



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

It is Monday in Holy Week as I write this news. I want to share with you a few thoughts from my sermon on Palm Sunday and I hope that you may find the opportunity to share some of the Holy Week liturgies this week.

Many years ago, I played a small part in a Passion Play set in Chepstow. Much of the planning for the play was made by Fr Jeremy Winston a good friend of mine who was one of the people that helped nurture my vocation to the priesthood. It was a wonderful play to be part of as 100's of people travelled through the streets of Chepstow to witness the story of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection. Many people watched as we made the pilgrim journey to the cross, some ignored all that was taking place, and some found themselves joining in and following the crowd to witness the story unfold. I know that a good number of people from Maidenhead have travelled to witness the Oberammergau Passion play which takes place every ten years.

I would like to make clear that following a play for devotion and prayer is a helpful spiritual aid, but Holy Week is not a passion play or historical re-enactment. Holy Week celebrates the living and powerful reality of the Lord's death and resurrection at work in the life of the Church in the present.

Palm Sunday has Jesus announcing the Kingdom. The Passover marked the Jewish people moving from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land and Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey highlights the New Passover that Jesus would overcome evil and death. He would make the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life for us so that we might live transformed lives. We through our own baptism will die to self to live lives for Christ as members of his body and we lay down our palms as a sign of this hope.

Maundy Thursday leads us to recall the gathering of Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper. This was a Passover meal that looked back to Moses and the movement towards freedom from slavery. Jesus at the supper says that you will know me in the breaking of the bread. This later in Luke's Gospel becomes profoundly clear as the disciples walk, having witnessed the crucifixion, towards Emmaus. When Jesus takes, blesses, and breaks the bread the disciples' eyes are opened to the resurrection life. They are drawn into communion or oneness with the Risen Lord. He disappears from their eyes, and they return to share and live the Christian faith that would spread across the world. We 'Partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ', we reflect His light to the world, at our best we live 'Christ Like' lives causing ripples of goodness.

On Maundy Thursday we have the foot washing. This is no pageant as Jesus expresses and renews His commitment to the service of His people. The washing of the feet challenges not only the priest but the whole community to the 'Christ Like' tasks of charity and service.

Good Friday follows and the liturgy calls to mind the terrible and heroic events of Christ's crucifixion. This is not a Passion Play or historical drama. This day is not just reminding us of the original event of Calvary but to recognise and celebrate the cross standing forth in the Church and in the World today. The suffering and heart-breaking story of Christ on Good Friday is the Christ who suffers on the Cross in the World today. He is there in the victims of violence and war, in those who mourn in suffering and dying, in those who are worried how they will keep their family warm and fed. Within the congregation on Sunday, were a family of refugees from Iran who are staying at the Holiday Inn seeking help. Christ suffers anew in every generation and so an authentic veneration of the Cross includes for us a commitment to charity.

Jeanette found Stations of the Cross prepared by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development which we used on Wednesday evening in church. The Stations speak about the challenges the world faces in times of war, food shortages and climate change. One of the most powerful films I have witnessed was our Lent film last week called 'The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind'. The remarkable true story of a boy who through a little education was able to provide water to grow crops that fed people and gave hope of life in the face of droughts in Africa. The question I ask this Good Friday is will I just kiss or bow to the Cross, or will I be led to seek solidarity to tackle some of the problems we face in the world today. It will almost certainly have to be small in scale as I do not have the capability to react as the boy in the film!

We arrive this Saturday evening (Holy Saturday) for the Vigil. We hear the stories of creation, Passover, about spirit filled people. We light the fire to light the Paschal Candle and walk into a dark church singing 'the Light of Christ has come into the world'. Light coming out of darkness, goodness overcoming evil and New Life defeating death. We renew our baptismal promises, receive Holy Communion and are fed and nurtured to go out to be an Easter people. We will look forward to Pentecost as we are inspired to be a spirit filled people using our gifts as the Body of Christ to do the 'Small things well.'

This week I pray that not only will people join the Holy Week liturgies, but that we will move from being spectators at a Passion Play to participants as members of the Body of Christ. Please join us this week by sharing the liturgies and may we move forward as Easter people to live the Christian Resurrection life that they proclaim.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 14 April *11.00am Chrism Mass in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford*
Maundy Thursday **7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper, including the Foot Washing and followed by the Watch until midnight.**
 11.50pm Night Prayer

Friday 15 **10.00am Morning Prayer and Litany**
 11.00am Walk of Witness in Maidenhead.
 Meet at the Piazza outside Sainsbury's
 3.00pm The Liturgy of the Day and Veneration of the Cross
 followed by hot cross buns and tea or coffee

Holy Saturday 16 from 9.00am decorating the Church for Easter see p ? for details
 8.00pm The Vigil and First Mass of Easter
 followed by refreshments

Easter Day 17

10.00am The Parish Eucharist with procession, followed by the Blessing of the Easter Garden. There may be one of two Easter eggs found in church this morning!

