

# Holy Week at Home: A Guide

Christian liturgical observances, following on from the Jewish custom, begin at sundown.

We are in Lectionary Year A, so our readings will dance between the Gospels of Matthew (the Year A Gospel) and John (the principle Gospel for Holy Week every year). Please keep your Bible with you in a Sacred Corner of your home, a place set apart from the world where you will gather with all the Holy People of God.

All the supplemental resources (reflections, links and prayers) are available on the church web site [WWW.HISJ.Co.UK](http://WWW.HISJ.Co.UK). Please suggest other resources you have found to be helpful.

In Holy Week, time and space are distributed and stretched in an almost cinematic way. We start with the Entry into Jerusalem and the conflict at the Temple, but we return to Bethany before finding ourselves in the Upper Room, the Garden, the house of the High Priest, the Praetorium with Pilate, the streets of Jerusalem once again (the Via Dolorosa), the Foot of The Cross and finally the Tomb – yet all along the way we are firmly in the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we are not able to assemble in our usual way, we must reflect on the idea of Sacred Space and the Gathering of the People. We pray where we are and we connect with one another across time, joined by the Saints of every generation. There is no separation.

We will proclaim the joyful Easter Gospel: He is not here. He has been Raised!

## **Saturday, April 4, 2020 (sunset 19:40)**

*You may wish to cut a small branch and have it ready for the morning.*

*You may wish to observe silence or say evensong, night prayer or compline at this time.*

## **Sunday, April 5, 2020 (10:10)**

### **Palm Sunday (or The Sunday of the Passion with the Liturgy of the Palms)**

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. *Philippians 2.8-9*

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Dear friends in Christ,  
During Lent we have been preparing  
For the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.  
On this day our Lord Jesus Christ  
Entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph.

The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise,  
But the path before him led to self-giving, suffering, and death.  
Today we greet him as our King,  
Although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross.  
We follow him this week from the glory of the palms  
To the glory of the resurrection  
By the way of the dark road of suffering and death.  
United with him in his suffering on the cross,  
May we share his resurrection and new life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help,  
Lord God of our salvation,  
That we may enter with joy  
Into the celebration of those mighty acts  
Whereby you give us life and immortality;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Reading is taken from the Gospel According to Matthew 21.1-11***

It is right to praise you, almighty God,  
For the acts of love by which you have redeemed us  
Through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord.  
The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King,  
With palm branches in their hands, crying,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ  
And follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
Who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty and everliving God,  
In tender love for all our human race  
You sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
To take our flesh  
And suffer death upon a cruel cross.  
May we follow the example of his great humility,  
And share in the glory of his resurrection;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The First Reading is taken from Isaiah 50.4-9a***

***Psalms 31.9-16***

***The Second Reading is taken from Philippians 2.5-11***

***The Passion Reading is taken from The Gospel According to Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 (or the shorter reading Matthew 27.11-54 only)***

***Please refer to the Sunday Sheet***

***A Reflection Video is also available***

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

## **Monday, April 6, 2020 (19:30)**

### **Monday in Holy Week**

God sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. *1 John 4.10*

Almighty God,  
Whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory,  
May we, walking in the way of the cross,  
Find it is for us the way of life;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The First Reading is taken from Isaiah 42.1-9***

***Psalms 36.5-10***

***The Second Reading is taken from Hebrews 9.11-15***

***The Holy Gospel Reading is taken from John 12.1-11***

***A Reflection by Jane Jales is available***

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

## **Tuesday, April 7, 2020 (19:30)**

### **Tuesday in Holy Week**

Anyone who serves me must follow me, says the Lord, and where I am, there shall my servants be also. *John 12.26*

O God,  
By the passion of your blessed Son,  
You made an instrument of shameful death  
To be for us the means of life.  
May our lives be so transformed by his passion  
That we may witness to his grace;  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever.

***The First Reading is taken from Isaiah 49.1-7***

***Psalm 71.1-12***

***The Second Reading is taken from 1 Corinthians 1.18-31***

***The Holy Gospel Reading is taken from John 12.20-36***

***A Reflection by Jane Jales is available.***

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

## **Wednesday, April 8, 2020 (19:30)**

**Wednesday in Holy Week**

By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. *John 13.35*

Lord God,  
Your Son our Saviour gave his body to be whipped  
And turned his face for men to spit upon.  
Give your servants grace to accept suffering for his sake,  
Confident of the glory that will be revealed,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever.

