

Reflection Palm Sunday *Don't avoid St Paul!*

I detect that we may have been avoiding St Paul during this Lent, in a very polite Anglican sort of way. So on a Sunday we have tended to prefer a combination of Old Testament and Gospel, which does make sense as they are deliberately linked. This has relegated the New Testament reading (the Epistle in 'old speak') to private consumption or to our consideration on Zoom with a smaller group in the evening, albeit with very active discussion. Even then, the thought of addressing the Pauline reading has filled some with dread.

So why is this and what is a good response?

St Paul can be complicated especially the Letter to the Romans, and it doesn't help to read it in small chunks. He is addressing different practical problems and theoretical positions in the new churches with which he was involved around the Mediterranean basin, two thousand or so years ago. Some focus and concentration are needed as we read, but longer chunks will make more sense. Additionally, remember that he was primarily a missionary not a theologian, so sometimes he contradicts himself, gets carried away, and is just plain enthusiastic, and as we read we enter his world, and are taken up into his concepts, without always understanding everything – and that's ok. I would suggest a memory too of The Epistle on a Sunday morning BCP from King James Version Bible almost certainly has put us off!

So here's a challenge and a Holy Week discipline before Easter: read St Paul's Letter to the Galatians in one go. You can have a little break in the middle, but no small chunks. And you will enjoy it, I almost guarantee it.

Fr David

Sunday Evening Worship Information

Meeting ID: 838 1490 9573, Passcode: 357687

Tel: 0131 460 1196, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240

NEXT SUNDAY 09.04.2023 Easter Day

10.30am Sung Eucharist in Church
5.00pm Evening Worship by Zoom

READINGS: OT Acts 10: 34-43
NT Colossians 3: 1-4
GOSPEL Matthew 28: 1-10



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

2nd April 2023

Palm Sunday

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

11 All glory, laud and honour
346 My song is love unknown
499 There is a green hill far away

5pm Evening Worship by Zoom

Monday Tuesday, Wednesday

10am Mass and talk in the Church

7pm Evening Liturgy & Reflection by Zoom

Tuesday 4th April

House Group following Evening Liturgy. On the Cross. Details from Ian

Maundy Thursday 6th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

9.30-10.30am Community Larder

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

10.30am Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

7pm Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper.
Watch of the Passion

Good Friday 7th April

10.30am Stations of the Cross with activities for children

2pm Good Friday Liturgy (Hot Cross Buns in the Hall)

Easter Eve Saturday 8th April

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers

6pm Easter Rites. Followed by bring & share parish supper.

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

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**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary

with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew's Passion Gospel 26:14—27:end

Post Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

We welcome **Fr David Gunn-Johnson** as our speaker on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week. Fr David will give a brief homily at 10am and a longer talk as part of our evening devotions on zoom.

We will make arrangements for the **Bring & Share Parish Supper on Easter Eve** after Sunday worship.

Knit and Natter. On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Thursdays between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please note new day and time. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Weekly throughout Lent. New people are always welcome; see Ian for Zoom details.

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

We need a volunteer urgently to be responsible for **Hall party and regular users bookings** from Easter onwards and someone to be responsible for a team opening and closing the Hall after parties. These roles can be combined or split We mostly operate this system through emails. If you are interested please see Ian for details. It is important that these roles are filled **as the Hall is a significant source of income for the Church.**

Local elections take place on 4th May. Postal votes have to be submitted 12 working days before that date. A Voter Authority Certificate has to be applied for on-line. We are able to help people to obtain the Certificate. Please talk to a member of the clergy team.

Easter Flowers The price of flowers has gone up recently so Mary Naish would welcome donations from the congregation in remembrance of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation please speak to Mary Naish or one of the Churchwardens.