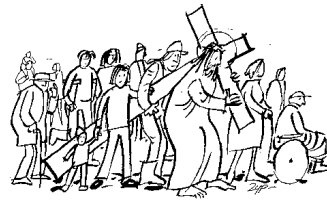
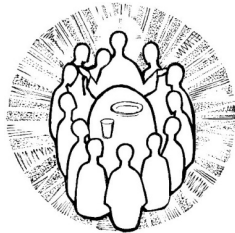




St Oswald's Norbury

Observing Holy Week and Easter at home 2020



We find ourselves observing Holy Week and Easter this year in a very unusual and confusing situation.

The familiar liturgies with movement, drama, imagery, music and silence in and around the sacred space of our church building cannot take place. We are faced with a tension of deciding what is important to us in our marking of this season. And to be honest, on some of these matters we are still deciding.

Over the week we will provide you with some materials to help you participate in this holy time of year – as part of the community of St Oswald's parish church as well as of the wider church. We know that although many of us will take part in isolation in our homes, we are not alone. Others are struggling with us, and we know that God walks with us and delights in our efforts to praise him for what he has done for us, through the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

There is also a greater sense of participating in the passion as we experience daily a sense of loneliness and being trapped, as we hear of families unable to be with loved ones in sickness, or as they are dying, because of a need to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. As we imagine or experience that distress, we experience a little of the passion of Christ in his lonely journey to the cross.

We hope that the resources that we offer will help you to engage spiritually in the Holy Week journey, which is still possible from home, either alone or with others who share your home. They can be used at any time but we do encourage you, if you can, to engage with them at the suggested times knowing that you are in the company of others making the same journey.

The three services of Holy Communion during the week will be celebrated from the vicarage. We hope that as many people as possible will join us live through the video and telephone link (please email or telephone Alistair, Tracy or Alison for details of how to join in). We will make an audio recording of the service and this will be placed on the website as soon as possible after the service has taken place.

At the time of writing, it has not been possible to incorporate the playing of music during the 'live' service. However, please listen to the music and hymns that have been prepared before and after the service.

This will be a very different season for us, but I hope that it will bring you fresh insights into this very familiar story and that you will have a meaningful Holy Week and a joyful Easter!

With love and prayers

Alison

Programme for Holy Week

May be subject to change during the week

(*Live*) indicates that the service will be accessible live via the video and audio package as described in the notes. An audio recording of the service will be available as soon as possible after it has taken place.

There will be music and word resources available to support the worship, and for those who prefer not to connect in that way.

A note about communion

While it is not possible for you to receive the bread and wine in communion, I celebrate and receive on behalf of the whole parish. Within the liturgy there is a prayer in which you can make a spiritual communion.

Palm Sunday, 5th April

10am Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist for Palm Sunday (*Live*)
There will be a reading of Matthew's Passion Narrative recorded by members of the congregation earlier this week.

It would be helpful to have with you a candle (and something to light it with), a bible and a cross. On this occasion a cross that you wear would be particularly appropriate.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 6th, 7th, 8th, April

8pm Evening Reflections followed by Compline

Audio and written Materials for reflection and a service of compline (night prayer) will be available for use at any time.

Begin at 8pm to be joining in with others in the same activity.

Maundy Thursday, 9th April

8:15pm The Eucharist for Maundy Thursday (*Live*)

No foot-washing this year, but the service will begin a little later than it usually does so that we can join in with the cheering for the members of the NHS and other frontline keyworkers at 8pm – the people who are offering humble service to many at this time.

If you would like to join others, from home, in the Watch after this service, you could do so by lighting a candle and reading John 13.16 – 17.20 in small sections with pauses for reflection.

Good Friday, 10th April

2-3pm The Hour at the Cross

Resources to help you reflect on the last hours of Jesus on the cross.

Easter Sunday, 12th April

If you would be interested in taking part in an online vigil during the hour before dawn, do let Alison know

10am The Eucharist for Easter Sunday (*Live*)

Liturgy to help you join in with the celebration of the resurrection.

