

Easter Sunday

Bible reading: John 20:1-18

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we reaffirm our hope that light shines in the darkness and that the darkness can never be overcome. Make a list and give thanks for the signs of hope and new life that you see or experience .

*God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the gates of death and hell;
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

There will be a live-streamed Eucharist from the chapel in Bishopscourt with Bishop Rachel's Easter Sermon at 7am beginning with the lighting of the Easter Candle. We are invited to light a candle at the same moment. A Eucharist will be celebrated in The Rectory kitchen at 11am. Please join in prayer at this time and make your spiritual communion.



Holy Ground is an engaging, easy to follow, resource for use at home during Holy Week and Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday. Particularly suited to households with children, it could also be shared on skype or face time etc. with grandchildren or godchildren.

www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together

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The Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode
and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester
in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral

Holy Week 2020



Holy Week will be very different. Our church buildings remain closed yet the work of the church continues in our homes, in our places of work, in our pastoral care. The invitation to walk the way of the cross with Jesus takes on a new significance. We are sharing in Jesus' isolation ever conscious of the burdens we carry. As we continue to pray for others and for ourselves, we offer our burdens to God who is walking with us, lamenting with us, calming our fears and strengthening our resolve. *Nikki*

Palm Sunday

Bible readings: Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 27:11-54



We have been advised against distributing palm crosses for health reasons. So why not draw a cross on your hand or make a cross out of foliage in your garden? Or colour a cross and put it in your window. Use the cross as a focus as you pray:

*Gracious God, in all times of fear and dread,
grant that we may so cast our burdens upon you,
that you may bear us on the holy wings of the Spirit
to the stronghold of your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

On Palm Sunday and the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week Bishop Robert, the Dean and the Archdeacons will be offering a short online reflection www.gloucester.anglican.org

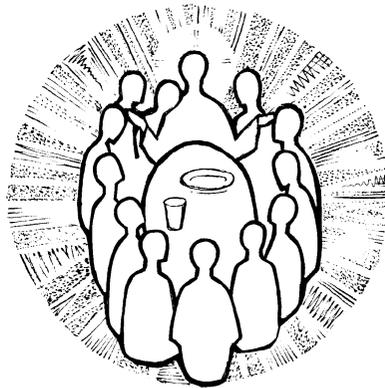
Monday's bible reading: John 12:1-11
Tuesday's bible reading: John 12:20-36
Wednesday's bible reading: John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Bible readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

As we remember the last supper that Jesus celebrated with his friends, we call to mind the love and service Jesus offered his disciples symbolised in the washing of their feet. How are we continuing to offer love and service at this time? The careful washing of our hands can be an offering of love and service as we seek to keep ourselves and others safe. Pray as you do. As you eat tonight, either alone or with others, give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion.

*God our Father,
you have invited us to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



Good Friday

Bible reading: John chapters 18 & 19

Take time today to read the story of the crucifixion. When we are faced with horror and pain, sometimes there are no words. Try and spend a few minutes intentionally putting yourself in the presence of God and resting in silence.

*We adore you O Christ and we bless you;
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*



Holy Saturday

Bible reading: John 19:38-42

This year the whole world is living a prolonged Holy Saturday, watching and waiting for resurrection. The hymn writer Ally Barrett has written a special hymn to pray or to sing. The tune is 'Abide with me'.

*Dark is the night, the passing hours are long
lone voices whisper sorrow's silent song
watch faltering prayer will fear it's made in vain
when will we sing the world to life again?*

*Dark is the night, not all are blessed with sleep.
some wake and work, and some must watch and weep:
angels disguised, they tend a world in pain,
off'ring the hope that there'll be life again.*

*Dark is the night, the silent hours are slow
heav'n's tears anoint the suffering earth below
blessing with dew the silent springing grain
pledge that the world will soon know life again.*