

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 with S. Paul's Singers

4th SUNDAY of LENT

Laetare, Mothering

15th MARCH 2026

THE PARISH MASS

CHORAL

10.30am

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rector

Mass Setting: *Missa Brevis* (1570)
by G.P da Palestrina (c.1525/6-1594)
Hymns in CAHON (orange book).
Please join in with the Bold Type



THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Choir sings the **Introit, Ave Maria**, Text: S. Luke 1: 28b, 42b,
as set by **Robert Parsons** (c.1535-1572). Music published in
'The Dow Partbooks', late 1560s. Christ Church, Oxford, MSS 984-988.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui. Amen.

*Haile Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you,
you are blessed among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Amen.*

Stand THE ASPERGES

The celebrant blesses the water.

Dear Friends, this water will be used to remind us of our baptism.
Let us ask God to bless it and keep us faithful to the Spirit he has given us.

Lord God almighty, Creator of all life, of body and soul, we ask you to bless this water: As we use it in faith forgive our sins and save us from all illness and the power of evil. Lord, in your mercy give us living water, always springing up as a fountain of salvation: Free us, body and soul, from every danger, and admit us to your presence in purity of heart. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Salt is blessed.

Almighty God, we ask you to bless this salt as once you blessed the salt scattered over the water by the prophet Elisha. Wherever this salt and water are sprinkled, drive away the power of evil, and protect us always by the presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The salt is poured into the water in silence.

The celebrant kneeling at the altar steps sprinkles the altar thrice, then himself, and rises & sprinkles the Servers and People whilst the following is sung from **Psalm 51**.

Antiphon

Thou shalt purge me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Have mercy on me, O God, after thy great goodness.
Thou shalt purge me, etc.
And according to the multitude of thy mercies, do away mine offences.

Thou shalt purge me, etc.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen.**

Thou shalt purge me, etc.

After the sprinkling of the water, the celebrant standing at the steps of the altar sings,

Show us your mercy, O Lord. **And grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, hear my prayer. **And let my cry come unto you.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Graciously hear us, O Lord, holy Father, almighty everlasting God: and vouchsafe to send your holy Angel from heaven; to guard and cherish, protect, visit, and defend all who dwell in this holy place, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult
and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Entrance Antiphon

Isaiah 66: 10-11

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Processional Hymn: 51

At the cross her station keeping (Tune: Stabat Mater)

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Introduction to the Mass

The celebrant welcomes the people and introduces the Mass.

Prayers of Penitence

Sisters and brothers, to prepare ourselves to celebrate
the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

The Confiteor

**I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;**

(And, striking their breast, they say)

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

(Then they continue:)

**therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord, our God. Amen.**

The celebrant pronounces **the Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The choir sings **the Kyrie Eleison**

Kýrie, eléison. Christe, eléison. Kýrie, eléison.

The Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit for the readings

First Reading from the Old Testament

A reading from the First Book of Samuel (16: 1-13)

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' ² Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD"' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' ⁵ He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD.' ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' ¹² He sent and brought David in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23 is sung by the choir

Dominus regit me.

¹ THE Lord is my shepherd : therefore can I lack nothing.

² He shall feed me in a green pasture :

and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

³ He shall convert my soul :

and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

⁵ Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me : thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

⁶ Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life : and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Letter of S. Paul to the Ephesians (5: 8-14)

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible. ¹⁴ For everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

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

Stand & turn to face the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation and Reading

♪ Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

anyone who follows me will have the light of life. *S. John 8:12*

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A ✠ reading from the ✠ Holy Gospel according to ✠ John (9: 1-41)

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³ Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹ Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹ He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹² They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰ The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴ They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶ He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷ Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' ³⁸ He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may

become blind.' ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see," your sin remains.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

Stand

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (Genuflect) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made human. (Rise)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Remain standing

The Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant

Sisters and Brothers, through our common prayer, let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world, and make our thanksgivings to God *saying*, Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Intercessor 1

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church that we may keep a holy Lent by prayer, fasting, meditation on your Holy Word and works of love and justice. Lord, hear us.

Intercessor 2

For Archbishop Sarah, our Bishop Christopher, and his assistant, Alastair. Fr Paul, our Parish Priest, and all bishops, priests and deacons, the leaders of our sister Churches, this congregation and all your people. Lord, hear us.