***The First Reading is taken from Isaiah 50.4-9a***

***Psalm 70***

***The Second Reading is taken from Hebrews 12.1-3***

***The Holy Gospel Reading is taken from John 13.21-30***

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

*The Tabernacle (Ombre) is left empty with the door open and the Presence Lamp extinguished*

*There is a link to the Music for the Tenebrae of Maundy Thursday (remember the morning office is said the night before during the Triduum)*

*You may wish to say the Hail Mary.*

*The Lord's Prayer is said again.*

## ***The Triduum***

## **Thursday, April 9, 2020 (10:30)**

### **Maundy Thursday**

*The Chrism Mass is normally Celebrated by the clergy and people in the Cathedral at this time. In this service ordination vows are renewed and the three Holy Oils are blessed and distributed.*

*At this time you may wish to gather the things required for the evening observance: an ointment or oil used for healing, a bowl to wash in, bread and wine, flowers and plants that will become a Garden of prayer, candles.*

*Say a prayer for the clergy and people.*

## **Thursday, April 9, 2020 (8:00)**

### **Maundy Thursday**

*We begin our observance of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist by supporting and thanking the frontline staff of the National Health Service. Their example of lowly service is the heart of the Maundy Thursday story. Please join your friends and neighbours outside and make a loud noise, in gratitude and for courage.*

*Following this, you may wish meditate on the objects which you have chosen to symbolise anointing and the Eucharist.*

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. *John 13.34*

This is the day  
That Christ the Lamb of God  
Gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

This is the day  
That Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

This is the day  
That Christ took a towel  
And washed the disciples' feet,  
Giving us an example that we should do to others  
As he has done to us.

This is the day  
That Christ our God gave us this holy feast,  
That we who eat this bread  
And drink this cup  
May here proclaim his Holy Sacrifice  
And be partakers of his resurrection,

And at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

O God,  
Your Son Jesus Christ  
Has left to us this meal of bread and wine  
In which we share his body and his blood.  
May we who celebrate this sign of his great love  
And long to return to your Holy House  
Show in our lives the fruits of his redemption;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The First Reading is taken from Exodus 12.1-14***

***Psalms 116.10-17***

***The Second Reading is taken from 1 Corinthians 11.23-26***

***The Holy Gospel Reading is taken from John 13.1-15***

***A reflection by Mother Paulette Mullings is available.***

On the night before his death,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ set an example for his disciples  
By washing their feet, an act of humble service.  
He taught that strength and growth  
In the life of the kingdom of God  
Come not by power, authority, or even miracle,  
But by such lowly service.

*You may wish to share in the washing of feet (or hands) as a reminder of the New Commandment: You must love one another as I have loved you. This is followed by the Prayers of the People.*

***A set of Intercessions is available.***

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

Holy God,  
Source of all love,  
On the night of his betrayal  
Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment,  
To love one another as he loved them.  
Write this commandment in our hearts;  
Give us the will to serve others  
As he was the servant of all,  
Who gave his life and died for us,  
Yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew 26.30-46***

***Psalm 22***

*During this time every things is cleared away and the Sacred Space is emptied*

*A vigil is kept in the garden, set apart. Watch and pray.*

**Friday, April 10, 2020 (11:00)**

**Good Friday**

***A video reflection Stations of the Cross is available.***

**Friday, April 10, 2020 (12:00 Noon)**

**Good Friday, The Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

*You should have a Crucifix before you for your prayers this day.*

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. *Philippians 2.8-9*

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned every one to his own way,  
And the Lord has laid on him  
The iniquity of us all.

Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,  
Even death on a cross.

**Almighty God,  
Our heavenly Father,  
We have sinned  
In thought and word and deed;  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We pray you of your mercy,  
Forgive us all that is past,  
And grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
To the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
Look graciously, we pray, on this your family,  
For whom our Lord Jesus Christ  
was willing to be betrayed  
and given into the hands of sinners,

and to suffer death upon the cross;  
who now lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***The First Reading is taken from Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12***

***Psalm 22.1-17***

***The Second Reading is taken from Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9***

***The Passion Reading is taken from John 18.1 – 19.42 (or the shorter reading John 19.17-30 only)***

***A reflection by Dennis Sommers is available.***

*A time of silent prayer or a solemn Intercession is offered.*

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

***A set of Intercessions is available.***

### **Meditation on the Cross of Jesus**

This is the wood of the cross,  
On which hung the Saviour of the world.  
**Come let us worship.**

Christ our Lord became obedient unto death.  
**Come let us worship.**

O Saviour of the world,  
By your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.  
**Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.**

***A video link to the Stabat Mater by Palestrina is available (or find another setting of your choosing)***

*The Lord's Prayer is said again.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
we pray you set your passion, cross, and death  
between your judgement and our souls,  
now and in the hour of our death.  
Give mercy and grace to the living,  
Pardon and rest to the dead,  
To the holy church peace and concord,  
And to us sinners everlasting life and glory;  
For with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

You live and reign,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord,  
Upon your people  
Who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son  
In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.  
Grant them pardon, bring them comfort.  
May their faith grow stronger  
And their eternal salvation be assured.  
We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## **Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020 (9:00)**

*You may wish to say morning prayer at a time of your choosing. You may wish to spend the day cleaning and decorating your home for the Easter Celebration.*

