

**St Mary the Virgin and All Saints  
Potters Bar**

**22nd March 2026**

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent  
(Passion Sunday)**

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,  
especially if this is your first time here.*

*Please stay for refreshments after the Sung Eucharist.*

**TODAY'S SERVICES**

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37 vv 1-14 *A prophecy of the restoration of Israel from captivity in Babylon. The dry bones are the Jews and the graves the land of their captivity.*

New Testament Reading: Romans 8 vv 6-11 *St Paul contrasts life "according to the flesh" with life in the Spirit.*

Gospel: John 11 vv 1-45 *Jesus, because of his love and pity for Mary and Martha, and because of their faith, restores Lazarus to them.*

**Hymns:** 400, 370, 86, 84, 95

**Anthem:** God so loved the world - Goss

5.00pm **THE CROSS OF CHRIST** - a service of music and readings for Passiontide – **at King Charles the Martyr Church**  
**No Evensong at St Mary's**

***The Week Ahead***

<b>Monday</b>	8.00pm	Lent study group
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.15am – 12 noon	<u>Church cleaning session</u> and Church open for visitors
	12 noon	Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b><i>Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord</i></b>
	9.30am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Friday</b>	9.00am	St John's School Easter Assembly
	12.30pm	Stations of the Cross
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)

**NOTE: CLOCKS GO FORWARD NEXT WEEKEND!**

**Next Sunday is PALM SUNDAY – start of Holy Week**

8.00am Said Eucharist *with blessing of palms*

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST** – *we gather for the Liturgy of Palms in the car park of Parkfield Medical Centre*

5.00pm Evensong *Preacher: Nick Alexander, Reader at Christ Church, Little Heath*

Readings next Sunday morning are: Isaiah 50 vv 4-9a; Philippians 2 vv 5-11 and Matthew 21 vv 1-11.

A dramatized reading of the Passion according to St Matthew will take place at the 10am Sung Eucharist.

***If you would like to take a part in the reading of the Passion Gospel, please let Richard know***

Website: [www.stmaryspb.org.uk](http://www.stmaryspb.org.uk)

**Parish Notices**

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**

Next Sunday – Palm Sunday

Eucharists at 8.00am and 10.00am; Evensong at 5.00pm

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week

10.00am Eucharist and short address

8.00pm Compline and short address

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday

11.00am Chrism Eucharist at St Albans Abbey

8.00pm The Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

10.45am Walk of Witness from the church to the War Memorial for ecumenical service at 11.00am

12.30pm Stations of the Cross

1.30pm The Good Friday Liturgy

7.00pm Stainer's Crucifixion at the URC performed by the Good Friday Choir

Saturday 4th April – Holy Saturday

8.00pm The Easter Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter

**Easter Day** Dawn Service with Communion at 6.30am Eucharists at 8.00am and 10.00am

***Full details can be found in the separate leaflet***

**Easter Lilies TODAY** is the last opportunity to give names to Richard or Pearl. A donation of **£1.50** is requested for each name you wish to remember.

The Knit & Natter Group will meet in the choir vestry on **Tuesday 31st March** at 12 noon.

Could **Watchers and Welcomers** please give any holiday dates for May and June to Heather Hawkes?

If you are a regular worshipper here, we would like to encourage you to join our **Electoral Roll** which is being revised during April in preparation for our Annual Meeting on Sunday 17th May. Please ask Sue Grey or Richard for an application form - only new applicants need to complete a form this year. Forms to be returned by 26th April.

We pray for **Bishop Andrew Rumsey**, Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury, who will be the next Bishop of St Albans. He will move with his family to St Albans in the early autumn. Please pray also for **Archbishop Sarah Mullally** as she prepares to be enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury this Wednesday afternoon.

***For your prayers***

**The sick** Margaret Terry, Anna Downes, Carole Waller, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Joan Golden, Robert Peters, Françoise Groves-de-Milleret, Lisa Collins, Henry, Linda, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Robert Wikner

**We also pray for** Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ron Golden, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte, Steven Seal

**The recently departed** Evans Gordon, Philip McDonough

**Those whose anniversary of death falls this week**

Anne Knowles, Victor Taylor, Frederick Warnes, Hilda Forman, Kieran McDonough, Alan Fletcher

**Our parish** We remember those who live in Tiverton Road, Torrington Drive and Trewenna Drive

**Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, Vicar** Tel: 01707 859028

Email: [vicar@stmaryspb.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryspb.org.uk)

Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

Email: [rmosborn@hotmail.com](mailto:rmosborn@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07803 756088 / 020 8363 8197

### COLLECT

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son  
Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

### PSALM Psalm 130

**R** *My soul waits for the Lord.*

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.  
If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you shall be feared. **R**



My soul waits for the Lord.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than the night watch for the morning,  
more than the night watch for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy;  
With him is plenteous redemption  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R**

### SECOND READING Romans 8:6-11

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### GOSPEL John 11:1-45

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about

their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and  
sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.