Wednesday 20

10.00am

Eucharist

PRAYER INTENTIONS

United and whole, show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence.

We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, Every child and every adult.

We long for the time when weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares, when nations no longer lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace; Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of loved ones, be with those who are bereaved.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression and fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.

Kindle again in us a love for our neighbour, and a passion for justice to prevail

And a renewed recognition that we all play a part in peace.

Creator of all hear our prayer and bring us peace. Make us whole. Amen.

After watching our films looking at Sustainability, we pray that we may as a congregation continue to discover ways of simple living that will help reduce our carbon footprint and live in harmony with God's world.

We pray and give thanks for the mission and ministry opportunities for our parish of All Saints. As we look forward to the APCM in April may we give thanks for those who have given their time and talents this year as members of the PCC and other mission groups and all areas of our life within the Boyne Hill community. We pray that more people may discern gifts to share the Christian message in God's world.

Please pray for Samuel Ezra Russell who was baptised last Sunday, and for Ollie Campbell, Chloe Taylor and Isla Bradley on the anniversaries of their baptisms.

Among those who have asked for our prayers, we pray for Suzette, Danielle, Fr John Chadwick, Dave Hill, Eliza, Dave's parents and Anne and Chris, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Mikhail, Doreen Hill, John Hicks, Roger and Jane Baldery, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Carol Atkin, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, and Florence Harrison. May they know God's loving and healing presence. We pray for any in our parish who need God's loving grace and healing touch at this time.

We remember the recently departed including Richard Coxwell, Daisy Florence Keysell, Anna Beadman and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalen met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and everyday: Speak to us as you spoke to her; Reveal yourself as the living Lord; Renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share the good news with others. Amen.

May we all enjoy a blessed Easter,

Fr Jeremy, Monika, the Churchwardens & PCC

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10 APRIL EASTER DAY

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

NT READING Acts 10: 35 - 43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

GOSPEL John 20: 1 - 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

MUSIC

Prelude: Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ *J S Bach*

Opening Hymn: AM 205 Jesus Christ is risen today

Gradual: AM 197 Alleluia

Offertory: AM 777 Sing of the Lord's goodness

Communion: AM 155 Unless a grain of wheat;

Closing Hymn: AM 218 Thine be the glory

Regina Coeli

Postlude: Saraband for the morning of Easter *H Howells*

EASTER FLOWER ARRANGING - HELP REQUIRED

We shall be arranging the flowers for Easter on **Holy Saturday, 16 April** from about 9.00am. We would appreciate lots of help please, no previous experience necessary, we will show you what to do. We also need lots of greenery, so if you can lay your hands on any, maybe you could bring it to the church on Good Friday or early Saturday morning please.

The Flower Team

APCM MONDAY 25 APRIL AT BOYNE HILL CRICKET CLUB AT 7.00pm (FOOD AT 6.30pm)

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Monday 25 April starting at 7.00pm, at Boyne Hill Cricket Club, Boyn Grove, Maidenhead SL6 5AE.

If you wish to attend, please sign the list at the back of the church. You can order supper - Fish & Chips @ £8 or Chicken & Chips @ £6.50. Supper will be available at 6.30 pm. Anyone wishing to have supper should place their order on the sign-up sheet and pay Sue Stannett in advance, so that the confirmed orders can be placed in good time.

PCC ELECTIONS

The following elections will take place during the APCM

- Annual elections of two Churchwardens
- Elections to the PCC. There are four vacancies.
- Election to Deanery Synod as Lay Rep. There is one vacancy

There are nomination forms at the back of the church, if you wish to nominate someone as a candidate in any of these elections. You need to be on the Electoral Roll to take part in these elections.

David Morgan (PCC Secretary)

MARLOW PLAYERS MURDER MYSTERY FRIDAY 22 APRIL 7.30pm IN CHURCH!!

Please see poster attached to the email. All proceeds in support of Ukraine.

NO LONGER NEEDED DISABILITY AIDS TAKING UP SPACE?

Through my Rotary Club I collect any aids that will fit in my car and store them locally until I have enough to be sent to Physionet. This satisfies two major current issues 1 – we provide humanitarian aid to those who would otherwise suffer, and 2 – we are recycling material, thus reducing the use of new material for manufacture and preventing aids going to landfill – great for our Sustainability work.

Should you have such aids please let me (ken.smith1@tinternet.com) or the Parish Office know. If you cannot bring them to church I will hopefully be able to collect.

Ken Smith