



Lent-Holy Week-Easter 2024

FROM THE VICAR

This booklet is an encouragement for us all to use the time of Lent well. Lent is the traditional preparation time of forty days from Ash Wednesday to the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day. It is a season of spiritual reflection, and an opportunity for "clearing the decks". Often people choose to give something up for Lent (chocolate or alcohol!) and sometimes people choose to take on something extra – an extra spiritual discipline, or even an exercise programme! How might you choose to mark out Lent as a special time of year for you?

Might you consider coming to one extra weekday activity? What about being part of one of the Lenten Study Groups? Or coming to one of our quiet weekday services, Holy Communion on a Wednesday morning, or Prayer on a Wednesday evening? We also have the Stations of the Cross in our church and a guide for praying them through at any time. What about planning the Easter holiday break so the great liturgical celebrations are a central part of what you do?

Please be encouraged, and have a good Lent!

God bless you all, Reverend Roxanne.

WHY DO WE OBSERVE LENT?

From about the 4th century the Church has observed a period of 40 days of fasting in preparation for Easter. The custom arose from the prescribed fast of the candidates for Christian initiation at the conclusion of their long period of instruction and preparation. As the event of their Baptism approached, this intensive preparation of the weeks before Easter began and the whole Church took up this process as being a period of renewal of their own baptismal promises. This we still do at the Liturgy of Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

The austerity of the Lenten season reminds us that our faith is centred on the essentials of human living, so we dispense with some of those external symbols of our religious background to concentrate more fully on what they represent. Flowers are removed, and the exultant passages of praise, such as the Gloria and Alleluias are omitted from the Liturgy. The dominant colour is purple, the colour of royal mourning.

Before this austere period, we enjoy one last celebration on Shrove Tuesday, with our Community Pancake Evening at Christ Church Little River on the 13th February this year.

LENTEN SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY - 14th February HT

Holy Communion with Imposition of AshesHoly Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Costa House (11am) and St Clare Chapel (10am) services on Thursday 15th will also include Ashing for those present.

SUNDAYS IN LENT

10.00am @ Holy Trinity 4.00pm @ Christ Church

WEEKDAYS IN LENT

Wednesday Holy Communion 10.00am HT Evening Prayer 7.30pm HT

Thursday Morning Prayer 10.00am St Clair Chapel

Friday Morning Prayer 8.45am HT

Lenten Study

This Lent we are making the journey with the Garratt Living in Harmony study following the Sunday Lectionary readings. Small groups will meet weekly to reflect on the readings. The publication is available with a \$10 donation requested.

- Thursday evenings with Philip 7pm at HT
- Wednesday evening Home Group with Leon 6.30pm
- Thuesday afternoons Noel at his place 2pm
- Sunday afternoons at 3pm Christ Church Little River with Roxanne
- Or by personal reflection

All very welcome, please let the group leader know of your participation.

HOLY WEEK DIARY

SATURDAY - 23rd March - Making Palm Crosses 2pm Holy Trinity - All Welcome

PALM SUNDAY - 24th March

10.00am Blessing of Palms, Procession, and Payer and Praise Service HT 4.00pm Blessing of Palms, Procession, and Prayer and Praise Service CC

HOLY WEEKDAYS

Tuesday 26th Blessing of the Oils, Renewal Clergy Vows at St Paul's Cathedral

Evening Prayer 6:00pm CC

Wednesday 27th Stations of the Cross 10am HT

Holy Communion 7pm HT

TRIDUUM SACRUM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28th March

10.00am Holy Communion at St Claire Chapel

7.00pm Holy Communion, Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Holy Trinity will remain open for vigil for an hour after the conclusion

of the liturgy.

GOOD FRIDAY - 29th March

10.00am The Lord's Passion (HT)

HOLY SATURDAY – 30th March

9.00am Morning Prayer, followed by working bee (HT)

10.00pm Great Easter Vigil (Christ Church)

EASTER DAY – 31st March

10.00am Holy Communion followed by celebratory Morning Tea (HT)

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