



PALM SUNDAY 2nd April

11:00am 'Sung Eucharist' (Holy Communion with music) and distribution of Palm Crosses.

MONDAY 3rd April: 'Compline by Candlelight' with Homily. 6pm

TUESDAY 4th April: 'Compline by Candlelight' with Homily. 6pm

WEDNESDAY 5th April: 'Compline by Candlelight' with Homily. 6pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April

11 am at **St. Nicholas Cathedral** for the 'Chrism Mass'

6:00pm at **St. Andrews** for 'Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper'

(Holy Communion with music) followed by a silent 'Watch' in the Garden of Gethsemane (in our Trinity chapel) until 9.00pm. Church will close at 9.10pm

GOOD FRIDAY 7th April

12.30: Lunch (Hot Cross Buns and a hot beverage) in the lower hall.

1.30 pm: Traditional 'Liturgy of the Day' lasting for approximately one hour.

At 3:00pm the funeral bell will toll 33 times (one toll for each year of Jesus' earthly life) after which people will leave in respectful silence. The church will close at 3:05pm.

HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER EVE VIGIL 8th April: 6:00pm
(approximately one hour)

EASTER DAY 9th April 'Sung Eucharist' (Holy Communion with music) beginning at 11:00 am. There will be refreshments and fellowship on completion.



2023

St. Andrew's Church, Newgate Street, Newcastle

PALM SUNDAY (2nd April): 11:00am Holy Communion (with music)

This is the triumphal beginning of the most important week in History!

Today the church often celebrates Christ as hero; when he entered his own city, Jerusalem, on a donkey to accomplish his Paschal Mystery as Messiah (which was to suffer; to die; and to rise again). The altar party and musicians will lead the traditional procession around the church and the symbolic distribution of Palm Crosses *will* take place, reminding us of our common call – to follow Jesus in the best way possible.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew is read in dramatic form.

The liturgical colour is **red**, and as such ‘sets the scene’ for both the week ahead and for the sacrificial nature of Christian discipleship. Following the example of Archbishop Justin, the sacrament will be offered both kinds by ‘intinction’(i.e. bread is ‘dipped’ into the wine first) by the priest before presenting.

In what form will you be there?

COMPLINE (3rd , 4th & 5th April)

A short service; Something for the quiet Christian...

‘Compline by Candlelight’: 6:00pm (lasting approximately 30 mins)

Historically, this is the final act of Christian worship ‘before the ending of the day,’ as we gather in a building that has been prayed in for over 900 years, to humbly commend ourselves, in a reflective mood, to God’s safe-keeping.

After a short musical motet from the choir to set the scene, and a meditative ‘Homily’ (short talk) delivered by a guest speaker, you will be invited to light your candle and join the brief and gentle office of ‘Compline’ (night prayer) which follows in the intimate surroundings of our beautiful chancel. The vocalists we regularly work with from Newcastle University Music faculty (and their alumni) will lead this service of Compline on three consecutive evenings. Each time with unaccompanied voices. Each guest speaker will deliver a meditative reflection on a salient

EASTER DAY (9^h April) Alleluia, He is Risen Indeed!

Beginning at 11:00 am (lasting approximately one hour)

Celebrates the Resurrection from the dead of our Lord Jesus Christ using traditional material from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

- This will be a ‘Sung Eucharist’ (Holy Communion with music).
- Today we get to sing the familiar ‘Gloria’ again for the first time in six weeks!
- Following the example set by our Archbishop of Canterbury, the sacrament (consecrated bread and wine) will be offered in both kinds by ‘intinction’ (i.e. your priest will ‘dip’ the host/wafer into the blood of Christ) before presenting to you.
- There is also a ‘gluten free’ option available during this service.
- Our organist and vocal musicians add spectacular colour to this morning worship by creatively leading all who like to listen or sing along. Their talented contribution ensures the appropriate gravitas for this paramount day of our calendar.
- There will be seasonal light refreshments available in our lower hall on completion.

We hope you can join us for most (or at least some) of this week to give God his ‘worth’ by your prayers and praise.

Finally, If you know of anyone who is searching for meaning, or who may be interested in discovering what our faith is all about, please encourage them to come and find out by spending Holy Week with us...

ALL ARE WELCOME

N.B. Despite the legacy of Coronavirus, and the troubles in our world, we are still an Easter people. Alleluia!

HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER EVE VIGIL (8th April):

6:00pm (approximately one hour)

Part 1 is the ‘service of light’

This celebration normally starts with the lighting of the fire, from which the largest (Paschal) candle is lit.

The Easter (Paschal) Candle is ritually marked and once lit, the cantor sings the traditional ‘Exultat’ (The Easter Proclamation) from the High Altar as we rejoice in all that this light symbolises for us and for our world in our new life of Christ for 2023.

Part 2 is the ‘Liturgy of the Word’

We listen attentively to the story of our Christian journey, recalling (by using selected scripture and music) how God saved the world through history, and in the fulness of time, sent his own Son to be our redeemer.

