection for the **Holy Places** – for the upkeep of the places where Jesus lived and taught, the places familiar to us from the pages of the Bible.*

*With the horrors of such a destructive and bloody war in the last three years in the Holy Land, we pray fervently for a ceasefire, for justice and for peace. In the heat of such desolate conflict, it can be very difficult for those trying to look after the Holy Places, especially in Palestine, where Bethlehem is located. Thank you for anything that you can give.*

# The Easter Vigil

*Weather permitting, we gather outside the church where a fire is lit; the Paschal Candle is then blessed, and lit from the fire. This is a sign of Resurrection – Jesus, the Light of the World, overcomes the darkness of death, and the anguish of suffering. We pray that this light illuminates the world – a light of love and hope*

*Fr Dominic proclaims, “**Lumen Christi**” (The Light of Christ)  
Everyone replies, “**Deo Gratias**” (Thanks be to God)*

*Once we have entered the church, the light spreads as our individual candles are lit; please follow the guidance of the altar servers and stewards.*

## The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!  
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.  
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

It is truly right and just,  
with ardent love of mind and heart  
and with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,  
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,  
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,  
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,  
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,  
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,  
from slavery in Egypt  
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night  
that with a pillar of fire  
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night  
that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices  
and from the gloom of sin,  
leading them to grace  
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,  
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death  
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,  
had we not been redeemed.  
O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault  
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.

O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.

Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honour of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.  
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.  
May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Dear brothers and sisters,  
now that we have begun our solemn Vigil,  
let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.  
Let us meditate on how God in times past saved his people  
and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer.  
Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation  
by the fullness of redemption.

### **First reading**

**Genesis 1:1-2:2**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' And God made the firmament and separated the waters that were under the firmament from the waters that were



above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. And God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.' So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds — livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.' And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And

God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We pause for a short time of silent reflection on what we have heard*

---

**Psalm:** *Please see the hymn sheets for the Psalm response, and follow the lead of the choir.*

---

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works,  
may those you have redeemed understand  
that there exists nothing more marvellous  
than the world's creation in the beginning  
except that, at the end of the ages,  
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

In those days: God tested Abraham and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.' And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, 'By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We pause for a short time of silent reflection on what we have heard*

---

**Psalm:** *Please see the hymn sheets for the Psalm response, and follow the lead of the choir.*

---

Let us pray.

O God, supreme Father of the faithful,  
who increase the children of your promise  
by pouring out the grace of adoption  
throughout the whole world  
and who through the Paschal Mystery  
make your servant Abraham father of nations,  
as once you swore,  
grant, we pray,  
that your peoples may enter worthily  
into the grace to which you call them.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Third Reading**

### **Exodus 14:15-15:1**

In those days: The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.'

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

## **Canticle**

**Exodus 15**

### **Hymn of victory after crossing the Red Sea**

*I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!*

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!

The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.

This is my God and I extol him,

my father's God and I give him praise.

*I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!*

The Lord is a warrior! 'The Lord' is his name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea.  
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

*I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!*

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power,  
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

*I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!*

You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain,  
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,  
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.  
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.

*I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!*

---

Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders  
remain undimmed in splendour even in our day,  
for what you once bestowed on a single people,  
freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution  
by the power of your right hand  
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations  
through the waters of rebirth,  
grant, we pray, that the whole world  
may become children of Abraham  
and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The altar candles are now lit.*

## **The Gloria**

*In this joyful moment, the church bells ring, and we sing the Gloria, led by the choir.*

Let us pray.

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **Epistle**

## **Romans 6:3-11**

Brothers and Sisters: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried, therefore, with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand to greet the Gospel.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **Gospel**

**Luke 24: 1-12**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the Apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marvelling at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Homily**



## Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation

*Tonight we are delighted to celebrate with six members of our parish community: Anlyn, Dayna, Derek, Leona, Naomi and Patricia, praying for them as we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. Through eight months of prayer and discernment they have been prepared to receive these Sacraments, so as to become full members of the Catholic Church.*

*Anyone, at any time, is welcome to enquire about becoming a Catholic. Some come from different faiths, some from different Christian denominations, and some from no faith background at all. Some were Baptised as Catholics when young, but did not pursue faith into teenage years and so were never Confirmed. Whatever brings people, everyone is welcome, always, and the "Journey in Faith" programme is just that – a journey, exploring aspects of faith, and giving people space for their personal journey. Call us at any time if you want to know more. We pray particularly for those being Baptised and Confirmed tonight, and we begin by joining our prayers with the intercessions of the saints. These include those Saints chosen by candidates as Confirmation names.*

*Fr Dominic invites Leona, who is to be Baptised, to stand.*

Dearly beloved,  
with one heart and one soul, let us by our prayers  
come to the aid of our sister  
in her blessed hope,  
so that, as she approaches the font of rebirth,  
the almighty Father may bestow upon her all his merciful help.  
**Amen.**

