

# THE PARISH OF SAINT PAUL

## DEPTFORD



'anglo-catholic, inclusive, committed to prayer & justice.'

<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/deptford-st-paul>

The Rector & Parish Priest: Fr Paul Butler

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Welcome to S. Paul's today in church or on Zoom.

Please follow the directions of the Churchwardens & Welcomers.



### Please turn off mobile phones.

No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography is permitted during or after the services, without express permission. Thank you for your co-operation.

WCs (& baby changing facilities) downstairs in the crypt.

Do not attend if you have Covid, symptoms, or a cold.

Please let a Welcomer know if you require a **Gluten Free Host**.

'Love one another as I have loved you', says the Lord.



Churchwardens: Ms Lavern Ford & Mr Andrew Taylor  
Organist: Mr William Parkinson & S. Paul's Singers



## TRIDUUM THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY 3rd APRIL 2026

1.00pm

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Please join in with the hymns  
& the text in the Bold Type.

### First Part THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Stand

The Sacred Ministers enter in silence.

All pray in silence while the Sacred Ministers prostrate themselves.

All stand when the celebrant stands.

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 sinners  
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**

Sit for the readings.

### First Reading from the Old Testament

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

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were astonished at him — so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals — <sup>15</sup> so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. <sup>53: 1</sup> Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup> By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup> They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. <sup>11</sup> Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

**Psalm: 31: 1, 6, 11 - 12, 14 - 15, 16, 24 is sung by the choir**  
**R./ Father, Father, I put my life in thy hands.**

Cf. S. Luke 23: 46

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me.

<sup>6</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God. **R./**

<sup>11</sup> For all my foes I am an object of reproach,  
a laughingstock to my neighbours, and a dread to my friends;  
they who see me abroad flee from me.

<sup>12</sup> I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;  
I am like a dish that is broken. **R./**

<sup>14</sup> But my trust is in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God.

<sup>15</sup> In your hands is my destiny; rescue me  
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors." **R./**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your kindness.

<sup>24</sup> Take courage and be stouthearted,  
all you who hope in the LORD. **R./**

### Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.  
(4: 14-16, & 5: 7-10)

<sup>14</sup> Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. <sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

**Gospel Acclamation and Passion Gospel**

♪ **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name, which is above all names. Philippians 2: 8-9

♪ **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!** ♪

**THE PASSION GOSPEL: S. JOHN: 18 - 19**

*The Passion is read dramatically.*

**All the Congregation** join in.

*The Passion Gospel is announced,*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*At these words*

'Then he (Jesus) bowed his head and gave up his spirit.'

*all kneel and pause for a moment.*

*and concluded,*

The Passion of the Lord.

*NO responses are made.*

*Silence*

**The Homily**

Stand

**O Sacred head** is sung

<sup>1.</sup> O sacred head, sore wounded,  
Defiled and put to scorn:  
O kingly head, surrounded  
With mocking crown of thorn;  
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?  
Can death thy bloom deflow'r?  
O countenance whose splendour  
The hosts of heav'n adore!

<sup>2.</sup> Thy beauty, long desired,  
Hath vanished from our sight:  
Thy pow'r is all expired,  
And quenched the light of light.  
Ah me! for whom thou diest,  
Hide not so far thy grace:  
Show me, O Love most highest,  
The brightness of thy face.

<sup>3.</sup> I pray thee, Jesus, own me,  
Me, Shepherd good, for thine;  
who to thy fold hast won me,  
And fed with truth divine.  
Me guilty, me refuse not,  
Incline thy face to me,  
This comfort that I lose not,  
On earth to comfort thee.

<sup>4.</sup> In thy most bitter passion  
My heart to share doth cry.  
With thee for my salvation  
Upon the cross to die.  
Ah, keep my heart thus moved  
To stand thy cross beneath,  
To mourn thee, well-beloved,  
Yet thank thee for thy death.

<sup>5.</sup> My days are few, O fail not,  
With thine immortal pow'r,  
To hold me that I quail not  
In death's most fearful hour:  
That I may fight befriended,  
And see in my last strife  
To me thine arms extended  
Upon the cross of life.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-76) from a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Latin hymn.*

*Tr. Robert Bridges (1844-1930). Tune: J.S. Bach, Passion Chorale*

**THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS**

**I. For Holy Church**

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the Holy Church of God: that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and unite her throughout the whole world and grant that leading our life in tranquillity and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations,  
watch over the works of your mercy,  
that your church, spread throughout all the world,  
may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your  
name. through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**I I. For the Archbishop of Canterbury,  
the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch**