Traditionally, this leads to when the ‘Gloria’ returns to our liturgy after an absence of 6 weeks. Normally this climax is marked by enthusiastic singing, so we shall mark this special moment by enthusiastic singing and ringing bells!

This night, **we leave Christ in the tomb** and wait until Easter morning (the next day) before singing the familiar ‘Gloria’ and celebrating the Resurrection.

Part 3 is the ‘Liturgy of Baptism’ - where we bless the water in the font and briefly renew our promises (made during ‘Christening’) together as a community.

As we **‘die to self’** and leave Jesus in the Sepulchre (tomb) this is an occasion of mixed emotion, Hope and symbolism which prepares us for the contrast awaiting us the following day...

aspect of the Passion. This develops an important and progressive spiritual journey through the week, with a subtle nuance offered at each service, leading us gently into the following three days of Triduum (see below).

N.B. We depart in silence at 6:35pm.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK (3rd April)

Compline by Candlelight 6pm

Guest Speaker: Rt Revd Stephen Platten (Bishop and Warden of Readers for Newcastle Diocese)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (4th April)

Compline by Candlelight 6pm

Guest Speaker: Jan Porter (Reader for St. Peter, Monkseaton)

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (5th April)

Compline by Candlelight 6pm

Guest Speaker: Revd Canon Richard Hill

THE TRIDUUM

The three distinctive and unique days of prayer that recall the three days that Christ spent in the tomb (from Good Friday until Easter Sunday) which reach a high point in the Easter Vigil, and climax on Easter Day.

All of the following services are rich in symbolism and can leave those who engage feeling cathartic.

1. MAUNDY THURSDAY (6th April)

There will be two key elements to this day.

- (i) **11 am at St. Nicholas Cathedral , for the ‘Chrism Mass.’** Here the diocese gathers for our Bishop (Mark Wroe) to bless all the holy oils used for the coming year, and for those who are ordained to renew their vows. As this is a unique occasion in our ‘mother church’ we

are attending the cathedral **as a parish**, returning to St. Andrews with our holy oil stocks replenished for the coming year.

Consequently, this will replace our usual Thursday lunchtime service in St. Andrews for this week.

(ii) 6:00pm – Holy Communion at St. Andrews (with music) followed by a silent ‘Watch’ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This marks a new beginning – the beginning of the end. The Jewish beginning of the day (in the evening) unites the events of Maundy Thursday with the death of Christ the next afternoon. Here we briefly **re-enact the ‘Last Supper’** (where Jesus washed his disciples’ feet during their final meal together). Here, we are given an opportunity to ‘watch’ in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (see below) in an attempt to do as Jesus commanded.

The Holy Communion service, is where the body and blood of Christ is shared amongst the faithful in memory of Christ; part of which contains the events in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested and betrayed. The liturgical colour is usually white or gold, but given the pandemic legacy we remain in purple (retaining the penitential element) and decorate the Trinity chapel in white (for contrast and celebration).

Altars are stripped (this year uniquely *during* the service) and the service deliberately ends abruptly, with the clergy and musicians scattering symbolically— just as Jesus was abandoned on that very Thursday two thousand and twenty-three years ago.

The church will remain open for anyone who wishes to patiently and prayerfully ‘watch and wait’ in silence as our Lord commanded. Here, we briefly replicate the Garden of Gethsemane, placing the Blessed Sacrament in prime position on the altar in Trinity Chapel. All who are there will see and reflect upon the **‘Real Presence’** (of God) among us, assisted at each quarter hour by meditative music from the choir which allows all present to either join in, or simply allow the music to enhance your private devotions.

Ideally, if you attend the service you will manage ‘one hour’ (as Jesus expected of his disciples) of ‘watching’ on completion -

hopefully without falling asleep!

Alternatively, please feel free to leave on completion of the liturgy, provided you are sensitive to those who remain to ‘watch & wait’ silently..

For those who do not wish to attend a structured service, you might like to simply arrive for the ‘watch’ element and meditate in the intimate surroundings of the Trinity Chapel in your own way.

N.B. The church will be closed at 9:10pm

GOOD FRIDAY (7th April)

This is perhaps the most stark and sombre part of the Triduum, which focusses on the Crucifixion of Christ.

12.30: Firstly, ‘Lunch’ in the form of Hot Cross Buns and a hot beverage at St. Andrew’s in the lower hall. A chance to gather informally.

1.30 pm: Finally, the traditional **‘Liturgy of the Day’**

This begins with a short period of respectful silence, followed by guided prayers, meditations and music for the journey Christ made from his trial, crucifixion and eventual burial. It will last for approximately one hour.

At 3:00pm (the time of Christ’s death) the funeral bell will toll 33 times (one toll for each year of Jesus’ earthly life) after which people will leave in respectful silence.

N.B. The church will close at 3:05pm