**Veiling the Cross for Passiontide**

From Passion Sunday (Lent 5) until Good Friday you may notice that thin purple cloths (veils) have been draped over the crucifixes and crosses in St Paul’s Church.

This is an old custom intended to focus our attention on the passion and death of Christ, reminding us, in a very visual way, that

1. Jesus hid his glory during his Passion, and
2. our faith is made possible only through Christ’s suffering and death on the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross remain a visible retelling of the story of the passion.

Covering the images that we are so used to seeing in the church throughout the year confronts us starkly and reminds us poignantly of all that Christ has won for us. Purple is, of course, the penitential colour of Lent.

Crucifixes will be revealed again on Good Friday, emphasising Jesus’ death.

Then, as in a dramatic unveiling, any other holy images are revealed for the Easter Vigil (early evening on Holy Saturday) to mark the end of the penitential season. The joy of the Easter season and the hope of the Resurrection then come to the forefront.

Based on an article published in 2017: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/a-lenten-tradition-veiling-the-cross-6021>