Let us pray also for our most Holy Mother, *Sarah*,  
Pope *Leo*, Bishop of Rome,  
and Ecumenical Patriarch *Bartholomew*,  
that our God and Lord  
who chose them for the Order of Bishops,  
may keep them safe and unharmed  
for the Lord's Holy Church to govern the Holy People of God,  
and to work tirelessly for the Unity of the Church.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God,  
by whose decree all things are founded,  
look with favour on our prayers  
and in your kindness protect *Sarah*, our Chief bishop;  
that, under her, the Christian people,  
governed by you their maker,  
may grow in merit by reason of their faith.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**I I I. For all orders and degrees of the faithful**

Let us pray also for our Bishop *Christopher*,  
for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the Church  
and for the whole of the faithful people.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is sanctified and governed,  
hear our prayer for your ministers,  
that by the gift of your grace,  
all may serve you faithfully.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**I V. For catechumens**

Let us pray for our catechumens,  
that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost  
hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that having received  
forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth  
they too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring,  
increase the faith and understanding  
of our catechumens,  
that reborn in the font of Baptism,  
they may be added to the number  
of your adopted children.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **V. For the unity of Christians**

Let us pray also for our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who gather what is scattered  
and keep together what you have gathered,  
look kindly on the flock of your Son,  
that those whom one Baptism  
has consecrated may be joined together  
by integrity of faith and united in the bond of love.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **VIa. For the Jewish people**

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who bestowed your promises  
on Abraham and his descendants,  
graciously hear the prayers of your Church,  
that the people you first made your own  
may attain the fullness of redemption;  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **VIb. For the Muslim people**

Let us pray also for the Muslims who honour Jesus as a prophet to whom the Lord of the Creation gave the Gospel, that they may continue to please him by sincerely following what he has revealed to them.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

God the Compassionate,  
the Merciful, King of Judgement Day:  
guide us to the straight path,  
the path of those whom you have favoured;  
let us not incur your wrath,  
but keep us from going astray;  
we ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **VII. For those who do not believe in Christ**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
grant to those who do not confess Christ,  
that by walking before you with a sincere heart,  
they may find the truth and that we ourselves,  
being constant in mutual love  
and striving to understand more fully  
the mystery of our life,  
may be made more perfect witnesses  
to your love in the world.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **VIII. For those who do not believe in God**

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who created all people  
to seek you always by desiring you  
and, by finding you, come to rest,  
grant, we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle,  
all may recognise the signs of your fatherly love  
and the witness of the good works  
done by those who believe in you,  
and so in gladness confess you,  
the one true God and father of our human race.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **IX. For those who are in public office**

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
in whose hand lies every human heart  
and the rights of peoples,  
look with favour, we pray,  
on those who given with authority over us,  
that throughout the whole world,  
the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace,  
and freedom of religion  
may through your gift be made secure.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **X. For those in tribulation**

Let us pray, dearly beloved,  
to God the Father almighty,  
that he may cleanse the world of all errors,  
banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons,  
loosen fetters, granting to travellers safety,  
to pilgrims return, health to the sick,  
and salvation to the dying.

Let us kneel. *Silence*, Let us stand.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil,  
may the prayers of those who cry out  
in any tribulation come before you,  
that all may rejoice,  
because in their hour of need  
your mercy was at hand.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

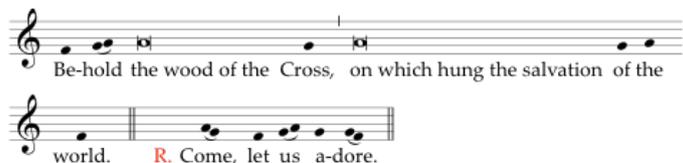
## ¶ **Second Part**

### **THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

*Remain Standing*

*The celebrant goes to the sacristy, from which, in procession, accompanied by two servers with lighted candles, he carries the Cross (covered with a violet veil), through the church to the front of the nave, and there puts it down, supported by the servers.*

*Turning towards the People, the celebrant **uncovers** it from the top, elevating it a little, and begins alone the Antiphon. Repeated three times.*



Behold the wood of the Cross,  
on which hung the salvation of the world.

