



The Ross Parishes

rossparishes.uk

Ross-on-Wye
Walford
Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 22nd March

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

*A very warm welcome to
worship in the benefice today*



growing inclusive, intergenerational churches that inspire faith, hope and love

Today's services

Sunday 22nd March

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

11.00am Café Church, Brampton Abbots

Music for today's services

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

Lent Prose: verse 4

Setting: St Anne's Mass - *Macmillan*

Introit: 702 Lead us, heavenly Father

Gradual: 140 All ye who seek for sure relief

Offertory: 278 We give immortal praise

Communion: Give me Justice - *MacMillan*

Post Communion: 806 There's a wideness

9.30 Parish Communion, Walford

105 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

541 O thou who camest from above

114 Come down, O Love divine

474 Now thank we all our God

6.00pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's

Introit: The Angel Gabriel – *arr. Pettman*

Hymn: 313 For Mary, Mother of our Lord

Responses: *Oxley*

Psalm: 111

Hymn: 317 Virgin-born, we bow before thee

Canticles: Sumsion in A

Anthem: Ave Maria – *Biebl*

Hymn: 318 Ye who own the faith of Jesus

Dismissal: *Naylor* (ferial)

Prayer & readings for today

Please see the additional sheet for the Collect and Readings.

For our prayers

The Most Reverend Sarah Mullally to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on Wednesday 25th March.

Those who are ill: Victor Downing, Dene Eward, Rene Keogh, Terry Harding, Rosie Taylor, and all who are living with long term illnesses or health problems.

Please remember the clocks change next Saturday night.

Those who mourn, and those who have died, among them Jean Jones and Reginald Lerego and Keith Richards.

Letter from Freda

On Wednesday 25th March we celebrate Lady Day. Prior to 1752, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, this was the first day of the year in England and Wales. Lady Day, along with Midsummer Day (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas Day are still known as Quarter Days. These were once days of great legal significance, for it was on these days that rents were due, workers were hired and school and university terms began. They have less significance now, though some rent payments are still collected on these days.

For Christians, 25th March has great significance: it is exactly nine months before 25th December and is the day we celebrate as the Annunciation of a Son to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is when we recall the visit to Mary by the angel Gabriel who told her that God had chosen her to become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

It is hard to imagine how Mary must have felt about this announcement, but we know that her response to God was one of joyful obedience. We know little from the scriptures about Jesus' early family life. Luke tells us that 'The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favour of God was upon him'. No doubt Mary and Joseph would have done their best for him, as one would hope any parent would for their child.

Of course, Mary knew that Jesus was very special. Perhaps this was why she persuaded him to perform that very first miracle at the marriage feast in Cana. But there was to be sorrow, too, for her. As we approach Holy Week and contemplate the horror of Jesus' death on the cross we might recall that Mary was there at the foot of the cross sharing in her beloved Son's anguish to the end, an anguish predicted by Simeon some thirty three years before as he blessed her, ending with the words '....a sword will pierce your own soul too'. Freda Davies

News from the Ross Parishes

Lent course Session 5 at 3.00pm this afternoon in St Mary's Hall, with tea from 2.30pm. Today, we consider the Eucharist, both as a storehouse of prayer and as the climactic point of meeting between Christ and His Church. What is the importance of the Eucharistic Prayer, what is the meaning of 'transubstantiation', 'transignification', 'memorialisation'? You are invited to come and find out. Please note, because of the Vigil next Sunday (see below), this will be the last session.

Vigil for the Middle East Next Sunday, the evening of Palm Sunday, there will be a Vigil of Prayer for the Middle East at this time of international crisis. The service, lasting just over half an hour, will begin at 6.00pm in St Mary's. It will include the lighting of candles, a reading, some simple prayers, appropriate music, and an acknowledgment that God's world is in a very difficult situation at present. We will be inviting ecumenical partners and we hope people across the community may wish to attend to signal their own hopes and fears at this time. You will be very welcome, and do please alert your family and friends.

Easter flowers in church If you would like to make a contribution to help pay for the flowers in church over Easter, please let Sue Jones know, or contact the office.

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Community Larder Stocks are particularly low at the moment, and we have been very busy. We would be grateful for donations of tuna, Weetabix, Shredded Wheat, custard, jam and small packs of tea. Monetary donations are always welcome.

St Mary's Annual Church Meetings 7.00pm on 24th March. Reports from all church groups are available online at rossparishes.uk/APCMs/. A few paper copies are also available to borrow – though if you can read everything online, please do.

