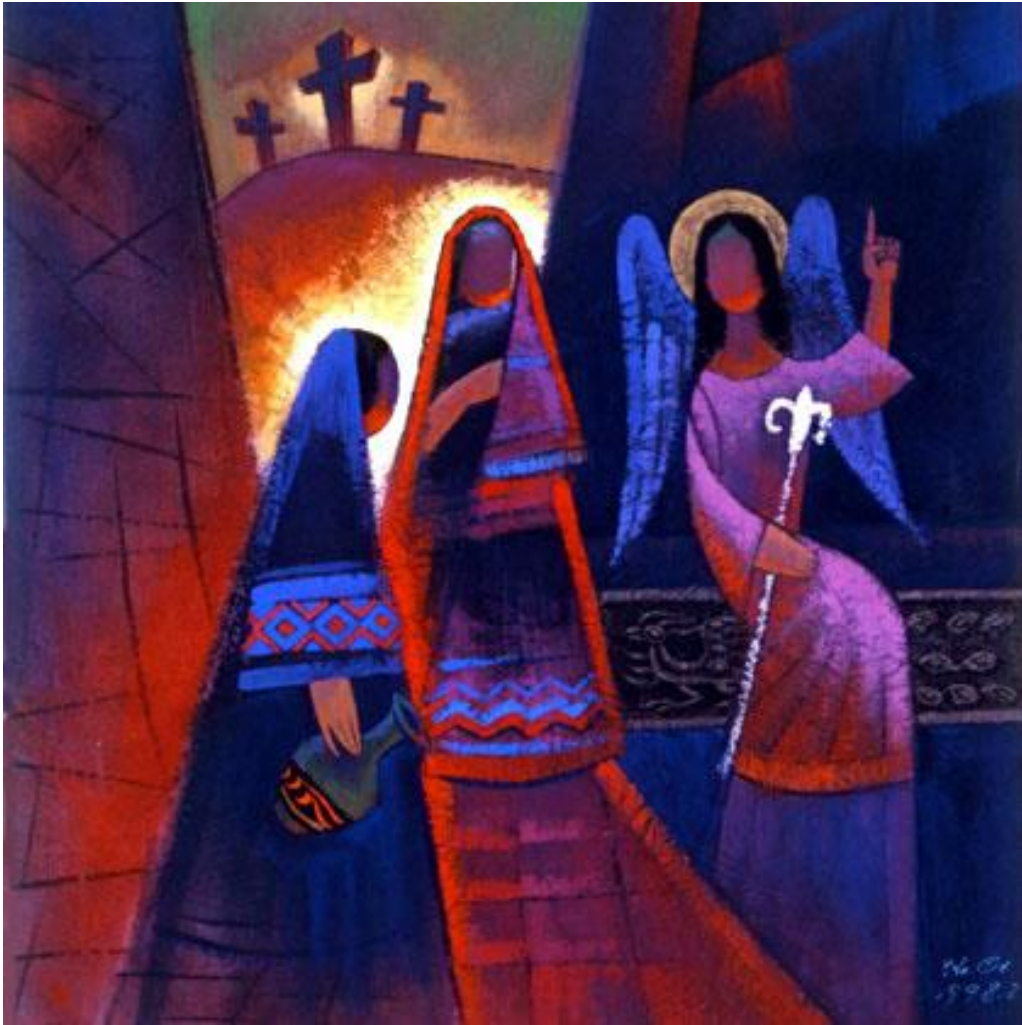


The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham



Parish Mass during Eastertide

During the Eucharist we:

- ❖ gather together as one family
- ❖ say sorry for our sins and receive God's forgiveness
- ❖ proclaim and respond to the word of God
- ❖ remember before God the Church and the world
- ❖ share in the peace of Christ
- ❖ pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- ❖ receive Communion
- ❖ depart with the blessing of God, to live lives to his glory.

Eastertide is a season of joyful reflection on the resurrection of Jesus, and the difference that amazing truth makes to our lives today.

Our service is laden with reminders of Easter - we take every opportunity to say Alleluia; the Paschal candle, first lit on Easter Day, stands at the front of the church; and the Resurrection Garden stands by the font, with empty cross and empty grave.

Above all, the Gospel readings throughout the season of Easter tell the story of how the Risen Christ met and inspired his followers to live lives to his glory, as he does today with us.