*And the people sing,*

**Come, let us adore.**

*After each response, all genuflect and adore the cross briefly.*

*And all this is **done twice again**, (left, then, right arm of cross) and the **Cross is uncovered** entirely.*

***Next** the celebrant lays aside the chasuble & his sandals, and approaches to venerate the Cross, **thrice making a double genuflection** before he kisses it.*

*Which done, he returns and takes again the chasuble and his sandals.*

### **The Reproaches**

*are sung by the choir to the 1984 setting by John Sanders (1933-2003) and arranged by William Parkinson.*

*Whilst the faithful proceed to **VENERATE THE CROSS**, making three double genuflections as they approach, and may express their devotion by kissing the foot of the Cross.*

*(A double genuflection consists in kneeling on both knees, bowing the head and rising),*

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me!**

I am your Creator, Lord of the Universe;  
I have entrusted this world to you,  
but you have created the means to destroy it.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me!**

**Holy is God!  
Holy and strong!  
Holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us.**

I made you in my image, but you have degraded body and spirit  
and marred the image of your God.

You have deserted me and turned your backs on me.

I filled the earth with all that you need,  
so that you might serve and care for one another,  
as I have cared for you;  
but you have cared only to serve your own wealth and power.

**Holy is God!  
Holy and strong!  
Holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us.**

I made my children of one blood to live in families rejoicing in one  
another;  
but you have embittered and divided the nations.

I commanded you to love your neighbour as yourself,  
to love and to forgive your enemies;  
but you have made vengeance your rule and hate your guide.

**Holy is God!  
Holy and strong!  
Holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us.**

In the fullness of time I sent you my Son,  
that in him you might know me,  
and through him find life and peace;  
but you put him to death on the cross.

Through the living Christ, I called you into my Church to be my  
servants to the world,  
but you have grasped at privilege and forgotten my will.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me!**

I have given you a heavenly gift and a share in the Holy Spirit;  
I have given you the spiritual energies of the age to come;  
but you have turned away and crucified the Son of God afresh.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me!**

I have consecrated you in the truth;  
I have made you to be one in the unity of the Father and the Son, by  
the power of the Spirit;  
but you have divided my church and shrouded my truth.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me!**

*Celebrant sings, congregation responds:*

**Turn again, my people, answer me.**

Let your bearing to one another  
arise out of your life in Christ Jesus.  
He humbled himself  
and in obedience accepted the death of the cross.  
But I have bestowed on him the name  
that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus,  
every knee should bow and every tongue confess,  
Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Turn again, my people, answer me.**

**Father, hear our prayer and forgive us.**

Unstop our ears that we may receive  
the gospel of the cross.  
Lighten our eyes  
that we may see your glory  
in the face of your Son.  
Penetrate our minds  
that your truth may make us whole.  
Irradiate our hearts with your love  
that we may love one another  
for Christ's sake.

**Father, forgive us.**

**Crux Fidelis, is sung**

<sup>1.</sup> Faithful Cross! above all other,  
One and only noble Tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
None in fruit thy peer may be;  
Sweetest Wood and sweetest Iron!  
Sweetest Weight is hung on thee.

<sup>2.</sup> Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle  
Sing the ending of the fray,  
O'er the Cross, the victor's trophy,  
Sound the high triumphant lay:  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
As a victim won the day.

3. God in pity saw man fallen,  
Shamed and sunk in misery,  
When he fell on death by tasting  
Fruit of the forbidden tree:  
Then another tree was chosen  
Which the world from death should free.

4. Therefore when the appointed fullness  
Of the holy time was come,  
He was sent who maketh all things  
Forth from God's eternal home:  
Thus he came to earth, incarnate,  
Offspring of a maiden's womb.

5. Thirty years among us dwelling,  
Now at length his hour fulfilled,  
Born for this, he meets his Passion,  
For that this he freely willed,  
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted  
Where his life-blood shall be spilled.

6. Bend thy boughs, O Tree of glory!  
Thy too rigid sinews bend;  
For awhile the ancient rigor,  
That thy birth bestowed, suspend;  
And the King of heavenly beauty  
On thy bosom gently tend!

7. Thou alone wast counted worthy  
This world's ransom to sustain;  
That a shipwrecked race might ever  
Harbour, like the Ark of old;  
With the sacred blood anointed  
From the Lamb for sinners slain.

8. He endured the nails, the spitting,  
Vinegar, and spear, and reed;  
From that holy Body pierced  
Blood and water forth proceed:  
Earth and stars and sky and ocean,  
By that flood from stain are free.

9. To the Trinity be glory  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the co-eternal Spirit,  
Ever Three and ever One,  
One in love and one in splendour,  
While unending ages run. Amen.

