

Pontifical Mass

on Passion Sunday (Lent V)

*Celebrated by the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson
Bishop of Bedford*

Sunday 17th March 2024

A warm welcome to Mass!

The Order of the Mass during Lent is slightly different from the rest of the year. For example, we do not sing (or say) *Alleluia*, but only to take up this song of praise again, with renewed joy, at Easter as we celebrate the victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ over death. The *Gloria* is not used, unless during great feasts, and it is replaced by a sung *Kyrie*.

About the Season

The last two weeks of Lent (sometimes called Passiontide) are marked by darker tones than the rest of the season, as we approach Good Friday. During Passiontide sacred images are veiled so as to hide some of the glory and splendour of the church building and of the liturgy, and to focus our attention on the sorrowful Passion and Death of Our Lord.

SOLEMN RECEPTION OF THE BISHOP AND INTRODUCTION

We **STAND** and face the west door as the bell rings.

The Bishop enters the church greeted by the choir singing the antiphon.

(translation)

Ecce sacerdos magnus,
qui in diebus suis, placuit Deo,
et inventus est iustus.

Behold a great priest
who in his days pleased God,
and has been found just.

(Lorenzo Perosi 1852-1956)

As the antiphon is being sung the Bishop is presented with a crucifix to venerate; then he sprinkles the congregation with holy water.

We remain **STANDING** to sing,

**The royal banners forward go,
the cross shines forth in mystic glow;
where he in flesh, our flesh who made,
our sentence bore, our ransom paid.**

**There whilst he hung, his sacred side
by soldier's spear was opened wide;
to cleanse us in the precious flood
of water mingled with his blood.**

**Fulfilled is now what David told
in true prophetic song of old,
how God the sinner's king should be;
for God is reigning from the tree.**

**O tree of glory, tree most fair,
ordained those holy limbs to bear,
how bright in purple robe it stood,
the purple of a Saviour's blood!**

**To thee, eternal Three in One,
let homage meet by all be done,
as by the cross thou dost restore,
so rule and guide us evermore. Amen.**

The Bishop greets the people saying,

In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Peace be with you.

All: and also with you.

The Bishop welcomes the congregation, then introduces the celebration and the Prayers of Penitence.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*We remain **STANDING**. Alternatively, people can kneel during these prayers.*

The Bishop invites people to confession with the following words,

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept for a time of personal recollection, then we say,

**All: Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven
and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ.
Amen.**

The Bishop pronounces the Absolution saying,

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon ✠ and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

The Kyrie is sung.

You did not shun the company of outcasts and sinners:
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

You carried back to the fold the sheep that had strayed:
Christe, Christe eleison.

All: Christe, Christe eleison.

You did not condemn the woman taken in adultery,
but sent her away in peace:

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

The Collect is said,

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

We SIT for the readings.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

(Jer 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

A pure heart create for me, O God.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

All: A pure heart create for me, O God.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. *(Heb 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

*After the readings we **STAND** to sing the Lent Prose which is sung by the choir (or by a cantor) with the congregation joining in with the refrain.*

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against Thee.**

1. To Thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

Hear us, O Lord...

2. O Thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father:
way of salvation, gate of life celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

Hear us, O Lord...

3. God, we implore Thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord...

4. Sins oft committed, now we lay before Thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Hear us, O Lord...

5. Innocent captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu, our Redeemer.

Hear us, O Lord...

*We **REMAIN STANDING** for the Gospel reading.*

A Gospel Acclamation is sung by the choir. We sing the response,

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

♪ **All: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

♪ **All: Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says,

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

A reading from the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

(John 12:20-33)

All: 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.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

A Homily or address is given, we SIT.

*After this we **STAND** to affirm together the Faith of the Church in the words of the Creed. We turn towards the altar for this.*

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

*The Prayers of Intercession follow. We **KNEEL** (or remain standing).*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Prayers are introduced by the Bishop.

After each petition we say,

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

The Bishop concludes the Intercession is a prayer and all respond

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus

we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:

in humble hope we place at his feet

all that we have and all that we are,

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

We **STAND** for the Sign of Peace.

The Bishop introduces it with these or other words saying,

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We are invited to share a sign of peace, normally a handshake, with those around us.

After this we remain standing for the Offertory Hymn; a collection will be taken at this point to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor.

**○ Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**○ let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**○ let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
○ speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
○ speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.**

**O let me see thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.**

During this time the altar is prepared and the bread and wine are laid upon it for consecration. Then the Bishop says,

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: 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.**

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer follows.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and saying:

**♪ All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of pow'r and God of might.**

**Heaven and earth,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
your pow'r and might.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest heav'ns;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest heav'ns.**

**Blessed, blessed, is he who comes,
Blessed, blessed, is he who comes,
Blessed, is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest heav'ns;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest heav'ns.**

*We **KNEEL** (or remain standing) for the second part of the Eucharistic Prayer.*


Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE, EAT;
THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU;
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

DRINK THIS, ALL OF YOU;
THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT,
WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT,
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

Great is the mystery of faith.

 **All: Christ has died,
Christ is ris'n,
Jesus Christ will come again
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns;
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Thomas, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

 **All: Amen.**

COMMUNION RITE

We **STAND**.

After the Eucharistic Prayer, we keep few moments of silence.

The Bishop introduces the Lord's Prayer; we say,

**All: Our Father, who 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 Agnus Dei is sung,

**♪ All: 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.**

Showing the Host to the congregation, the Bishop invites the people to receive Holy Communion,

This is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

The Bishop reads the Communion Antiphon and then proceeds with the distribution of the Sacrament.

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

*While communicating people the Bishop and the ministers will say,
The Body of Christ
and*

The Blood of Christ

*We reply **Amen** to these words before receiving the Sacrament.*

A note about receiving Holy Communion

Every Baptised and Confirmed person is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion at this point.

If you receive Holy Communion in another church or Christian denomination, you are very welcome to receive the Sacrament here. Should you require a gluten-free wafer, please say so to the Priest.

Intinction (dipping the host into the chalice) is not permitted.

If do not wish to receive Communion, or if you are not Confirmed, you are invited to approach the altar to receive an individual blessing. Please indicate this by carrying this order of service with you.

We SIT after receiving Communion.

The following anthem is sung by the choir.

Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee,
Ah! thou friend of man, restore me!
On thy loving grace relying,
for the bread of life I'm dying.
Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease,
Fill my heart with joy and endless peace,
when the breath of life has left me,
may my soul be blended with thee.

Music:- G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

CONCLUDING RITES

The Post-Communion Prayer is said and all respond,

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever
All: Amen.

We SIT for the notices.

Notices regarding the life and work of the Church may be given at this point.

*After this, we **STAND** for the final Blessing.*

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: Both now and forever.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;

*We **GENUFLECT***

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

*We remain **STANDING** for the Recessional Hymn.*

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,

Saviour, Master, King!

Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,

hear us as we sing:

***Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.***

**Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:**

*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

**Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:**

Yours the glory and the crown...

**Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:**

Yours the glory and the crown...

**So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:**

Yours the glory and the crown...

The service ends with the Angelus.

THE ANGELUS

This prayer is used after Mass throughout the year (apart from Eastertide). It recalls the moment in which the Word of God took human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

All: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

All: Be it unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

All: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.**

Let us pray,

Pour forth, we beseech thee,

O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that,
as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ,
by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion,
we may come to share in the glory of his resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



*The Parish of All Saints' is the Church of England
in Houghton Regis, Linmere, Thorn, Bidwell West, and North Dunstable.*

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