

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 5th April 2020

Palm Sunday (A) Psalter Week 2

The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey

Seeking to know and serve God and our local community

We are all involved



Holy Week this year is going to be very different from any we have known up to now, and we will all feel it. As we mark the great events that give us new life in Christ, we will do so full of the concern, anxiety, fear and sadness caused by the viral Pandemic. At the same time, we notice around us much evidence of compassion and solidarity and self sacrifice. Jesus was not the first person to die for a cause, nor the last. What makes the Lord's passion so different is that the Gospels tell his story in such a way that we can all feel involved.

The events of the passion brought out the weakness of Jesus' friends. Judas who had shared the Last Supper betrayed him; the other disciples fled from the Garden of Gethsemane, and then Peter 'the Rock' denied him. Mysteriously, though, Jesus' cross is the means of our salvation and it is also the story of our lives, of our failures and our recovery. Like Peter in his pride and then in his denials and, hopefully, his later repentance, we also mirror the disciples who fled to avoid involvement. Like Judas we can also put other gains or concerns before the love of our Lord. However, on a more positive note, we can also identify with the Good Thief, who was crucified alongside Jesus, who humbly asked for a final blessing: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." Or we can join the centurion in charge of the execution who, on seeing how Jesus breathed his last, said "Truly this man was God's Son!" Or we can join in prayer with the faithful ones who stood beneath the cross of Jesus.

Whilst we cannot be physically in church to celebrate these great events of our salvation this year, we can do so spiritually and prayerfully. (please see some suggestions below). Remembering the last week of Jesus' life is an act of hope as well as of compassion. We retell the whole story because our Jesus is risen from the dead. And this remembering has a practical effect. For as we do this in memory of him, the same compassion, forgiveness, love and healing practised by Jesus are offered again to all, precisely because he is risen from the dead. For the Christian this sort of remembering is not so much a matter of looking back to the past, but rather an effective union in the present with the great events that have given us new life in Christ. We are all involved. May this time of testing somehow prove to be a time of grace for all.

The Virtual Church

During Holy Week Bishop Jonathan will be celebrating the traditional liturgies at St. Andrew's Holborn, and you can follow his live-stream on FaceBook at the following days and times:

Sunday 5th Palm Sunday	Blessing of Palms, Procession and Mass at 11am
Thursday 9th Maundy Thursday	Mass of the Last Supper at 6pm
Good Friday 10th	Solemn Liturgy at 3pm
Holy Saturday 11th	The Easter Vigil at 8.30pm

You do not need to be a member of FaceBook to see this page: <https://www.facebook.com/BishopOfFulham>

If you follow the link to <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/holy-week-and-easter-2020> you will find (amongst some regulatory and administrative information) some more suggestions and resources for worship and reflection at home.

Fr. Patrick writes about Good Friday

I, along with a number of others, have been on a steep technological learning curve and recently started using Zoom - a virtual meetings program for laptops and smart phones. I am hoping we might use this at 2.00 pm on Good Friday to pray together and share the reading of the Passion narrative. To join you need to have downloaded the Zoom software and to have a meeting code and login which I can send. Please email me (at the address below) if you would like to be part of this.

You may also like to hear Holy Trinity parishioner Clare Norburn sing a setting of the Reproaches (the traditional words of devotion as sung during the Good Friday liturgy when the cross is venerated). A link to this is on the front page of the Holy Trinity website under Latest News.

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