*Venantius Fortunatus (530-609)*

*Translators: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) & J. M. Neale, (1818-66)*  
*Tune: PANGE LINGUA*

*When the Adoration has been concluded,  
the cross is carried by the celebrant to its place,  
at the right-hand side of the altar.*

*Lighted wooden candles are placed around the Cross.*

## ¶ **Third Part** **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Stand*

*The High Altar is covered with a fair linen cloth.*

*Two wooden candlesticks, with lighted candles are placed on the altar,*

*Procession of celebrant, acolytes and thurifer who go directly to the Altar of Repose.*

*The celebrant puts on the Humeral veil before picking up Ciborium.  
and the Blessed Sacrament is then processed to the High Altar*

*Blessed Sacrament is censed at the Altar of Repose and on High Altar,  
but the incense is not blessed.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

*The celebrant adds,*

*Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.  
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all distress  
as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant says quietly,*

May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to your judgement and condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy be for me  
protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

*The celebrant genuflects,  
takes a particle and holding it slightly raised over the ciborium,  
while facing the people says aloud:*

Behold the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*Please follow the directions of the sidespeople.*

The Body of Christ.

*The communicant replies **Amen** and then receives.*

**\* At home, make an Act of Spiritual Communion. \***

#### **THE ANIMA CHRISTI**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesu, hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from you.  
From the malicious Enemy defend me.  
In the hour of my death call me  
and bid me come to you, that with your Saints  
I may praise you, for ever and ever. Amen.

*As you imagine yourself receiving the Bread of Heaven,  
be still and rest in the love of God.*

*Thank Him for entering beneath the roof of your soul.*

**During communion**, choir sings the anthem **Versa est in luctum** (1602), by **Alonso Lobo** (c. 1555–1617), composed for the funeral of Philip II of Spain in 1598, but the text is that of a standard funeral motet, from Job 30:31 & 7:16.

Versa est in luctum cithara mea,  
et organum meum in vocem flentium.  
Parce mihi Domine,  
nihil enim sunt dies mei.

*My harp is turned to grieving  
and my flute to the voice of those who weep.  
Spare me, O Lord,  
for my days are as nothing.*

Followed by **Crucifixus** by **Antonio Lotti** (1667-1740)  
from the Credo of the Ordinary of the Mass. First published: 1853 in *Musica Sacra: Sammlung kirchlicher Musik, Teil 1, no. 8.*

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis  
sub Pontio Pilato.  
Passus et sepultus est.

*He was indeed crucified for us  
at the hands of Pontius Pilate.  
He died and was buried.*

After the distribution **SILENCE** is kept.

### Concluding Prayer over the People

Let us pray:

*Silence.*

*The celebrant extends his hands towards the people saying,*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
set your passion, cross and death  
between your judgement and our souls,  
now and in the hour of our death.  
Grant mercy and grace to the living,  
rest to the departed,  
to your Church peace and concord  
and to us sinners forgiveness,  
and everlasting life and glory;  
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you are alive and reign,  
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Reverence the Cross and depart in silence.*

✠✠✠✠

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## **TRIDUUM continues**

**HOLY SATURDAY – 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**EASTER LITURGY at 8pm**

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**EASTER SUNDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**PARISH MASS at 10.30am**  
**Evening Prayer at 5pm**

## A reading from an ancient homily for Holy Saturday

### The Lord's descent into hell

"What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.

Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son.

The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross. When Adam, the first created man, sees him, he strikes his breast in terror and calls out to all: 'My Lord be with you all.' And Christ in reply says to Adam: 'And with your spirit.' And grasping his hand he raises him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

'I am your God, who for your sake became your son, who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: Come forth, and those in darkness: Have light, and those who sleep: Rise.

'I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of my hands, arise, you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

'For you, I your God became your son; for you, I the Master took on your form; that of slave; for you, I who am above the heavens came on earth and under the earth; for you, man, I became as a man without help, free among the dead; for you, who left a garden, I was handed over from a garden and crucified in a garden.

'Look at the spittle on my face, which I received because of you, in order to restore you to that first divine inbreathing at creation. See the blows on my cheeks, which I accepted in order to refashion your distorted form to my own image.

'See the scourging of my back, which I accepted in order to disperse the load of your sins which was laid upon your back. See my hands nailed to the tree for a good purpose, for you, who stretched out your hand to the tree for an evil one.

'I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side, for you, who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side healed the pain of your side; my sleep will release you from your sleep in Hades; my sword has checked the sword which was turned against you.

'But arise, let us go hence. The enemy brought you out of the land of paradise; I will reinstate you, no longer in paradise, but on the throne of heaven. I denied you the tree of life, which was a figure, but now I myself am united to you, I who am life. I posted the cherubim to guard you as they would slaves; now I make the cherubim worship you as they would God.

"The cherubim throne has been prepared, the bearers are ready and waiting, the bridal chamber is in order, the food is provided, the everlasting houses and rooms are in readiness; the treasures of good things have been opened; the kingdom of heaven has been prepared before the ages."

### Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people, who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.