*After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord,
descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid;
I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'*

Matthew 28.1-6

*“Public was death; but Power, but Might,
but Life again, but Victory,
were hushed within the dead of night,
the shuttered dark, the secrecy.
And all alone, alone, alone,
He rose again behind the stone.”
Easter Night, by Alice Meynell*

The Gathering

*At the entry of the procession, we stand and a hymn is sung.
The hymn numbers are displayed on the boards on the pillars.*

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He has given us new life. He has given us new hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Words of welcome and introduction follow.

This prayer may be used:

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Prayer of Penitence:

we say sorry for the things we've done wrong

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

(Either)

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**

(or)

God our Father, long-suffering,

full of grace and truth,

you create us from nothing and give us life.

You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.

**We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.**

**We have wounded your love
and marred your image in us.**

Restore us for the sake of your Son,

and bring us to heavenly joy,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution: *God promises forgiveness*

(Either)

May the Father of all mercies
+ cleanse you from your sin,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Or)

May the God of love and power
+ forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis:

a song of praise to God for his wonderful goodness

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest,

**Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

The Collect:

a prayer which sets the theme for the Mass

(Either the Collect of the day, or)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned and the way to life
stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Bible (We sit)

This is the word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel: *a reading from Jesus' life* (We stand)

We stand to face the Gospel as it is brought into the midst of the people.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the priest says:

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

The Sermon: *we consider what God is saying to us in the readings* (We sit)

The Creed: *we state what we believe* (We stand)

Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures;

afterwards he appeared to his followers,

and to all the apostles:

this we have received,

and this we believe. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

(The prayers may conclude with)

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace of Christ (*We stand*)

(*Either*)

Hear the Good News:

the grave is empty, Christ is risen. **Alleluia**

Hear the Good News: the light shines in the darkness
and the darkness can never put it out. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Good News: once we were no people,
now we are God's people. **Alleluia.**

Christ is our peace, the perfect,
unconquerable peace in which we share.

(*Or*)

Early in the morning, as the mist lifted from the soil,
Mary Magdalene and Jesus met. Jesus called her by her name,
and all of her fears and mourning were driven from her heart
by his risen presence. And so it is for us today, his redeemed,
Easter people. We meet in his name and we share in his peace.

The peace of the Risen and Glorious Lord be always with you:
and also with you.

*We sing the Offertory hymn, during which the gifts
are brought forward from God's people to God's altar.*

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.

Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice 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.**



The Eucharistic Prayer (We stand)

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.

*The Eucharistic Prayer, which remembers all Jesus has done for us
and asks him to fill our hearts and lives with his love, continues.*

We sing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

*Then, after we remember the words Jesus used at the Last Supper:
(Either)*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

(or)

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**



The Eucharistic Prayer climaxes:

(Either)

...Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

(or, simply)

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (We sit)

Rejoicing in God's new creation,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, which 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.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Fraction: *we break the bread to share it*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

**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.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

*If you usually receive communion in your own church,
or you have done so in the past, you are most welcome
to receive communion here today.*

*If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing
please bring this order of service with you to the altar rail.*

*If you're not able to walk to the altar rail,
please tell one of the sidespeople.*

Post- Communion Prayer: *we thank God
for his love, revealed in this feast (We stand)*

(Either)

**God of empty cross and opened tomb,
you have met us in Word and Sacrament.
You call us to live in your light and truth.
Strengthen us to grow in love for you and for one
another: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Or)

**God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell.
Fill your Church with faith and hope,
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Notices and the Banns of Marriage



The Dismissal

The Blessing: *we receive the blessing
of God's presence with us always*

(Either)

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who burst from the grave to win a glorious victory,
give you joy as you live the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
strengthen you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

(Or)

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life:

And the blessing...

*We sing the Recessional Hymn. As the procession moves to the west end
of Church, we all turn to face the door, and the world.*

The Dismissal:

we are sent into the world to live lives to God's glory

Alleluia, Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let us then go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia!

*You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments
in the Parish Rooms after the service.*

Please take a weekly Pews News and a monthly Spire Magazine home with you today so you know what's happening in the life of the parish and what you can be part of. Regular updates are also put on the parish website and on the parish Facebook page, and the Parish Administrator will always be in the Office on a weekday morning to answer any questions.

And if you are here for the first time, or still feel new, or have any questions at all, please talk to a member of the clergy or a Warden so we can meet you properly.

God bless, strengthen and inspire you in the week that lies ahead.



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