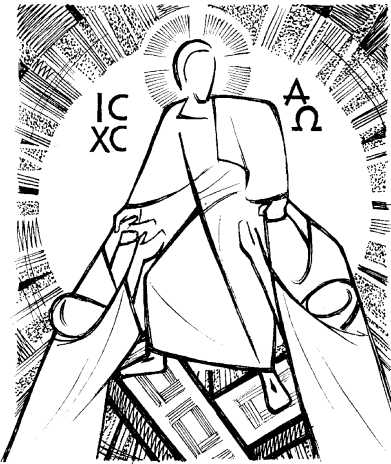


# An invitation to celebrate **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023** at Holy Angels, Ash and **Holy Family, Heath End**



The worship of Holy Week and Easter is an annual invitation to renew our Christian life. At the heart of our faith stands Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Centuries of Christian experience have proved that the liturgy of this week has power, through the Holy Spirit, to draw us to Him anew. The services of this week commemorate the various events of the last week in Jesus' earthly life. But taken together as a whole they form an extended celebration of the victory He won over death, because the cross and resurrection are inseparable. The services and ceremonies of Holy Week enable us more wholeheartedly to share the celebration and experience of Easter.

If you know of anyone from our congregations who is unable to attend Church over this period because of sickness or infirmity please let Fr Robin or Deacon John know and they will be happy to arrange communion at home around Easter.

This year it is the turn of Holy Angels to host these celebrations.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

The church expects us to make our confession at least once a year and before the celebration of Easter is a good time to do this. Fr Robin will be available to hear confessions at 12 noon on 1 April at Holy Family, and after the masses on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week, after the Office on Holy Saturday and by appointment throughout the week.

## **CHILDREN**

Children are very welcome at all our services. They are part of our community and we encourage you to relax with them and let them join in in their own way. We don't expect them to behave like adults! In addition the Way of the Cross on Good Friday is particularly aimed at children. Older children may also find the Easter Vigil service different and interesting.

### **PALM SUNDAY (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

“Hosanna to the Son of David.

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

**HA 5.30pm SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

**HF 9.15am MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS**

**HA 11.00am MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PALMS**

On Palm Sunday the Church commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem to accomplish His saving work by dying and rising again. The liturgy of the day has two distinctive features, the PALM GOSPEL (we are unable to have a procession this year) and the reading of the PASSION GOSPEL.

### **MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April – WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> April**

*There will be mass every day to enable us to prepare for the Three Holy Days.*

**Monday HA 9.30am**

**Tuesday HF 9.30am**

**Wednesday HA 9.30am**

### **THE THREE HOLY DAYS (TRIDUUM)**

As we come to the heart of the Christian year where we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ we gather together across our two parishes. All these services have differences from the normal Sunday masses to help us experience the death and resurrection of Jesus.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY (6<sup>th</sup> April)**

*“Where charity and love are, there is God.”*

### **HA 7.30pm MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

*followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.*

Maundy Thursday marks a new beginning – the beginning of the end. From this point on, our Christian worship is a continuous unity through to Easter, the TRIDUUM or THREE DAYS.

At the end of the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for our communion on Good Friday. THE ALTAR OF REPOSE, where the Lord is placed, becomes our Gethsemane, where Jesus asks us to watch with Him and pray. Everyone present is urged to keep watch with Jesus for a time either at the end of the service or later in the evening.

## **GOOD FRIDAY (7<sup>th</sup> April)**

*“We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”*

### **HA 9.15am Walking the Way with Jesus**

*A children’s version of the Stations of the Cross*

### **10.30am United Service of Witness at Ash Wharf.**

*We gather outside St Peter’s Church, Ash at 10.00 a.m. to walk together to the service. There is also a children’s workshop in St Peter’s Church Centre.*

### **12.00noon Farnham walk of Witness begins from Hart car park.**

### **HA 3.00 p.m. THE LITURGY OF THE LORD’S PASSION**

THE LITURGY is the most important worship of Good Friday and should be our priority over attendance at other services. The theme of this day’s worship is the Crucified Lord.

Good Friday is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. We are encouraged to enter into the solemn mood of the day by eating and drinking less and more simply – and by abstaining from meat. A good rule is one meal and two snacks during the day. The Fast should properly extend until the Easter Vigil.

## HOLY SATURDAY (8<sup>th</sup> April)

*“We were buried with Christ by baptism, that as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might walk in newness of life.”*

**HA 9.30am Office of Readings followed by confessions**

**HA Noon Traditional Blessing of Food**

**HA 8.30pm PASCHAL VIGIL & FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER**



The Vigil is the Feast of all Feasts for Christians and the climax of the season of Lent and the commemorations of Holy Week. This celebration should be seen as the greatest observance of the Christian Year and the foretaste of the Everlasting Easter. **Everyone should be there!** In word and ceremony the Church celebrates Christ's resurrection as the fulfilment of God's unending care for His people, and as the beginning and source of

our baptised life in Christ.

Although not required the Church encourages us to keep Holy Saturday as another day of Fasting and Abstinence- until the Easter Vigil.

## EASTER DAY (9<sup>th</sup> April)

*“Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.”*

**HF 9.15am EASTER DAY MASS**

**HA 11.00am EASTER DAY MASS**

Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays, the first day of the new creation, which extends into a season of joyful reflection on the resurrection of the Lord. The miracle of the resurrection lies not only in the triumph of Jesus over death, but also in the experience of every Christian who has died to sin and has risen with Christ in baptism. Christ's victory at Easter is the beginning of our own victory and redemption in Him. In the Mass we meet the risen Lord, coming to share with us His own endless life.

For that reason the Church normally expects all communicant Catholics to receive Communion at this feast.

*Father Robin and Deacon John wish you all a very Happy Easter.*