

# **An invitation to celebrate HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021 at Holy Angels, Ash and Holy Family, Heath End**



The worship of Holy Week and Easter is an annual invitation to renew our Christian life. At the heart of our faith stands Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Centuries of Christian experience have proved that the liturgy of this week has power, through the Holy Spirit, to draw us to Him anew. The services of this week commemorate the various events of the last week in Jesus' earthly life. But taken together as a whole they form an extended celebration of the victory He won over death, because the cross and resurrection are inseparable. The services and ceremonies of Holy Week enable us more wholeheartedly to share the celebration and experience of Easter.

**We are doubling the number of services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday so that even with reduced seating we should be able to accommodate everyone in our churches on these days.**

**Please book via the parish office to be assured of seat. 07485 634561**

**We hope that most of you will be feeling safe to come back to mass to celebrate this most important week of the Christian Year.**

**Masses continue to be streamed at our 'Holy Angels and Holy Family' youtube channel.**

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

It's been hard to go to confession over the last year. Fr Robin will be available to hear confessions after the masses on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week, after the Office on Holy Saturday and by appointment throughout the week. If the weather is good these can be held outside, or we have a new screen so confessions can be heard safely inside.

## **CHILDREN**

Children are very welcome at all our services. We don't expect them to behave like adults! At the moment however it is important that they don't wander around because of the social distancing and cleaning required to keep our churches Covid secure. The Way of the Cross on Good Friday (online only) is particularly aimed at children.

### **PALM SUNDAY (28<sup>th</sup> March)**

“Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

**HA 5.30pm SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

**HF 9.15am MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS**

**HA 11.00am MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS**

On Palm Sunday the Church commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem to accomplish His saving work by dying and rising again. The liturgy of the day has two distinctive features, the PALM GOSPEL (we are unable to have a procession this year) and the reading of the PASSION GOSPEL.

### **MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March – WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> March**

*There will be mass every day to enable us to prepare for the Three Holy Days.*

**Monday HA 9.30am**

**Tuesday HF 9.30am**

**Wednesday HA 9.30am**

### **THE THREE HOLY DAYS (TRIDUUM)**

Because of the extraordinary circumstance this year we are allowed to celebrate the Triduum in each church. Please make use of this opportunity to celebrate Easter after the closed churches of last year. Perhaps this is the moment for you to return to mass?

## MAUNDY THURSDAY (1<sup>st</sup> April)

*“Where charity and love are, there is God.”*

**HF 6.00pm**    **MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**    (book)  
*this year the watch can only be kept online.*

**HA 8.00pm**    **MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**    (book)  
*this year the watch can only be kept online.*

Maundy Thursday marks a new beginning – the beginning of the end. From this point on, our Christian worship is a continuous unity through to Easter, the TRIDUUM or THREE HOLY DAYS.

At the end of the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for our communion on Good Friday. This year we can’t have the normal THE ALTAR OF REPOSE, where we can watch and pray with Jesus as if we were with him at Gethsemane, where Jesus asks us to watch with Him and pray. Can you respond to Jesus’ invitation to spend an hour with him by setting that time aside at home. You can pray the Rosary, or do some spiritual reading as well as praying in your own words as long as you are consciously placing yours in the presence of Jesus. We will keep live streaming the tabernacle until midnight, and you may wish to use this as a way of helping you place yourself in the presence of Jesus for this time.

## GOOD FRIDAY (2<sup>nd</sup> April)

*“We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”*

**HA 9.15am**    **Walking the Way with Jesus (Online)**  
*A children’s version of the Stations of the Cross*

**HA & HF 3.00 p.m.**    **THE LITURGY OF THE LORD’S PASSION** (book)

THE LITURGY is the most important worship of Good Friday and should be our priority over attendance at other services. The theme of this day’s worship is the Crucified Lord.

Good Friday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. We are encouraged to enter into the solemn mood of the day by eating and drinking less and more simply – and by abstaining from meat. A good rule is one meal and two snacks during the day. The Fast should properly extend until the Easter Vigil.

## HOLY SATURDAY (3<sup>rd</sup> April)

*“We were buried with Christ by baptism, that as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might walk in newness of life.”*

**HA 9.30am Office of Readings**

**HF 6.00pm PASCHAL VIGIL & 1<sup>st</sup> EUCHARIST OF EASTER (book)**

**HA 8.00pm PASCHAL VIGIL & 1<sup>st</sup> EUCHARIST OF EASTER (book)**



The Vigil is the Feast of all Feasts for Christians and the climax of the season of Lent and the commemorations of Holy Week. This celebration should be seen as the greatest observance of the Christian Year and the foretaste of the Everlasting Easter.

**Everyone should be there!** In word and ceremony the Church celebrates Christ's resurrection as the fulfilment of God's unending care for His people, and as the beginning and source of our baptised life in Christ.

Although not required the Church encourages us to keep Holy Saturday as another day of Fasting and Abstinence- until the Easter Vigil.

## EASTER DAY (4<sup>th</sup> April)

*“Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.”*

**HF 9.15am EASTER DAY MASS (book)**

**HA 11.00am EASTER DAY MASS (book)**

Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays, the first day of the new creation, which extends into a season of joyful reflection on the resurrection of the Lord. The miracle of the resurrection lies not only in the triumph of Jesus over death, but also in the experience of every Christian who has died to sin and has risen with Christ in baptism. Christ's victory at Easter is the beginning of our own victory and redemption in Him. In the Mass we meet the risen Lord, coming to share with us His own endless life.

For that reason the Church normally expects all communicant Catholics to receive Communion at this feast. Because of shielding not everyone will be able do so - but its essential that in person or at home we celebrate the day of our redemption as a Christian community.

*Father Robin and Deacon John wish you all a very Happy Easter.*