



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for Palm Sunday

Sunday 28 March 2021

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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Dear friends at Holy Cross,

The good news is that we will be back in Church together for Palm Sunday! This means we can celebrate together the dramatic events of Holy Week when we enter the mystery of the central events of our faith.

Although most of us have now been vaccinated we will still follow our coronavirus plan, and masks, sanitizing and distancing is still required. Another bit of good news is that we can have up to 50 people in church, if allowed by social distancing. We will thus not have a booking system but if more people turn up than can fit in we will sadly have to turn them away – so be early! This is also the weekend when the clocks go forward.



A crack team of men will be in the Church on Saturday getting things clean and ready. The only change in the building is that, as we have all got older during lockdown, our two youngest members are now walking so the old children’s corner in the North Transept has been rearranged to welcome them and, while the area at the back of the Nave will remain a buggy park, there are now seats there for general use.

Amidst the joy of the opening up of our society there is still an ongoing sadness caused by the pandemic. We have had the first anniversary of the first lockdown and a minute’s silence for the over 126,000 people who have died with or of covid-19. That is a lot of pain and sadness, to which is added the sadness of isolation and economic worry. At Holy Cross we rang our bell 127 times, one for each thousand people, at the 8pm commemoration and that local people would know why we were ringing the bell I shared it on Facebook. Our posts usually have a ‘reach’ (the number of people who see them) of about 50-70 people but this one had a ‘reach’ of 1150.

The Chrism Mass, when the priests of the diocese gather with Bishop John at St Mary’s Cathedral to renew our ordination vows and consecrate the Holy Oils for the next year, will be on Tuesday at 11.30am but restrictions mean that it is not open to the public this year. Please pray for our Bishop and all our priests on that day.

Finally, I invite you to come to our Holy Week services, described below. On Maundy Thursday evening the Church will be open for private prayer from after the Liturgy until midnight – come and go as you please (we have a team of people present all the time). The Easter Vigil at 9pm on Saturday will end with the first Eucharist of Easter, beginning about 10pm, and if you are concerned about getting a seat at the 10.30am on Easter Sunday you may prefer to come to this.

A very happy Easter to you and your families, may you experience the joys of faith and of the Spring, and we look forward to the day when we can socialise together as well as pray together.

With love in Christ,

SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS

Our first public service in Church will be at **10.30am on Palm Sunday, 28 March**. The **Paschal Triduum** runs from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter morning. Other services will be:



EASTER at HOLY CROSS

Love Wins - follow Jesus through these dramatic days in Jerusalem

28.3	PALM SUNDAY	10.30am
eucharist - enter jerusalem with jesus - receive palm crosses - listen to the passion story		
1.4	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30pm
evening eucharist of the lord's supper - the stripping of the altar - wait in vigil		
2.4	GOOD FRIDAY	2pm
listen to the passion story - pray for all - venerate the cross - receive holy communion		
3.4	EASTER VIGIL	9pm
two hour vigil - light and darkness - story of salvation - first eucharist of easter		
4.4	EASTER DAY	10.30am
joyful eucharist of the resurrection of jesus		

All welcome – coronavirus precautions in place (masks, distancing etc.)
 Holy Cross is a Christian church. Everyone is welcome here, whether you are a person of faith or not. We hope that any contact you have with us will be a positive experience. Holy Cross is an inclusive church. There is no discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, age, sexual orientation or social class.
 For freedom Christ has set us free Galatians 5:1

Maundy Thursday, 1 April, Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm – a Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar and a watch before the altar of repose.

Good Friday, 2 April, Liturgy of the Passion, 2pm – reading of the Passion according to John, prayers and the veneration of the cross, and holy communion from the reserved sacrament (the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday).

Holy Saturday, 3 April, the Easter Vigil, starting at 9pm beginning with the blessing of the New Fire and the Paschal Candle and lasting for about 2 hours and ending with the first Eucharist of Easter which will start round about 10pm.

Easter Day, 4 April, Easter Eucharist at 10.30am, and then on all following Sundays.

The **Wednesday Eucharist** will resume in Church on **Wednesday 14 April**.

