

Faith, Failure and Forgiveness

Holy Week 2023



At the heart of our community of faith is the journey to the Cross and then the empty tomb of Easter Day. This is a **journey of love and forgiveness**– God's generous and forgiving love for us shown in the sacrifice made by Jesus. It is this love that shapes us and which we are called to reflect and be a sign of in our lives both as individuals and as a community.

Each year **we are invited to share that journey** and reflect on what it means for us, as we share in the special service of Holy Week and Easter. But it is a week that we have 'lost' in some ways for the last 3 years – so for some we will have forgotten how special and important the services are; for others it will be a new experience, and for some it will be something we need to re-engage with.

Perhaps this year as we continue to emerge from the impact of Covid we could all make that extra effort and commit ourselves to walk together from the joy of the Palm Procession to the discovery of the Risen Christ on Easter Day

We will be welcoming a **guest preacher** to help us reflect on this journey . On **Monday Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 7pm** there will be a Mass with hymns at St Mary's – at the end of which **Canon Kathryn Percival** (from the Cathedral) **will reflect with us on Faith, Failure and Forgiveness.**

At **St Mary's** from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day **Fr Bob will be our preacher** and help us to reflect on the events we are sharing in and how they affect our lives today. St Faith's will have their own pattern for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – and then we will be together to celebrate the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday together at St Mary's at 8.30pm.

Please see below for full details and consider what you might do and how you may share that journey of Forgiving love and help us build a community of forgiveness together during Holy Week this year.

Sunday April 2nd Palm Sunday



9.30am Those who can please **join us at St Faith's Church in Crasswell Street** as we walk with **Palm crosses**, streamers and a band and begin the journey to the Cross ...



10am We gather as a Parish at **St Mary's** to 'welcome' Jesus as the crowds welcomed him into Jerusalem. We also hear the Passion Narrative to help us recall the events that we are about to share in through the week,

Monday April 3rd Noon Stations of the Cross at St Mary's

We will use the 14 images around the Church to reflect on the journey made on Good Friday from Pilate to the Cross and the tomb – and the journey we make through life with Jesus

7pm Mass and Reflection at St Mary's

Tuesday April 4th 7pm Mass and Reflection at St Mary's

Wednesday April 5th Noon Mass followed by final discussion on our Lent Book at St Mary's

7pm Mass and reflection at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday April 6th



At our services we reflect on the events of the Last Supper – the washing of the disciples feet; Jesus breaking bread and sharing the cup inviting us to do this in remembrance of him and then he asks us to 'watch and pray with him' in the Garden of Gethsemane till he is betrayed by Judas.

At St Faith's 6pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

ending with a short watch and vigil of prayer

At St Mary's 7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

and watch of prayer till Midnight. Please sign list n Church if you can cover some of the watch of prayer ...be good to have 2 or 3 people for every 15 min slot



Good Friday April 7th



Our churches are stripped and empty – our focus is on the Cross and all it stands for and means. We hear the reading of the events of the first Good Friday in John's Gospel; we reflect on the cross, pray at the foot of the cross and end in stillness receiving the Body of Christ

At St Mary's I am Children and Young People gather to share



in activities and art and craft to reflect on the day – ending with Hot Cross Buns

1pm A series of **reflections** – interspersed with silence – **on the Cross**

2pm **The Liturgy of the Cross** (ends at 3pm)

At St Faith's 2pm The Liturgy of the Cross

Holy Saturday April 8th



If you are able to help prepare our churches for Easter – please contact Revd Sam for St Faith's– or for St Mary's come along from 9am and there will be plenty to do!

As a Parish we all gather for one of the most beautiful and special service of the year as we gather in darkness and then welcome the coming of the light of Christ as we with joy and light celebrate his new life!

**8.30pm The Vigil of Readings
and First Mass of Easter** (ends about 10pm)

Easter Day April 10th

At St Faith's 9.30 am Mass of Easter Day

At St Mary's 8am Book of Common Prayer Eucharist

10am Sung Mass for Easter and Baptisms

4pm Choral Evensong and Benediction

For further information contact any of the Ministry team

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DUST ✦
GLORY

A Lent journey of faith,
failure and forgiveness