### LITANY OF SAINTS

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**  
**Christ have mercy**  
**Lord have mercy**

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
St Michael  
St Raphael

**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**  
**Pray for us**

Holy Angels of God	Pray for us
St John the Baptist	Pray for us
St Joseph	Pray for us
St Peter and St Paul	Pray for us
St Andrew	Pray for us

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

St John	Pray for us
St Matthew	Pray for us
St Jude	Pray for us
St Mary Magdalene	Pray for us
St Stephen	Pray for us
St Ignatius of Antioch	Pray for us
St Agnes	Pray for us
St Perpetua and St Felicity	Pray for us

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

St Veronica	Pray for us
St Cecilia	Pray for us
St Helena	Pray for us
St Gregory	Pray for us
St Augustine	Pray for us
St Athanasius	Pray for us
St Basil	Pray for us
St Patrick	Pray for us

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

St Francis of Assisi	Pray for us
St Dominic	Pray for us
St Anthony of Padua	Pray for us
St Ignatius of Loyola	Pray for us
St John Vianney	Pray for us
St Catherine of Siena	Pray for us
St Teresa of Avila	Pray for us
St John Bosco	Pray for us

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

St Vincent de Paul	<b>Pray for us</b>
St Therese of Lisieux	<b>Pray for us</b>
St Cedd and St. Erconwald	<b>Pray for us</b>
St Bernadette	<b>Pray for us</b>
St Mother Teresa of Calcutta	<b>Pray for us</b>
St Gianna Molla	<b>Pray for us</b>
All Martyrs of England and Wales	<b>Pray for us</b>
The Holy Innocents	<b>Pray for us</b>

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

Lord be merciful	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>
From all evil	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>
From every sin	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>
From everlasting death	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>

By your Incarnation	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>
By your Death and Resurrection	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit	<b>Lord, deliver us we pray</b>

**All you holy men and women pray for us.**

Be merciful to us sinners	<b>Lord, we ask you hear our prayer</b>
Bring these chosen ones to new birth	<b>Lord, we ask you hear our prayer</b>
Through the grace of Baptism	<b>Lord, we ask you hear our prayer</b>
Jesus, Son of the living God	<b>Lord, we ask you hear our prayer</b>

**Christ hear us, Christ graciously hear us.**

**The Blessing of the font, and the renewal of Baptismal Promises**

Dearly beloved,  
let us humbly invoke upon this font the grace of God the almighty Father,  
that those who from it are born anew  
may be numbered among the children of adoption in Christ.

## **The Blessing of Water**

*Fr Dominic then blesses the baptismal water, saying the following prayer with hands extended:*

O God, who by invisible power  
accomplish a wondrous effect  
through sacramental signs  
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,  
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit  
in the first moments of the world's creation  
hovered over the waters,  
so that the very substance of water  
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood  
foreshadowed regeneration,  
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water  
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham  
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,  
so that the chosen people,  
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,  
would prefigure the people of the baptised;

O God, whose Son,  
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,  
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,  
and, as he hung upon the Cross,  
gave forth water from his side along with blood,  
and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:  
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptising them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"  
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church  
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit  
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that human nature, created in your image  
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism  
from all the squalor of the life of old,  
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children  
through water and the Holy Spirit.

*The Paschal Candle is lowered three times into the font, as part of the blessing  
on this sacred night.*

May the power of the Holy Spirit,  
O Lord, we pray,  
come down through your Son  
into the fullness of this font,  
so that all who have been buried with Christ  
by Baptism into death  
may rise again to life with him.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Fr Dominic invites Leona to come to the Font together with her sponsor.*

### **The Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,  
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.  
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,  
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,  
by which we once renounced Satan and his works  
and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.  
Our elect make these promises for the first time.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?	<b>I do.</b>
And all his works?	<b>I do.</b>
And all his empty show?	<b>I do.</b>

Do you believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting? **I do.**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM for Leona**

### **CLOTHING WITH A WHITE GARMENT**

### **PRESENTATION OF LIGHTED CANDLE**

## CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

My dear friends, you are now to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptised.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of his Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

Dearly beloved, let us pray to God the almighty Father, for these, his adopted sons and daughters, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

*Pause for the whole congregation to pray in silence.*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who brought these your servants to new birth  
by water and the Holy Spirit,  
freeing them from sin:  
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;  
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety;  
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

***We warmly congratulate all those who have been Confirmed!***

## BLESSING OF THE CONGREGATION

*The candles of the whole congregation are lit once more. We stand together and are blessed with the waters of Baptism. We sing together:*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me  
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me,  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me**

***(V2 ... on us; V3 ... on them)***

*We sit for the offertory & extinguish our candles.*

## **The Offertory**

*There will be a basket for your offerings at the end of Mass, or you can make an offering using the contactless device in the narthex or the side chapel. At Easter your offerings are your personal gift to Fr Dominic. Thank you for whatever you give; thank you for all your kindness and encouragement throughout the year.*

## **The Communion Rite**

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

*For those watching and praying at home*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there,  
and I unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

## **Prayer after Communion**



## Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Many congratulations and blessings to those who have celebrated Sacraments for the first time this evening.** It has been a delight to journey with you – and we pray that tonight is the beginning of a wonderful next chapter in your journey in faith.