Would you like to be more involved in the work of the Deanery or the PCC? At St Mary's Annual Meeting we will be electing up to four church members to represent us at the Deanery Gathering - a group of clergy and lay people who meet three times a year. In addition, you would be a member of the PCC. Or, if you would just like to join the PCC, we will be looking for new members. More details and application forms can be found on the table near the welcome desk - please do prayerfully consider these important roles.

Alpha Course We are running an Alpha course at St Mary's for 10 weeks starting on 21st April. Alpha is for those curious about faith, allowing time to connect and eat together before discussing and exploring big questions of life, faith and purpose. More information from Emily: emily@rossparishes.uk

Herefordshire Council are holding a consultation until 26th March on a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This includes St Mary's churchyard. For those interested in conservation this is an important opportunity to contribute. Do read the summary document and send comments: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/conservation/herefordshire-local-nature-recovery-strategy-lnrs/>

Wye Churches Pilgrimage Do you like walking? We are looking for walkers to test a variety of walks linking 14 churches on a route from Dixton to Hoarwithy. These walks are to be included in the Wye Churches Pilgrimage, a project planned by the Deanery. What is special about St Mary's? We would like you to help us choose a focus for pilgrims when they visit St Mary's. To find out more about this exciting project, please speak to Jane or Rachel (jane@rossparishes.uk or rachel@rossparishes.uk). They would welcome your ideas.

The new Connect Youth Group Keen to contribute to the Lent Talent Project, the Connect Youth Group will be presenting 'Our Talents' in the Hall on March 25th. There will be refreshments from 4.00pm, and the performance at 4.15pm promises to be both eclectic and full of imagination and youthful energy. Tickets are available on the door for a donation.

This week in the Ross Parishes

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| Every day | 9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer |
| Mon 23rd Mar | 10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 1.30pm Brampton Abbots Primary School Easter Service, St Mary's 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's |
| Tue 24th Mar | 9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 2.00pm Just Be Bereavement Group, St Mary's 2.00pm Walford School Easter Service, Walford 7.00pm St Mary's Annual Church Meeting, St Mary's |
| Wed 25th Mar | 8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's Hall 10.30am Craft@ St Mary's, St Mary's |

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| | 3.30pm Connect Club and Youth Choir rehearsal, St Mary's |
| | 4.00pm 'Our Talents' presentation by Connect Youth Group, St Mary's Hall |
| | 9.00pm Compline, St Mary's |
| Thu 26th Mar | 10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's |
| | 7.00pm Book talk by Arthur Snell, St Mary's |
| Fri 27th Mar | 6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall |
| | 7.15pm Adult choir rehearsal, St Mary's |
| Sat 28th Mar | 2.30pm Round Byrd Rehearsal, St Mary's |
| | 5.00pm Round Byrd Evensong for Holy Week, St Mary's |
| Sun 29th Mar | 9.00pm Compline via Zoom (see website for details) |

Further ahead

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| Sun 29th Mar | 6.00pm Vigil of Prayer for the Middle East, St Mary's |
| Wed 1st April | 12.00pm Lent Lunch, St Mary's |
| | 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert by Forest Baroque, St Mary's |

Holy Week in the Ross Parishes

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| Sat 28th Mar | 5.00pm Passiontide Devotion, St Mary's |
| Sun 29th Mar | 9.30am Sung Eucharist for Palm Sunday, St Mary's |
| | 9.30am Parish Communion for Palm Sunday, Walford |
| Mon 30th Mar | 7.00pm Compline for Holy Week, Brampton Abbots |
| Tue 31st Mar | 7.00pm Compline for Holy Week, Walford |
| Wed 1st Apr | 7.00pm Choral Compline for Holy Week, St Mary's |
| Thu 2nd Apr | 10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's |
| | 7.00pm Eucharist and Foot Washing for Maundy Thursday, St Mary's |
| Fri 3rd Apr | 11.00 Good Friday Service, Walford |
| | 12.00pm Three Hour Service, St Mary's (join and leave as you wish) |
| Sat 4th Apr | 10.30am A Village Celebration of Easter, Brampton Abbots |
| | 3.00pm Contemplative Prayer, St Mary's |
| Sun 5th Apr | 5.45am Dawn Service and breakfast, The Prospect |
| | 9.30am All Age Eucharist for Easter Day, St Mary's |
| | 9.30am Parish Eucharist for Easter Day, Walford |

Full details: rossparishes.uk/easter

Contacts

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Prayer & readings for today, Sunday 22nd March

Collect Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.**

First Reading *Reader: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

[Romans 8:6-11]

Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her,

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'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

[John 11: 1-45]

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