*You may wish to punctuate your day with readings from Scripture: Job 14.1-14; Psalm 31.1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4.1-8; Matthew 27-57-66; John 19.38-42.*

O God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
as the crucified body of your dear Son  
was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath,  
So may we await with him the coming of the third day,  
and rise with him to newness of life;  
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Great Vigil of Easter, April 11, 2020 (sunset 19:52)**

*You may wish to have a small fire and candles, incense and holy water, bells and other ways of making a loud noise, bread and wine ready for the celebration as the sun sets.*

*The service consists of four parts: 1) The Service of Light; 2) The Liturgy of the Word; 3) Christian Initiation, or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; 4) The Holy Eucharist with the administration of Easter Communion (which sadly is not possible at present).*

*Where possible a small outdoor fire may be lit. You may also use incense and holy water if it is available in your home. As the prayers are said candles are lit and taken to the Sacred Place. Candles themselves may represent the Sacred Fire. We reflect on water, cloud (air/smoke) and fire in the Exodus story. We follow a pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of smoke by night. We are making our journey out of slavery into freedom, out of death into life. We are walking The Way of our Lord.*

On this most holy night,

When our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
The Church invites her children throughout the world  
To come together in vigil and prayer.  
This is the Passover of the Lord.  
We remember his death and resurrection  
By hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries (in remembrance);  
We are confident  
That we shall share his victory over death  
And live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father,  
We share in the light of your glory  
Through your Son, the light of the world.  
Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope.  
Purify our minds by his Easter celebration  
And bring us one day to the feast of Eternal light.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

***A link to the Exsultet is available.***

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in  
The brightness of your King! Christ has conquered!  
Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen  
Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound  
With joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us listen attentively to the word of God,  
Recalling how he saved his people throughout history  
And in the fullness of time,  
Sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

***The First Reading is taken from Genesis 1.1 – 2.4a  
Psalm 33 (or another canticle, anthem or hymn)  
Silence and a prayer***

***The Second Reading is taken from Genesis 22.1-18***

***Psalm 16 (or another canticle, anthem or hymn)***

*Silence and a prayer*

***The Third Reading is taken from Exodus 14.10-31; 15.1a***

***A canticle, anthem or hymn***

*Silence and a prayer*

***The Fourth Reading is taken from Baruch 3.9-15, 32 – 4.4***

***Psalm 19 (or another canticle, anthem or hymn)***

*Silence and a prayer*

***The Fifth Reading is taken from Ezekiel 37.1-14***

***Psalm 143 (or another canticle, anthem or hymn)***

*Silence and a prayer*

***(Other readings which are used include Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 (Psalm 46) –  
Isaiah 54.5-14 (Psalm 30) – Isaiah 55.1-11 (A Canticle of Thanksgiving) – Ezekiel 36.24-28  
(Psalm 42) – Zephaniah 3.14-20 (Psalm 98)***

***Here the bells are rung and a loud joyous noise is made to announce the  
Word made Flesh, the Incarnation, the Coming of Jesus Christ into the world.  
Glory to God, You are God!***

Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of life and light,  
This holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ.  
Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism,  
That we may worship you in sincerity and truth,  
And shine as a light in the world;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The New Testament Reading is taken from Romans 6.3-11***

***Psalm 114***

***The Gospel Reading is taken from Matthew 28.1-10***

***A reflection by Jane Jales is available.***

***A set of Intercessions is available.***

**The Renewal of Holy Baptism**

Dear friends,  
Through the paschal mystery

We have been buried with Christ in baptism,  
So that we may rise with him to a new life.  
Now that our Lenten observance is ended,  
Let us renew the promises we made in baptism,  
When we rejected Satan and all his works,  
And promised to serve God faithfully  
In his holy catholic Church.

*Silence is kept as we remember and reflect on our Baptismal vow.*

God the creator, the rock of our salvation,  
has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,  
and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
May he keep us faithful to our calling,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.*

*The Presence Lamp is relit at the centre of our community.*

Giver of all life,  
We are nourished by your Word and Easter Gospel.  
Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith,  
That we may be witnesses to the resurrection  
And show your glory to all the world,  
In the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

## **Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 (10:10)**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. *1 Corinthians*  
5.7-8

Lord of life and power,  
Through the mighty resurrection of your Son,  
You have overcome the old order of sin and death  
And have made all things new in him.  
May we, being dead to sin  
And alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
Reign with him in glory,  
Who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***The First Reading is taken from Acts 10.34-43 (or Jeremiah 31.1-6)***  
***Psalm 118.14-24***

***The Second Reading is taken from Colossians 3.1-4***

***The Gospel Reading is taken from The Gospel According to Matthew 28.1-10 (or John 20.1-18)***

***Please refer to the Sunday Sheet***

***A reflection by Fr David Matthews is available.***

***Prayers of Intercession are available.***

***The Lord's Prayer is said in remembrance of the Holy Eucharist.***

***Share the Peace of the Risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

