

**The Parish Churches of
St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
&
All Saints, Calverton**



Good Friday

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

2021 Edition

Pastoral Introduction

(This may be read quietly before the Solemn Liturgy begins)

Today we come together to a church stripped of all adornment to celebrate the Lord's Passion. On a spring afternoon Jesus, our Lord and God, died on the Cross. The vestments of the ministers are red as they were on Passion (Palm) Sunday. Together we live through the events of Good Friday knowing the events that are to follow which complete today's events and also reverses them.

This traditional service has three parts: The Liturgy of the Word; The Veneration of the Cross (derived from a devotion which grew up in Jerusalem after the discovery, tradition tells us, of the True Cross by St Helena); and the receiving of Holy Communion (the fruits of Jesus Passion).

In this celebration of the passion and death of the Lord:

- a. we listen to the words of scripture and strive to understand the true meaning of his sufferings and the mind that was in him and we pray with his spirit for the needs of the whole world,
- b. we worship the cross as the symbol of his triumph, and finally,
- c. we enter into sacramental communion with him who is our Saviour and our Life.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Then communion is distributed to the faithful and the choir sing:

A Responsorial version of Psalm 22 to a setting by Andrew R Motyka

Silence is then kept while the distribution continues.

After the distribution is completed a period of silence for prayer may be kept, after which the priest says the following prayer:

Priest:

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have restored us to life
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.
Continue this healing work within us.
May we who participate in this mystery
never cease to serve you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then holding his hands over the people the priest says:

Lord,
send down your abundant blessing
upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son
in the sure hope of the resurrection.
Grant them pardon; bring them comfort.
May their faith grow stronger
and their eternal salvation be assured. **Amen.**

During the singing of the hymn the candles, book, corporal and cloth are removed from the altar and the Cross alone remains. Then the priest and ministers depart.

**All leave the Church in silence,
or remain quietly to pray for a while.**

PART THREE: HOLY COMMUNION

The assembled people remain kneeling. The Choir sing Orlando Gibbons 'Drop, drop slow tears.' The altar is covered with a cloth and the corporal and book are placed upon it. Then the deacon or priest brings carries the ciborium with the Blessed Sacrament in it from the place of reposition to the altar accompanied by ministers with lighted candles and they place their candles on the altar.

At the Saviour's command and by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven.
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope,
the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

The priest makes his private preparation to receive Holy Communion.

He genuflects and then raising the host says:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

PART ONE: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The priest and ministers enter in silence and ALL KNEEL in prayer.

The ministers kneel at the altar rail and the priest prostrates himself

Then the priest rises and says the 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 wicked men
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the reading from Holy Scripture:

The First Reading

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (52:13-53:12)

Behold, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
As many were astonished at him --
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the sons of men --
so shall he startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they shall see,

and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,
so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
And they made his grave with the wicked

Priest: This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All: Come let us worship.

The priest ALONE genuflects and kisses the cross.

*While the choir sing **The Reproaches** the people come forward to bow in veneration to the cross as the priest holds it. (N.B. this year individual kissing of the cross is not permitted)*

O my people, what have I done to thee,
or wherein have I wearied thee? Answer me.
Because I brought thee out of the land of Egypt,
thou hast prepared a cross for thy Saviour.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy and Immortal,
have mercy upon us.

Because I led thee through desert forty years,
and fed thee with manna,
and brought thee into a land exceeding good,
thou hast prepared a cross for thy Saviour.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy and Immortal,
have mercy upon us.

What could I do more for thee that I had not done?

I planted thee, my choicest vine,
and thou hast become exceeding bitter unto me:
for when I was thirsty thou gavest me to drink vinegar mingled with gall,
and thou hast pierced with a spear the side of thy Saviour.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy and Immortal,
have mercy upon us.

We venerate thy Cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify thy holy resurrection:
for by virtue of the Cross joy hath come to the whole world.

After the veneration, the cross is carried to its place at the altar, and lighted candles are placed around the altar or near the cross.

