

# V Sunday of Lent

17th March 2024



glory on display

JOHN 12:20-33

Take me  
Home !!

## Rector's Tidings

All those who grow plants, even people in the city who love flowers, know that seeds have to die in the soil so that shoots can sprout from them and give us colourful flowers. The seed has to die to give life. In the same way, Jesus died to give us life. And we, his disciples today, have to follow in his footsteps. We have to give ourselves so that others may be happy and live. St. Paul says with Jesus: "No one lives for oneself." Can we say the same of ourselves? It is not reasonable to look for pain and suffering, yet we know that in life there are certain pains we have to accept in line with our tasks in life – a woman has to pass through birth pangs to bring a child into the world; parents sacrifice themselves for their children; nurses dedicate themselves to lighten the pains of the sick. Yes, the seed has to die in the furrows to give life to a new plant. Today Jesus invites us to follow him in accepting the pain and efforts needed in carrying out our task in life.

*Fr Hugo*



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## H o l y C o m m u n i o n

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**Entrance Hymn:**

172 O Jesus I have promised

### **Collect:**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**First Reading:** A reading from Jeremiah (31, 31-34):

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

This is the word of the Lord

***Thanks be to God***

**Responsorial Psalm: (51)**

**R./Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offence. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. **R/**

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **R/**

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you. **R/**

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb. **R/**

## **Second Reading:** A reading from Hebrews (5, 7-9):

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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## **Gradual Hymn:**

107 In the cross of Christ I Glory

## **Gospel Reading**

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (12, 20-33):

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder;

others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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



## **Prayers of Intercession**

We give thanks for all who have helped us to grow in the faith, for teachers and preachers, for shining examples, for friends and relatives. Bless all who seek to bring others to you, all who by their goodness show the world of your goodness. We remember all who work in mission and outreach.

Holy and strong God,  
**help us to reveal your glory.**

We give thanks for explorers and inventors, for all who extend our experience of the world and its mysteries. We remember especially all who are involved in research. We ask you to bless all who work in farming and agriculture, all who seek to provide us with food. Help us to care for the hungry and the homeless.

Holy and strong God,  
**help us to reveal your glory.**

We give thanks for those who regularly sacrifice their time and energies for us. We remember especially our parents and all who care for us. Lord, as we are loved, help us to show love to others. We ask your blessing on all who feel unwanted or lonely.

Holy and strong God,  
**help us to reveal your glory.**

We give you thanks for all medical research, for the caring of doctors and nurses. We pray for all who work in the emergency services and those who risk their lives for others. Lord, bless all who are ill, in pain or in danger with an awareness of your love and care.

Holy and strong God,  
**help us to reveal your glory.**

Glory be to you, O God, for through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have opened to us the way to eternal life. We rejoice in the fellowship of all your saints. We remember before you our loved ones who are departed from us.

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



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## Intercessions

### - For the Church:

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St Matthew's.

- **For the world:**

Zimbabwe, Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land.

- **For our community:**

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard. For Indiebride. The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre . Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary School and Reay Primary School. For our local services, including the post delivery.

- **For the Sick and Bereaved:**

Anastasia, Bangori, Chester, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron, and Stephen.

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**Offertory Hymn**

46 Father, we love you

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**Communion Hymn**

83 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship



**Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Texts for prayer and meditation

Only John tells us this story about the Greek visitors. In John's Gospel, Jesus entered Jerusalem accompanied by a huge crowd who honoured him as he entered the city. Among the crowds were some Greeks and they asked Philip if he could arrange for them to meet Jesus. This encounter with these 'foreigners' stirs Jesus' compassion. He recalls once again that his mission is for people of all nations. On the face of it Jesus was the celebrity of the day. But Jesus knew this hour of seeming triumph would soon crumble into an hour of bitter humiliation and unbearable pain. Within days these very same crowds would be calling for his crucifixion and even his closest friends would desert him. You can read John's full description in John 17-19. Jesus drops a hint to his disciples about his inner turmoil, which they remember after his death. While Jesus is speaking about his 'hour of suffering' God intervenes with an audible voice from heaven, verse 28. It appears some people hear the voice and others think it is thunder, but Jesus makes it clear (verse 30) that God's words are for the peoples' benefit rather than to reassure him.

