

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK:

HOLY THURSDAY - 28th March:

8:00pm evening Mass celebrating Jesus' last meal with His Apostles. At the meal, Jesus celebrated the first Mass when he gave His Apostles His Sacred Presence in the bread and wine and ordained His first Priests to call on the Holy Spirit to make present His Sacred Presence at Mass, so that Catholics for all time would have the opportunity to also receive His Sacred Presence in Holy Communion.



At the last Supper, Jesus gave his Apostles a new commandment that they love one another as he loved them.

NB after Mass please leave the Church in total silence as it now becomes the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY - 29th March:

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: At 11:00am with other Christians in our community we join together for a walk of witness to celebrate our common belief as Christians. Starting at Our Lady Star of the Sea and walking to St Mary's for a short act of worship and refreshments.

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion:

3:00pm

NB enter and leave Church in silence.
Reading of the Passion; prayers for the world,
Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.



HOLY SATURDAY - 30th March: **Easter Vigil & First Mass of the Resurrection:** **8:00pm**

It is the most solemn occasion when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The Easter candle is decorated and carried in procession into Church reminding us Jesus is our Light of Faith to follow. There will also be Easter hymns, readings and renewal of baptismal promises, followed by Mass to thank Jesus for our redemption and new life in the Spirit received at Baptism.



The most important night in the Church's year, when Christ passed from death to the glory of His Resurrection.

We celebrate passing over from sin and death to newness of life in the Risen Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY - 31st March:

10:00am Mass of the Resurrection. Our baptismal promises are renewed. Christ our hope is Risen, we rejoice and are glad. Alleluia.



**CHURCH OF
OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA**
VERMONT DRIVE, EAST PRESTON

Fr. Liam O'Connor Parish Priest
Rev. Allan Veness Deacon
Rev. Tony Kinal Deacon
email: ourlady.ep@btinternet.com
Website: www.ourladyep.org.uk



HOLY WEEK 2024:

The Creation and the Redemption are God's mightiest works and the Bible sets each of them in the framework of a week. In the Book of Genesis God fashioned heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh, his work of creation complete. In Holy Week Jesus rested on Saturday, the seventh day, his work of redemption complete.

Two mighty weeks, two mighty works, each of them a *tour de force*: 'God saw that it was good'. The dominant theme of Holy Week is God's mastery over the assaults of evil: the gates of hell cannot prevail. Victory was not in doubt; what was amazing was Jesus' methods, drawing the enemy's fire and spiking his guns.

Passion (Palm) Sunday: Jesus enters the lists; David goes forward to meet Goliath.

Maundy Thursday: At the Last Supper Jesus washes his disciples' feet and offers them his Body and Blood. He is saying: 'I love you; I give myself to you and for you. Because you cannot escape suffering and death I choose to suffer and die; I want to share in your hard experience so that you can share in my victorious experience.' After supper he moves to Gethsemane to prepare for Judas's arrival and for all that will follow.

Good Friday: Jesus at his supreme best: 'it is accomplished.'

Holy Saturday: 'He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.'

Easter Sunday: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.'

Alleluia, alleluia. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTICES for HOLY WEEK - 23rd March to 31st March.

SAT 23rd March. 6:00pm First Mass of Palm Sunday.
SUN 24th March. 10:00am Mass – Palm Sunday.
MON 25th March. **No Mass or Service.**
TUES 26th March. 10:00am Mass.
WED 27th March. **No Mass or Service.**
THURS 28th March. 8:00pm Mass of the Last Supper. Watching at the Altar Of Repose till 10:00pm
FRI 29th March. 3:00pm Good Friday - Solemn Passion Service.
SAT 30th March. 8:00pm Easter Vigil - Mass of the Resurrection.
SUN 31st March. 10:00am Mass – Easter Day.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY: For all the sick in our Parish family and those who are suffering at this time including; Celeste's brother Giovanni Perez; Rita Standing's young friend Susie who is suffering from throat cancer; Clare McGonigle's friend Valarie Simpson who is in hospital; Marjorie Linale; Juliet's daughter-in-law Lizzie Gibson-Bell who has Leukemia; Wendy Milledge; Lorraine Arnold's sister Stephanie Price; Doreen Hutchins; The Powell family; Margaret Heaney's brother-in-law John Erwin; Richard Foster; Sylvia Whitenee; Evelyn Cumiskey and for all families who have lost a loved one during the year. If you know of anyone who needs our prayers, or no longer needs to be on the prayer list please let Veronica know (772107).