Priest:

Almighty, ever-living God,
you give strength to the weary,
and new courage to those who have lost heart.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty ever-living God,
only support of our human weakness,
look with compassion upon the sorrowful condition of your children
 who suffer because of this pandemic;
relieve the pain of the sick,
give strength to those who care for them,
welcome into your peace those who have died and,
 throughout this time of tribulation,
grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PART TWO THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

The priest goes to the rear of the nave where he takes the veil from the cross before raising it in the sight of the people who turn to face him. At the rear of the nave the middle of the church and at the sanctuary he stops, all turn to face the cross each time he stops, and having raised the cross he says:

and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him;
he has put him to grief;
when he makes himself an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;
he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous;
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out his soul to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 31)

R/. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
in your justice set me free.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord. **R/.**

In the face of all my foes
I am a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbours
and of fear to my friends. **R/.**

Those who see me in the street
run far away from me.
I am like a dead man, forgotten in men's hearts,
like a thing thrown away. **R/.**

But as for me, I trust in you, Lord,
I say: 'You are my God.'
My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me. **R/.**

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
Be strong, let your heart take courage,
all who hope in the Lord. **R/.**

The Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (4:14-16; 5:7-9)

Since then we have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
For we have not a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are,
yet without sinning.
Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to him who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard for his godly fear.
Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;

that stand in their way,
they may all recognise in the lives of Christians
the tokens of your love and mercy,
and gladly acknowledge you
as the one true God and Father of us all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for those who serve us in public office,
that God may guide their minds and hearts,
so that all men may live in true peace and freedom.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
you know the longings of men's hearts
and you protect their rights.
In your goodness
watch over those in authority,
so that people everywhere may enjoy
religious freedom, security and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray, dear friends,
that God the almighty Father
may heal the sick,
comfort the dying,
give safety to travellers
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,
and rid the world of falsehood,
hunger, and disease.

(Silent prayer)

Listen to your Church as we pray
that the people you first made your own
may arrive at the fullness of redemption.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for those who do not believe in Christ,
that the light of the Holy Spirit
may show them the way to salvation.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
enable those who do not acknowledge Christ
to find the truth
as they walk before you in sincerity of heart.
Help us to grow in love for one another,
to grasp more fully the mystery of your godhead,
and to become more perfect witnesses of your love
in the sight of men.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for those who do not believe in God,
that they may find him
by sincerely following all that is right.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
you created mankind
so that all might long to find you
and have peace when you are found.
Grant that in spite of the hurtful things

and being made perfect
he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Passion Gospel

This year the Passion is read entirely by the priest. It is customary to stand throughout, but those who are infirm may sit.

Narrator: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

(18:1 – 19:42)

At the conclusion of the Passion:

This is the Passion of the Lord.

(No response is made)

There follows the **Homily**

General Intercessions

Priest:

Let us pray, dear friends,
for the holy Church of God throughout the world,
that God the almighty Father
guide it and gather it together
so that we may worship him
in peace and tranquillity.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
you have shown your glory to all nations
in Christ your Son.
Guide the work of your Church.
Help it to persevere in faith,
proclaim your name,
and bring your salvation to people everywhere. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray for **N**, our bishop,
for all bishops, priests and deacons;
for all who have a special ministry in the Church
and for all God's people.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
your Spirit guides the Church
and makes it holy.
Listen to our prayers
and help each of us
in our own vocation
to do your work more faithfully.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for those (among us) preparing for baptism,
that God in his mercy
make them responsive to his love,
forgive their sins through the waters of new birth,
and give them life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
you continually bless your Church with new members.
Increase the faith and understanding
of those (among us) preparing for baptism.
Give them a new birth in these living waters
and make them members of your chosen family.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for all our brothers and sisters
who share our faith in Jesus Christ,
that God may gather and keep together in one Church
all those who seek the truth with sincerity.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
you keep together those you have united.
Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son.
We are all consecrated to you through our common baptism.
Make us one in the fullness of faith,
and keep us one in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Let us pray
for the Jewish people,
the first to hear the word of God,
that they may continue to grow in the love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

(Silent prayer)

Priest:

Almighty and eternal God,
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity.