

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus

Weekly devotions, prayers and news



Palm Sunday

My dear friends,

Last Sunday it was very moving to see people via the magic of modern technology. We are so fortunate to have the expertise of Paul Johnson together with friends from Haywards Heath Baptist Church who have given us valuable advice. As a result of our experiences with Zoom we are enabled to offer worship for Holy Week in our usual pattern albeit slightly adapted. I do hope many of you will be able to join us for these various services.

I am also delighted to let you know that The Very Rev. Nicholas Frayling (former Dean of Chichester Cathedral) will be leading our Good Friday devotion at 12 noon on the Zoom link. Please do join to hear his reflection. In addition, Jonathan Berry will be giving the Reflection on Maundy Thursday and Clive Simmonds at the Good Friday Service. We send our best wishes to Clive, who retired from his full-time employment on Thursday.

Do try to use Holy Week as a preparation for the Easter Feast next Sunday. Below you will find a listing of all the services, but there are many other opportunities to take time out for prayer and study. May I suggest a daily working through Ian Walden's Lent Course which is on the website. Its aim is to strengthen the knowledge of our connectedness, not just to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but to one another as members of the Body of Christ.

With my love and prayers for you all,

Michael (*Vicar*)

HOLY WEEK at Holy Trinity

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/2471610099>

Wednesday - 10.30, Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - 8.00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

Good Friday:

10.00 - Family Service

12.00 - Devotion led by The Very Rev. Nicholas Frayling

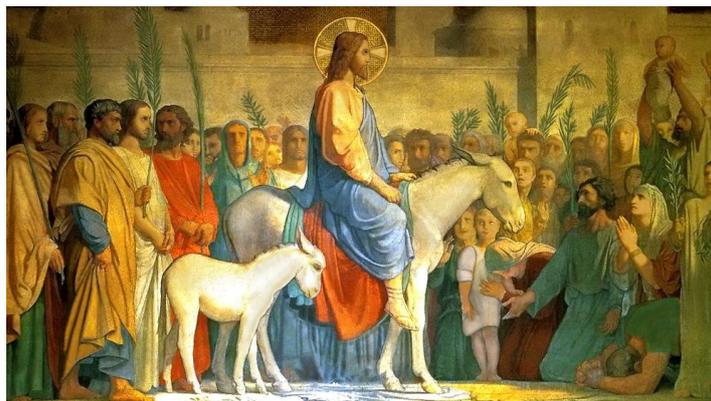
2.00pm - Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday - 8.00pm Lighting of the Paschal Candle, readings and the Easter Gospel

EASTER DAY - 9.45 Our Easter Family Eucharist of Resurrection

The Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example
of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen



A prayer for this time of anxiety:

God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen

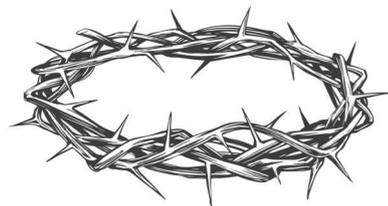
Matthew 27: ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' ³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.' ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. ⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

A thought

I haven't given you the whole Passion reading because of space, although the full version is Matthew 26: 14—end of Chapter 27. Matthew's account is notable for the many careful details about the Crucifixion itself and is slightly fuller than Mark's. What Matthew highlights is the fact that the crucifixion should be seen as an event which shakes the very foundations of humanity and indeed of creation itself. The Gospel writer gives us extraordinary imagery: an earthquake, rocks splitting, the tearing of the curtain covering the Holy of Holies, the dead being raised. This is not mere colouring of the scene, but a call by Matthew to each one of us to view the world in a different way. The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus shatter the illusions we construct within our own lives. Faith in the one who gives himself for the life of the world calls to us from the cross to tear down the barriers we create which separate us from displaying his love in the way we live our lives. We are called to remember the cross as a sign of our new life in Christ. You may remember that I often refer to the words of Paul from his Letter to the Galatians: ***I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*** (Gal. 2: 19b-20) We never hear Paul talking more personally about Jesus than in this statement, and it is an understanding not just for Paul, but for us. Jesus loves you and me, and gives himself for us. This new life we are called to is a striving to always seek to allow the Holy Spirit to work within our lives which help us to grow in faithfulness. This is sometimes hard. We are living in extraordinary times, yet the love shown on the cross never fails if we shatter the rocks of the hardness of heart that we have sometimes formed within our own lives.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2: 5

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**



Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Archdeacon Fiona, Janet Card, Susan Arnaouti, Ken Taylor, Robert Norris, Jocelyn Bentley, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, David Davidson, Eileen Knight, Michael Hilton

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Vi Muddle, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Jane Terry, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Marilyn Archbold, Jill Rockey

Please remember the recently departed and their families: William Christmas, Anne Atkinson

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 5th Doris Cox, Marjorie Sinclair, 6th Alan Scholes, 7th Fraya Turner, Col. John Buckeridge, 9th Frank Ridley, 10th Georgina Bugden, Beryl Edna Williams, 11th John Springall, Nancy Ochoa