Intercessor 3

For all people in their daily life and work: For everyone in Deptford, our families, friends and neighbours, and for all those who are alone. Lord, hear us.

Intercessor 4

For peace and justice for all people, and the good use of your Creation: For all people who are hungry, afraid and unfairly treated. Lord, hear us.

Intercessor 5

For those in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble: For the sick, and all in bodily need. (*Fr Paul reads the names on prayer list...*). Lord, hear us.

Intercessor 6

We thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life; our mothers and all who have mothered us, our families and friends, our health, education, homes and our daily food & drink, our work, skills, gifts, and play. Lord, hear us.

Celebrant

For the recently departed, *especially...* and all whose anniversaries fall at this time *especially...*

✠ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

and rise in glory.

The celebrant invites us to offer our personal intentions, and then leads us in asking for the Prayers of our Lady & the Saints.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the BVM we pray: **Hail Mary...**

S. Joseph of Nazareth, **Pray for us.**

S. Peter, Prince of the Apostles,

S. Paul the Apostle, our Patron

S. Augustine and S. Monica

S. Benedict and S. Scholastica

S. Francis and S. Clare of Assisi

Bl. George Herbert, S. Patrick

S. Cyril of Jerusalem, S. Cuthbert

All you angels and saints.

Merciful God

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Remain standing

¶ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Altar is prepared

The Offertory Hymn: 605

Sing we of the blessed Mother (Abbot's Leigh)

Remain standing

Pray my sisters and brothers, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Celebrant sings the Preface in which God is praised for his mighty acts, & the choir sings the Sanctus & Benedictus:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dóminus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra glória tua. Hosánna in excélsis.

✠ Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosánna in excélsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

✠ *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

The celebrant recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is said:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly:

AMEN.

¶ THE COMMUNION RITE

Remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed 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.**

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.**

The Peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace with those immediately around us,
a sign that expresses peace, communion, and love.*

Agnus Dei is sung by the choir.

*during which the celebrant takes the host and breaks it over the paten,
placing a small piece in the chalice.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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.**

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord. *Psalm 122: 3-4*

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople.

The Body / Blood of Christ.

The communicant replies

Amen.

and then receives.



*Flowers are handed to each person as a symbol
of the Mothering of Holy Church for everyone.*

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

*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.*

O Sacred Feast! Wherein Christ is received, his Passion is remembered, our souls are filled with grace and the pledge of eternal glory is received.
O Sacrum Convivium, 13th Century (attributed to S. Thomas Aquinas)

*Choir sings the Communion Motet, Adolescentulus sum ego.
Text: Psalm 119: 141-144, as set by William Mundy (c.1529-1591).*

Adolescentulus sum ego et contemptus;
iustificationes tuas non sum oblitus.
Iustitia tua in aeternum; et lex tua veritas.
Tribulatio et angustia invenerunt me;
mandata tua meditatio mea est.
Dignitas testimonia tua in aeternum.
Intellectum da mihi, et vivam.

*I am but young and held in derision;
I am not forgetful of your judgement.
Your justice is eternal, and your law is truth.
Distress and tribulation have come upon me;
your commands fill my mind.
The righteousness of your testimonies is everlasting.
Grant me understanding and I shall live.*

After receiving Holy Communion read & pray quietly in thanksgiving.

THE JESUS PRAYER

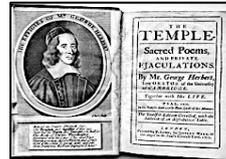
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

THE TRISAGION (Thrice Holy)

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Have mercy on us. (x3)

The Communion Hymn: 595

Shall we not love thee, Mother dear (Tune: Beatitudo)



**Blessed
George Herbert
Priest, Poet,
(1593 – 1633)**

*His two major works
were both published
posthumously:
A Priest to the
Temple, or The
Country Parson,
a treatise on the
priestly life (1652),
and The Temple,
(1633), his major
collection of poetry,
from which this
poem is taken.*

XXI. PRAYER.

PRAYER, the Church's banquet, Angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heaven and earth;

Engine against the Almighty, sinner's tower,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six days' world-transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;

Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted Manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,

Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's
blood,
The land of spices, something understood.

¶ THE CONCLUDING RITE

Stand

Postcommunion Prayer

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