Worship Videos. Holy Cross Sunday worship videos have ended but the Scottish Episcopal Church Sunday Worship video and Children's Chapel video are published each Sunday on the SEC YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheScottishEpiscopalChurch>

Holy Cross Thursday Zoom Evening Prayer

This is now a 'recurring meeting' and happens each Thursday at 5pm (apart from Maundy Thursday when the Evening Eucharist replaced Evening Prayer). Those of us who take part have decided we appreciate it so much that we will continue praying together online. To join us just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78181732182?pwd=T3VmVWhCTFBUS0NRbTh4Q0s4cWNUUT09>

The Rector will send out the order of service each week to those who wish to join us, it is also shared on the screen. Meeting ID: 781 8173 2182; Passcode: Ez0b6e.

KALENDAR & PRAYER LIST

This includes the daily Lent Readings. A 2021 Scottish Episcopalian kalendar with readings for every day, produced by the Provost of Glasgow Cathedral can be purchased here: <https://thurible.net/product/a-scottish-kalendar-for-2021/> The Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle can be downloaded here.

SUNDAY 28 – PALM SUNDAY – Eucharist 10.30am Mark 11:1-11

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love towards the human race you 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 Christ our Lord, Amen

Monday 29 – Monday in Holy Week John 12:1-11

Collect: Almighty God, your most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of his cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Tuesday 30 – Tuesday in Holy Week John 12:20-36

Collect: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer pain and loss for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

Wednesday 31 – Wednesday in Holy Week – Eucharist 10.30am John 13:21-32

Collect: Lord God, your blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters, and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time, with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday 1 April - 7.30pm, Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper and Stripping of the Altar John 13.1-17,31b-35

Collect: God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may we receive the benefits of his Passion, the new life of his Resurrection, and the grace to love as he loves us; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY – Friday 2 April - 2pm, Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Communion The Passion according to John 18.1–19.42

The death of the Lord. The sacraments are not celebrated today.

Collect: Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY – Saturday 3 April John 19.38-42

The descent of the Lord to the dead. The sacraments are not celebrated today

Collect: Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realms of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EASTER VIGIL - the night of 3-4 April, beginning at 9pm

The Resurrection of the Lord.

Collect: O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption given to us in baptism; that, being renewed both in body and mind, we may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

The readings of the Easter Vigil take us through the whole of salvation history from creation to redemption, each with an accompanying song – the song for the Gospel is simply Alleluia. They might make a good thing to read on Holy Saturday. The liturgical books say one can use three or more of the Old Testament readings but one should always read the Passover story from Exodus. These are the actual readings used at our Vigil.

Readings for the Vigil: 1) Genesis 1.1–2.4a with Psalm 136.1-9,23-26 ; 2) Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 with Psalm 46 ; 3) Genesis 22.1-18 with Psalm 16 ; 4) Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21 with the Song of Moses (Exodus 15.1b-13,17-18) ; 5) Isaiah 66:6-16 with Psalm 113; 6) Ezekiel 36.24-28 with Psalm 42 ; 7) Romans 6.3-11 ; 7) John 20:1-18.

EASTER DAY – 4 April – Easter Eucharist 10.30am

Matthew 28.1-10

Collect: Lord of all life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death and opened to us the gate of Everlasting Life: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

The rest of the kalendar is found in the April magazine.

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

Sunday - Jennie C; Nancy M; Queen Elizabeth and the Governments in Westminster and Holyrood; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes; those who have died recently and their families. Those whose anniversaries are this week .

Monday - Graeme H; Robert M; Alison and Stuart, preparing for their wedding at Holy Cross on Easter Saturday; our local schools, all children, parents and teachers; all expectant mothers and new-born babies; China; Cramond Kirk, as it seeks a new Minister.

Tuesday – Andy & Julia; Mike Holmes, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Cathy Gwinnell and all recovering from operations & those with operations soon; all our benefactors; those worried about their jobs, businesses & their financial situation; good use of our Church garden and all who work in it; the departed, especially our relatives friends and benefactors.

Wednesday - John; Andrew; Naomi; those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church; the Reindeer play group, After School Club and all our partner organisations and hall users affected by the lockdown.

Thursday - Lucy; Katrine; Alan Clark, the earth and the environmental crisis; the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; Armenia and the Caucasus; those awaiting surgery or the results of tests.

Friday - Margaret M; Minmin Yu; Carole Dyson (sister of Mother Mary Agnes SOLI of Shetland); those who live around us especially those who are finding life difficult and people with mental health problems; the USA; the departed, especially our relatives friends and benefactors.

Saturday - Molly; Isobel W-I; those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; students and teachers at Universities and Colleges coping with the current restrictions; Rev Dan Robertson and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians.