



The Ross Parishes

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Ross-on-Wye

Walford

Brampton Abbots

Newsletter

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

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



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

Today's services

Sunday 29th March

8.00am Said Communion, St Mary's

9.30am Parish Communion, Walford

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

6.00pm Prayer Vigil for the Middle East, St Mary's

Music for today's Eucharist

9.30am Sung Eucharist, St Mary's

Setting: St Anne's Mass - Macmillan

Introit: 159 All glory, laud and honour

Gradual: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Offertory: 147 My song is love unknown

Communion: Lift up your heads - Mathias

Post Communion: 161 Ride on, ride on in
majesty

Prayer & readings for today

Collect: 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.**

First Reading: *(Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians)* 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 2:5-11]

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Gospel Reading: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

[Matthew 21:1-11]

For our prayers

Baptism: Oakley, whose baptism is at St Mary's today

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

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

Letter from David

Easter has been celebrated ever since the first Christian communities sprang up in Palestine. From the earliest times down to the present, it has been customary for pilgrims to crowd into Jerusalem as they make their Holy Week observances at the sites recorded in the Gospels. In fact, some scholars suggest that the first Christian writings which formed the basis of the Gospel texts were guides for pilgrims to the sites in and around Jerusalem that were associated with the dramatic events leading up to Jesus' death.

The Ross Benefice cannot quite rise to the heights of Jerusalem at Passover, but this year we have an opportunity to follow Jesus through his last week in services held each day – they are listed below. These services extend from the hollow triumph of his entry into the city amid the waving palms, through the days of gathering tension as he increasingly realised he was a marked man, the stress of the Last Supper, his arrest and trial, the desperation and horror of Good Friday, the quiet reflection of Holy Saturday and the unexpected but true triumph of his resurrection on Easter Day.

Come and give some of your time to be with Jesus in his last days. The joys of Easter Day cannot be complete without all that goes before.

David Thomas

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News from the Ross Parishes

Prayer Vigil for the Middle East In St Mary's this evening at 6.00pm, there will be a Prayer Vigil for the Middle East at this time of mounting international crisis. The service, lasting just over half an hour, will include the lighting of candles, a reading, some simple prayers, music, and an acknowledgment that God's world is at present in great difficulties. Invitations have been extended to ecumenical partners and people across the community who may wish to signal their hopes and fears at this time. You will be very welcome, and do please alert your family and friends.

Mothers' Union This month, in St Mary's Hall, at 2.30pm on Wednesday 1st April, the speaker will be the Revd Kay Garlick, who will lead a Lent Reflection. This follows the Lent Lunch in the Church from 12 noon, with donations for the Spire Appeal. Everyone is welcome to come to both the lunch in the Church and reflection in the Hall.

Easter flowers in church If you would like to make a contribution towards the flowers in St Mary's over Easter, please let Sue Jones know, or contact the office.

Community Larder We have been very busy this month and stocks are particularly low. We would be grateful for donations of tinned tuna, Weetabix, Shredded Wheat, custard, jam and small packs of tea. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Alpha Course We are running an Alpha Course at St Mary's for 10 weeks starting on 21st April. Alpha is for those who are 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

Ascension Day This year, Ascension Day falls on Thursday 14th May. There will be a said Communion service in St Mary's at 10.00am, and the main Benefice Eucharist, a sung service led by the choir, will be held in St Michael's, Walford, at 7.00pm. It will be followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

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 Fete celebrating our Wonderful World will be held on Saturday 29th August. This will be a major fundraising event as well as lots of fun. We are looking for stall holders and suggestions that will make it a really special day. Over the weekend we are also holding a **Flower Festival**. Book the date now and email rachel@rossparishes.uk with your ideas.

Costume jewellery Stall Freda Davies would welcome donations of costume jewellery for a stall at the Fete on 29th August. Donations can be given to Freda, or dropped in to the office.

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This week in the Ross Parishes

Every day	9.00am Morning Prayer by Zoom, rossparishes.uk/morning-prayer
Mon 30th Mar	10.00am Tots in Tune, St Mary's Hall 7.00pm Compline, Brampton Abbots
Tues 31st Mar	9.00am Community Larder and Tea & Toast, St Mary's Hall 7.00pm Compline, Walford
Wed 1st Apr	8.45am Toast and Toddle, St Mary's 11.15am Ponder and Pray via Zoom 12.00pm Lent Lunch, St Mary's Church 1.00pm First Wednesday concert, Forest Baroque, St Mary's 2.30pm Mothers' Union meeting, St Mary's Hall 7.00pm Choral Compline, St Mary's
Thurs 2nd Apr	10.00am Said Communion, St Mary's 7.00pm Sung Eucharist for Maundy Thursday, St Mary's
Fri 3rd Apr	11.00am Good Friday Service, Walford 12.00 noon Three Hours Service, St Mary's (join and leave as you wish) 2.00pm The Last Hour (with music), St Mary's 6.00pm Dice and Decks, St Mary's Hall
Sat 4th Apr	10.30am A Village Celebration of Easter, Brampton Abbots 3.00pm Contemplative Prayer, St Mary's
Sun 5th Apr	6.00am 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

Further ahead

Tues 14th Apr	6.00pm Alpha Course Session One, St Mary's
Wed 15th Apr	1.00pm Talk: Myths of Nelson's Navy by Herbie Renfield, St Mary's
Sat 18th Apr	7.30pm Monmouth Big Band Concert and Dance, St Mary's
Thurs 14th May	7.00pm Festal Eucharist for Ascension Day at St Michael's Church, Walford

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