You and your families are warmly welcome to the Parish centre for some simple refreshments after Mass – and anyone else who would like to pop in is warmly welcome too!

Many thanks to the catechists who have given their time, energy, prayer and wisdom to lead the preparation for today – Margaret, Geraldine and Rosemary

If you would like to become a Catholic, or perhaps were Baptised as a Catholic but never celebrated Confirmation, you are always welcome on the next programme, starting in the summer. Please just call or email for a chat.

*Blessings, Fr Dominic*

## **Easter Sunday**

*At the 9.30am and 11.30am Mass, there will also be hymn sheets –  
this is a day to sing gloriously!*

### **Opening Hymn**

At the start of Mass, we are **blessed with the holy water from the font** – the water blessed at last night's Easter Vigil. A sign of Resurrection hope and joy.

### **Gloria**

*In this joyful moment, the church bells ring, we pray the Gloria together (at the 9.30 and 11.30am Masses this will be sung – follow the musicians and choir)*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer**

## First reading

**Acts 10:34, 37-43**

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem itself. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and caused him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

---

## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23**

*Response: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**1Cor5:7-8**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed:  
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

---

**Gospel**

**Luke 24:1-12**

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.' And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the Apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marvelling at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

## Renewal of Baptismal promises

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life.

And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan? **I do.**

And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty show? **I do.**

Do you believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting? **I do.**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

### The Offertory

*There will be a basket for your offerings at the end of Mass, or you can make an offering using the contactless device in the narthex or by the side chapel. At Easter, your offerings are your personal gift to Fr Dominic. Thank you for whatever you give; thank you for all your kindness and encouragement.*

### The Communion Rite

#### Act of Spiritual Communion

*For those watching and praying at home*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there,  
and I unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### Prayer after Communion

#### Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you  
through today's Easter Solemnity  
and, in his compassion,  
defend you from every assault of sin.

**Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life  
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,  
endow you with the prize of immortality.

**Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,  
may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast  
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,  
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

---

***This booklet was printed with sustainable ink, on recycled paper.  
Please do recycle it when you have finished with it. Thank you.***

*Front cover photo credit © Vatican Pool.*

*Scripture Readings from the  
English Standard Version of the Bible – Catholic Edition © Crossways, 2024  
Psalms and Canticles from Abbey Psalms and Canticles © USCCB 2018*



## ***Many blessings for Easter***

**As the door of the tomb is rolled back, and Jesus bursts forth with Resurrection hope and joy, prayers that this is a year of open doors, open hearts, new pathways and fresh hope. Thank you to the more than 100 parishioners who help throughout the year, and who give especially generously of their time, gifts and skills during Holy Week.**

**Thanks to the extraordinary Petals**, who decorate the church so beautifully. They warmly welcome new members – even if you have never arranged so much as a single daffodil before!

**Thanks to the dedicated cleaners**, who keep the church sparkling. Could you help too? It's a monthly commitment – different teams clean, chat and enjoy coffee on a Thursday between about 9.30-10.30.

**Thanks to our vibrant Altar Servers** – over forty of them. Anyone who has made their First Holy Communion is welcome to serve. Just ask! We particularly thank the Senior Servers who encourage the younger servers, and keeping everything flowing during the Masses.

**Thanks to our immensely talented musicians and choir.** If you have any musical talent, share your skill! Everyone is always welcome to join. Young adults aged 14+ are very welcome to the Youth Band at 9.30am Mass.

**Whatever your gift, skill or interest there is a door open for you into some aspect of parish life.** Thank you to the bakers of cakes, the Lenten lunch and social event providers, to so many involved with charitable work – notably the SVP and Cafod, as well as those who help S.M.I.L.E., and those who help Ahava with the weekly homeless shelter. Thanks to those who visit the ill and housebound, notably the Legion of Mary – and to everyone who holds the parish in your prayers. Thanks to those who help others discover and deepen faith – the amazing teams of parish catechists. Thanks to those who help at Masses; Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Stewards and Livestreamers. Thanks to those who lead Scouts, Cubs and Beavers so actively, and to those who help Onosé as Youth Ministry develops. To those who knit'n'natter, the Golden Clubbers, those who are piloting Alpha, the Finance Committee and Parish Council; so many people, with so much involvement. You are all deeply appreciated. Last – but not least – immense thanks to the exceptional Julia in the parish office, who holds so much together.

***Today, we open the door to the eternal love, joy and hope of Easter.***

*Easter Blessings to you and all who you love, Fr Dominic*