### We ponder...

- How does Jesus hint at his death on the cross in this reading?
- Jesus also mentions the great principle that guided him in life. What is this principle?
- Who is Jesus referring to when he speaks about the ruler of this world being overthrown (verse 31)?
- In what ways do you serve and follow Jesus?

### Oratio:

Jesus promises he will draw all men to himself when he is lifted up on the cross, verse 32. Have you experienced Jesus drawing you closer to him? Sometimes this sort of loving closeness can be scary. Ask Jesus to help you love and trust him as he so obviously loved and trusted his Father.

Use the words from today's Psalm, especially verse 10, every day this week as your own prayer, 'Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.'



## **Contemplatio:**

Today's other readings throw more light on Jesus' mission to save humankind. In Jeremiah 31:31-34 God speaks of a new covenant with the Jewish people and, through them, all peoples so, 'all will know him' (verse 34). In Hebrews 5 we hear of Jesus' willingness to suffer the humiliation of the cross because it is God's plan for him. Jesus accepted his suffering before it started. At the root of it all is God's passionate love for frail humanity including you and me. How does God's great love change your relationship with him?

## **Recessional Hymn**

110 It is a thing most wonderful

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## **Services This Week**

Sunday 24th March: Palm Sunday  
11am Eucharist & 6pm Spanish Mass

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## **Next Baptism Preparation Session**

Our next FREE preparation session for all those exploring children's baptism will be on Saturday 20th April from 9.30-10.30am. We will share breakfast together, sing and have a bible story with puppets and go through parts of the Baptism service looking at faith. Children, parents/guardians, grandparents, other family

members and potential godparents are all welcome to attend. Don't worry if you missed the first one, and coming to the session doesn't commit you to the July 7th Baptism but it is a way to explore and find out more about what Baptism is and whether it is right for your children or grandchildren.

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## **Bubble Church in the Park**

We are holding a Bubble Church taster in Eythorne Park on **Saturday 6th April from 9.30-10.30am** with pastries and hot drinks as a way of reaching out to our local community. Volunteers welcome! Then on Sunday 7th we will have a full Bubble Church in Christ Church.

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## **Regular Giving**

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



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## **Daily Bible Verse Reflections**

Monday John 8:7

Tuesday Luke 2:47

Wednesday John 8:36

Thursday John 8:58

Friday John 10:38

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## **FREE Music Lessons**

We're offering free, one hour music lessons for singing, guitar and drums in Christ Church on Monday and Thursday evenings. Please get in touch with Ubeimar if you're interested.

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## **Rooms to hire**

We have the Holland Room, large upstairs meeting room and two small upstairs meeting rooms available for hire. Please contact Carolina if interested.

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## **Vacancy: Fundraising Officer**

We're looking for a part-time Fundraising Officer to join our team. This is a really important role so please do share the information with anyone who might be interested. Applicants should send a CV to John Diego (dop@stmatt.co.uk)

## Contacts:

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[www.christchurchbr.org.uk](http://www.christchurchbr.org.uk)



A vibrant blue poster for 'Bubble Church in the park'. At the top center is the Christ Church Parish logo, a white cross with a central square, flanked by the text 'CHRIST CHURCH' and 'PARISH' above, and 'CRISTO SALVADOR' below. To the left of the logo is a yellow paint splat, and to the right is a red one. In the top right corner is a partial view of a brown puppet head with large eyes. In the bottom left corner is a puppet of a boy with dark hair and a wide smile, wearing an orange and white striped shirt. In the bottom right corner is a puppet of a girl with black pigtails and a wide smile, wearing a yellow shirt with a butterfly. The main text 'BUBBLE CHURCH' is in large, bold, yellow and pink letters. Below it, 'in the park' is in white. Further down, in white text, is 'with breakfast, puppets, songs and a Bible story!', followed by '9.30-10.30am', 'Saturday 6th April', 'Eythorne Park', '18 Eythorne Rd, London SW9', and '7RH'.

CHRIST CHURCH  
PARISH  
CRISTO SALVADOR

**BUBBLE CHURCH**  
**in the park**

with breakfast, puppets, songs  
and a Bible story!

**9.30-10.30am**  
**Saturday 6th April**  
**Eythorne Park**  
**18 Eythorne Rd, London SW9**  
**7RH**



# PALM SUNDAY SERVICE DOMINGO DE RAMOS

24th March 2024



11.00 am.



6.00 pm.

