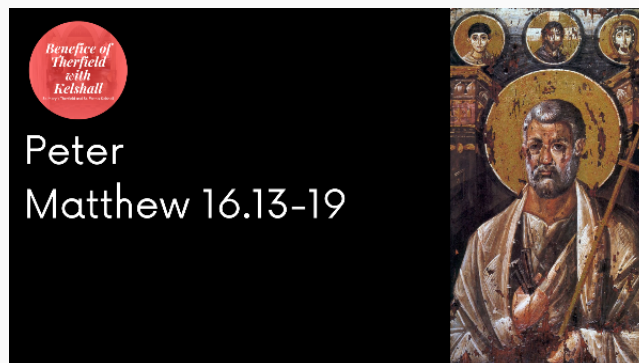




This coming Sunday is the Fifth Sunday of Lent and we continue the series for Lent: this week - Peter.

There are two services in the Benefice, one in a building and one online.

- **9am Family Holy Communion at St. Faith's.** A Service sheet for this service can be downloaded [here](#).
- **10.15am Morning Worship on Zoom** at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830> A Service sheet for this service can be downloaded [here](#).
- As well as this just the sermon is available from 5pm [here](#) and from 5pm on our [Facebook page](#)



For Young People...and the young at heart

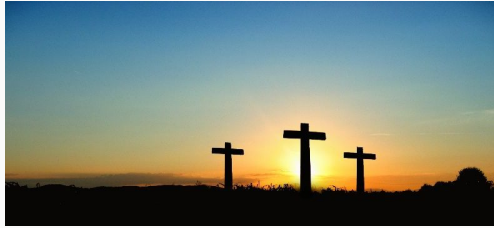
All the activities for children, young people, and those who are young at heart can be downloaded [here](#).

This week are inviting people to make a donkey mask that they can wear to the Palm Sunday service next week: check it out!

Worship is back in St. Mary's Building on Palm Sunday

We are back in St. Mary's on Palm Sunday (28th March) at 10.15am. Normal social distancing rules apply and a mask is necessary. Please go straight to sit in a pew and please leave promptly at the end without 'mingling'.

We know there will be some still shielding, so we will try and Zoom the service too at the usual Zoom code: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>



Holy Week

Although we still have to iron out a few details, here is the current plan for services leading up to and including Holy Week - *Covid allowing*. We shall include this notice in each newsletter, and let you know if the following plan changes.

Sun 28th March - Palm Sunday - **Updated** - There will be a Palm Sunday service in each parish church building. Alas, Palm Sunday procession will not be possible under government guidelines this year.

We shall attempt to stream the St. Mary's service on the normal zoom code (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>) and to our Youtube page. Please bear with us if we run into tech problems. If we do, let us know, and we shall try and rectify them for future services (we are good at streaming, and we are good at in the building, but this will be about the first time we have streamed a service from the building).

Tue 30th March - Stations of the Cross service on Zoom,
7.30pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>

Thu 1st April - Online Agape Meal

6.30pm - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830> - see below for more details: but we gather together online and eat together with some prayers that help us reflect on the events of Holy Week.

Fri 2nd April - An hour at the cross, 12 noon, St Faith's - A quiet reflective service for Good Friday

Sun 4th April - Easter Sunday Dawn Holy Communion, 6.30am - venue TBC
- either in St. Faith's churchyard or in a hilltop location!

Sun 4th April - Easter Sunday Family Holy Communion - 10.15am at **St. Mary's Church**

Upcoming Dates

- Morning Contemplation and prayer every **Tuesday at 8.45am**. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>
- Bible Study is back on **Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm** for Our Final Lent Course on Peter. The study notes will be available on the day to download [here](#). (The following Tuesday is our Stations of the Cross service)
- Sunday and Wednesday Food Share from 11.30am
- Morning Prayer is every **Thursday at 10am** Log in to Zoom and enter meeting ID: 245 025 8414



A Note about the Online Agape on Maundy Thursday

We are planning to celebrate Maundy Thursday with a Zoom Agape this year.

Maundy Thursday is a celebration of two things: Christ instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion (or to put it simply, Jesus giving the Church Holy Communion), and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

Why an Agape...and what is an Agape anyway?

The Agape feast (also called Love feast) was a loosely structured early Christian service that typically included a fellowship meal. This Fellowship Meal goes back to the earliest days of the church and recorded in what is perhaps the earliest church writing 'The Didache'.

Because food was often eaten, it is often presumed to have a connection with the liturgical Holy Communion. If indeed it ever was connected, it became

separated from Communion by the early second century. Neither Scripture nor any documents of the early church ever equate the Agape with the Eucharist and early canons of the church restricted the social meals of Agapes from being given in church sanctuaries. Even so, the prominence of the Agape in the church Fathers suggests that this informal service was second in church life only to the devotional Lord's Supper.

How will we do it?

We will eat a meal together in our own homes, but 'Zoom' in together. There will be a few prayers before we start eating, and a few prayers to end, and it is hoped that we share fellowship together.

We will meet online at 6.30pm on Maundy Thursday 1st April <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805340830>

What should we eat?

Anything you like, but Ivan at the Fox and Duck is going to make takeaway fish and chips available on that day. If you like book with him, collect a little before, stick them in the oven to keep warm whilst we pray, and then let's eat together! If we are eating the same thing might help with the sense of community....

What happened to eating roast Lamb and having the Jewish Seder meal?

Save the roast lamb for Easter Sunday and ask me sometimes about how at least some of the Jewish community feel about us Christians pretending to be Jewish for a day! (As a hint, have you ever been very annoyed about the over-commercialisation of Christmas that ignores the fact that it is a celebration of the birth of Christ...?)

The image is a Third Century fresco of an Agape meal in the Catacombs of Saints Marcellinus and Peter in Rome

Easter Lillies at St. Mary's

If you would like to make a donation for the Easter lilies in memory of your loved ones, please can you put it in an envelope with the names you wish to be remembered and put it through the Genocchio's letterbox at the Old Post House, Therfield.