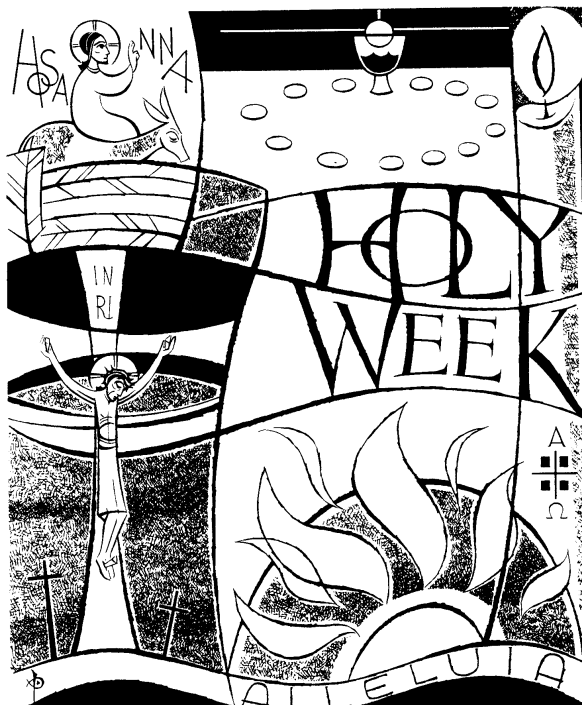


The Parish Church of
SAINT EDWARD THE CONFESSOR,
Burgess Hill

*Building a community of God's people
in the power of the Holy Spirit.*



HOLY WEEK

and

EASTER

2018

Holy Week: A Time Apart for Renewal

In the course of our busy week, we most likely have times set apart for certain things that are important to us—a workout, a few social phone calls, or maybe even a short catnap—so that we can renew ourselves, our energy, and our perspective.

Holy Week is a time that is set apart in our Church's liturgical year for our spiritual renewal. In fact, the word *holy* refers to anything that is set apart for God's purposes.

Holy Week is *holy* precisely because it is time that is set apart for us to focus on how we are spiritually renewed through the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

The Symbols of Holy Week

The liturgies of Holy Week are filled with some of the richest and most ancient symbols of the Christian faith. The waving of palms on Passion (Palm) Sunday reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus, not just fans who cheer from a distance.

The washing of feet on Holy Thursday speaks to us of the selfless love that we are called to practice in imitation of Jesus.

The veneration of the cross on Good Friday reminds us that, as Christians, we believe that Jesus can overcome anything, even death.

The lighting of the Easter fire in a darkened church on Holy Saturday speak to us of the new life that is ours because of Jesus' triumph over the darkness of sin and death through his resurrection.

Make Space to Renew Your Faith

This Holy Week allow yourself time apart, holy time, to spend with Jesus. May it be a time set apart to unclutter your mind, lay down your burdens, and renew your faith in Jesus.

Palm Sunday Sunday 25th March 2018

Palm (or Passion) Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. It reminds Christians of the journey Jesus made into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus was going there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover (Pesach). Jesus chose a donkey to show that he had come in peace. On that day many people welcomed Jesus by shouting, waving palm branches and throwing branches down in the path of the donkey. They hoped that Jesus was the Saviour who the Bible had promised. Palm Sunday is both a happy and sad day. Christians are happy because they are singing praises to Jesus but also sad because they know Jesus died less than a week after his arrival in Jerusalem.



Today at the beginning of the Parish Mass we hold a 'Welcoming Procession'. We hear the Gospel story of that first Palm Sunday, and then process with our palms into church. We sing '*Hosanna to the King of kings*'.

OUR PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10.00 a.m. | Blessing and Procession of Palms
and the
SOLEMN MASS of the PASSION |
| 6.00 p.m. | STATIONS OF THE CROSS
and BENEDICTION |

As we wave our palms and hear the story of the Passion, and receiving our Holy Communion, we find we are very close to Jesus as we begin this most HOLY of weeks.

Maundy Thursday Thursday 29th March 2018

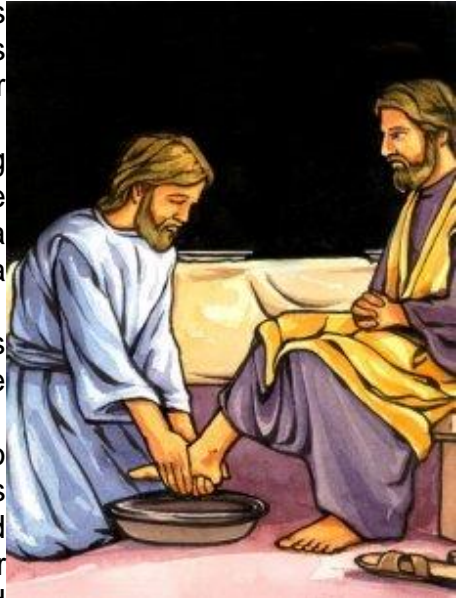
On the night before his death Jesus had a final meal with his friends. This meal was one of the festival meals for Passover.

Before the meal Jesus did something which surprised his friends. He washed the feet of every person, a task which was normally done by a servant.

By doing this he wanted to show his followers that they should love one another in humble ways.

Later in the meal which is known to Christians as 'The Last Supper', Jesus passed round bread and wine. He said the bread was his body broken for them and the wine was his blood shed

for them. He was telling them that he was going to die and that when they share bread and wine they should remember him. Christians share bread and wine in the Eucharist all year round, but it is even more special on Maundy Thursday. Jesus also told his friends that they should love one another. It was later on this night that Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.



All these themes are rein-acted in the special Liturgy of this day.

OUR MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP:

7.30 p.m. THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As the liturgy ends, we start off on a journey.