PLEASE NOTE: Gluten free hosts are available in the Sacristy, if you need one just pop in and ask.

WELCOME: To any visitors to our Church today. Coffee and tea will be served in the Hall after Sunday Mass. All are welcome. (Our Lady Star of the Sea is a Fairtrade Parish).

PARISH UPDATE: We have to report that there is no white smoke which means that we are still awaiting news from Bishop Richard about the Parish. We have therefore secured the services of supply Priests to celebrate our weekend Masses from after Easter through to mid-May. We will therefore be welcoming Father James Cutts (from Worth), Father Chris Benyon, Father Graham Platt, Monsignor Michael Jackson and Father Carl Davies. Thank you, Deacon Tony and Deacon Allan.

JOINT WALK OF WITNESS: (Good Friday) 11:00am, beginning at Our Lady Star of the Sea walking **in silence** together to St. Mary's Church in East Preston for a short prayer and hymn followed by the usual tea/coffee and hot cross buns. Volunteers needed to help carry our Lord's Cross for short distances. Hi-vis jackets would be welcomed to ensure our safety.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: For those Parishioners who donate by envelope under Gift Aid, the new envelopes for tax year 24/25 are now available on the table in the Narthex.

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID: Donating by standing order is the most effective and efficient way of providing financial support for your Parish and over 50 Parishioners already make their offertory donations in this way. Giving under Gift Aid is also a great benefit, adding 25p for every £1 donated. Contact Simon Davies for more details and for advice on how to sign up. simon.davies1953@btinternet.com

SMARTIE TUBES: Children of the Parish please remember to fill your Smarties tubes with 20 pence coins and bring them to Mass on Easter Sunday (or Easter vigil on the Saturday) and pick up your knitted chick and Easter egg. The money in the tubes will be put as your Lenten contribution to CAFOD. There will be the chance for other Parishioners to buy a knitted chick also, with that money going to Cafod as well.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Friday 29th March is for Holy Places.

TEA, CHAT AND SCRABBLE: Next meets this Monday 25th March in the Church hall at 2:00pm. Rita (850304).

NEW BEGINNINGS: A support group for widows meets this Tuesday 26th March. Meet at Fairland's bus stop at 12:00 midday. For more information please ring Rita (850304).

KNITTING GROUP: Will meet this Wednesday 27th March 2:00pm – 4:00pm in the Church hall. Newcomers welcome. Bring your own project to work on or join in with the latest group project. If you can't knit/crochet but want to learn, we can help! Veronica (772107).

TABLE TENNIS: There is no table tennis this week but will resume on Friday 5th April.

LECTIO DIVINA: 1 Sam 3:9 "...Speak, Lord; your servant is listening..." Join the Lectio Divina group (Friday's 7:00pm – 7:40pm email wardveronica49@gmail.com for the zoom link). Not a bible study; the Living Word speaking into our hearts.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:

Offertory - £320.65. Gift aid: £26.

5th Lenten Lunch: Cafod - £158.

This does not include online offertory

Thank you for your continuing generosity.



Prayer for Peace in Ukraine:

God of peace, your prophet Isaiah promised swords would be turned
into ploughshares,
and your Son's mother, Mary, proclaimed the mighty would be put
down and the humble exalted:
visit the people of Ukraine; deliver them from fear, violence, attack,
injury, destruction, death;
and give them courage, solidarity and allies in their hour of
vulnerability and sorrow.

Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion.
Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict, restore order, and
pursue justice.

And make this moment of peril an occasion for your Holy Spirit to
show your world the cost of conflict and our dependence on one
another.

In Christ our Lord, who went to his death because of our hatred, and
rose again because our hatred is never stronger than your indomitable
love. Amen.

(Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.