The disciples followed Jesus to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, and we do the same as we process to a specially prepared place which will be decorated to resemble the garden and where a specially prepared altar is ready to receive the **Blessed Sacrament** overnight. For those who are able, we keep a 'Vigil' of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.



Good Friday Friday 30th March 2018

After the intense and personal worship of Maundy Thursday, there is a change of mood on **Good Friday**. The church and altar are bare - no decoration at all.

This day then is the day which we as Christians celebrate **THE LORD'S DEATH**. In human terms, we always remember the anniversary of the death of our loved ones - how much more then should we, as Christ's followers, observe and make holy this day of all days?

Good Friday is NOT a *holiday*. This day is a **HOLY DAY**. This must surely mean that each and every member of the church will do their absolute utmost to be at worship at this most moving of all services.

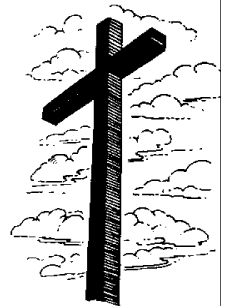
The service on Good Friday begins at **10.00 a.m.** It is a very moving service that marks this day and has its origins in the earliest forms of Christian worship and liturgy.

It begins with 'The Ministry of the Word' which includes the reading of the St. John's Passion.

At the centre of this special liturgy is of course the **CROSS**.

The large Crucifix in the sanctuary is unveiled, the priest and servers venerate it and the congregation are invited to come forward and do a simple act of recognition of the importance of the cross in our lives. Some kiss the cross, others kneel, some stand, others stay in their places and pray. It doesn't matter which. The cross unites us now and we are not watching what others do, just thinking of Jesus having just given up his life for us on the cross.

After we have made our 'veneration. We light a candle on the stands either side of the Crucifix.



Solemn Prayers are then said before the cross for all people and for the mission of the Church, after which the servers and priest go in procession to the Chapel to bring back the Blessed Sacrament consecrated at the Mass of the Lord's Supper the night before.

On this day we receive Holy Communion in 'one kind' (in the form of bread) to give us the taste of Easter in the midst of our crucifixion contemplation. A reminder that the Body of Christ was broken for us on the cross.

OUR GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP:
10.00 a.m. THE LITURGY OF
THE LORD'S PASSION

The Service on Good Friday will be followed by tea/coffee and HOT
CROSS BUNS

It is called 'GOOD' Friday because it celebrates the VICTORY of the Cross, and our Liturgy will reflect that victory and triumph in both word and song.

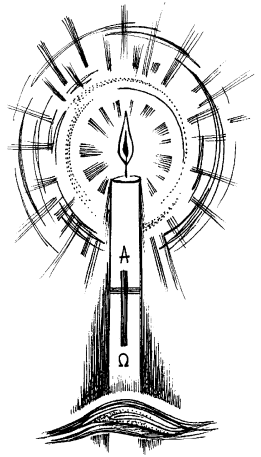
*'We adore you, O Christ and we bless you;
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world'*

Holy Saturday – Easter Eve
Saturday 31st March 2018

No services are held in church on Holy Saturday (during the day) and so we are given an opportunity to give our church building a wonderful 'Spring Clean', and then get the church decorated with flowers and banners ready to celebrate the 'Queen of Feasts'.

If you are able to, please come along and lend a hand with this big clean. The more who help, the less time it will take!

Holy Saturday – Easter Eve **Saturday 31st March 2018**



On the evening of Holy Saturday – **EASTER EVE**, we gather for the most awesome liturgy of all! We gather to keep vigil.

In the darkness we listen to the story of our liberation as told in the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis, going on to the Exodus, Isaiah and Ezekiel (Four readings) Between each readings we sing a Worship Song or hymn and have a prayer.

All is in darkness, like the darkness that covered the earth in the beginning - and God said 'Let there be light, and there was light'.

A fire is kindled and a flame lit - the flame of the new Easter (or Paschal) Candle - a symbol of the Risen Christ.

The Easter 'Exultet' is sung and we greet the Risen Lord with the singing of the Gloria in excelsis. We ring bells - **WE REJOICE!** (*Please try to remember to bring a bell or anything else that makes a joyful noise - let's wake up the whole of Burgess Hill with our rejoicing!*)

The true joy of Easter is breaking upon us.

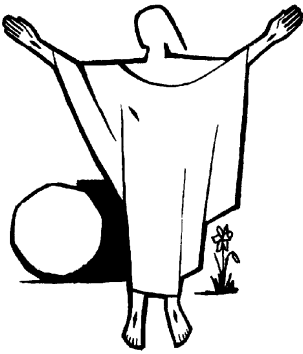
We renew our Baptism promises and our commitment to Christ our Risen Lord, and we are sprinkled with the newly blessed water from the font, and finally we celebrate with joy our **FIRST MASS** of **EASTER** and receive our Easter Holy Communion.

OUR WORSHIP ON EASTER EVE:

**7.30 p.m. THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S
RESURRECTION**

(The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter)

Followed by a joyful 'Resurrection Party' in the Café.



Easter Sunday
Sunday 1st April 2018

Alleluia! Christ is Risen
He is Risen indeed – ALLELUIA!

THIS DAY WAS MADE BY THE LORD
WE REJOICE AND ARE GLAD.
ALLELUIA!

OUR EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
10.00 a.m.
PARISH MASS
of the RESURRECTION
followed by Drinks & Nibbles

At the end of this service,
hopefully everyone will be given an
Easter Egg as a reminder of this special day
of new life.



If we have truly kept this week 'Holy' -
set apart for the Lord,
our joy on Easter Day will know no bounds.

As your Parish Priest, I ask YOU to commit to this most holy
of all weeks. Please be here with your sisters and brothers in
Christ to celebrate the story of our redemption.

With my love and prayers,
Father Denis