

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

16 March 2008

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PALM SUNDAY

At the beginning of Holy Week I simply write to repeat the annual reminder that the key to a truly happy Easter is a well-kept Holy Week. Many members of the congregation here derive much from the liturgy during Holy Week and Easter, but (to my certain knowledge) there are also some for whom the distinctive services in the latter part of Holy Week are still, as yet, a closed book. This week we travel along Christ's Way of Sorrows, which most wonderfully turns out to be the path to glory, both for Christ and also for those who in baptismal reality share in his risen life. The worship of the Church has so much to offer the people of God during the Great Week, and it is my hope and prayer that St Mary's people will avail themselves of as much of it as possible, especially at the principal occasions on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This year, very much by exception, 'our' Easter Vigil will be at the Cathedral, not at St Mary's, partly because we have candidates for baptism and confirmation. It is worth remembering that from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter itself ('The Easter Triduum') it is all really 'one experience,' and, very significantly, there is no Dismissal either at the end of the Maundy Thursday Eucharist or at the end of the Good Friday rite. It is all one Paschal experience, into which we Christians are caught up annually, as we relive the historical events, and wait once more for the risen Christ to proclaim his own resurrection life, in which we already have a share through our baptism. W.R.H.

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. **Please make yourselves known**, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

**Our prayers today.** In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church. In the diocese we pray for all those who will be baptized or confirmed at the Cathedral at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, including from our own parish:

Clare Chubb, Maria Harradine, Paul Hill, Caroline Holmes,  
Elizabeth Humphries, Sarah Johnson and Hannah Phillips.

Our parish prayer is for the deepening of our own devotion to Christ in his Passion, and in our systematic prayer for the parish we pray today for the people of West Street.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*

Palm crosses will be blessed at the start of the service.

Order 1: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 397

Other Passiontide texts: page 312.

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191

**0930 PROCESSION OF PALMS and SUNG EUCHARIST**

*Common Worship rite*

There is a special service-paper for the Eucharist today. Apart from the Weekly Notes no other books and papers are needed.

'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall. Crèche available on request.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Batten*, Short Service.

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in B minor (BWV 544). *J S Bach*. JC

**1100 CHORAL MATTINS.** *Book of Common Prayer rite*

Sermon by *the Vicar*

**Commemoration of the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem.**

Organ: Valet will ich dir geben (B flat). *J S Bach*

Introit: Hosanna filio David.

*Weelkes*

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna. Thou that sittest in the highest heavens. Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

Responses: page 8  
Venite (sung in full during Lent)  
Hymn 511

Music: *Byrd*

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*There is an abrupt change of devotional mood at this point, and the remainder of the rite concentrates on the Passion of Christ.*

**Mattins of the Passion of Our Lord.**

Psalm 69 (omit 23-29 – in brackets in the prayer books). Page 216.

*The lament of God's suffering servant.*

First Lesson: Isaiah 42: 1-7 Blue book: page 534.

*The call of the suffering 'Servant of the Lord.'*

Remain seated for the Old Testament Canticle (sung by the choir):

The Lamentation of Jeremiah. *Bairstow*

*The text of the Lamentation is on a separate paper.*

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 Blue book: page 532.

*'Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God.'*

Hymn 95

The Creed (page 12) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 63).

Anthem: Nolo mortem peccatoris. *Morley*

Nolo mortem peccatoris;  
haec sunt verba Salvatoris:  
(*'I desire not the death of a sinner;'  
these are the Saviour's words:*)

Father, I am thine only Son,	Father, behold my painful smart,
Sent down from heaven mankind to save;	Taken for man on every side;
Father, all things fulfilled and done	Even from my birth to death most tart
According to thy will I have:	No kind of pain I have denied,
Father, my will now all is this:	But suffered all, and all for this:
'Nolo mortem peccatoris.'	'Nolo mortem peccatoris.'

Prayers. Hymn 79 [Tune 128 ii]; Collection. The Blessing.  
Organ: Prelude and Fugue in F minor (BWV 534). *J S Bach* JH

**1800 Evening Prayer**

In church during Holy Week and Easter.

Full details of the arrangements for Holy Week and Easter are given in *Ewell Parish News* for April, which all regular members of the congregation should already have. The centre-page spread lists everything, together with several notes about the services. A very basic summary is given below.

**Summary of Holy Week and Easter arrangements:**

**Monday:** 1830 Holy Communion. **Tuesday:** 1000 Holy Communion;  
**Wednesday:** 1140 The Litany 1200 Holy Communion.

**Maundy Thursday:** 2000 *Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Supper*, followed by the *Watch of the Passion* until Midnight. **Good Friday:** 1115 Children's Stations of the Cross; 1200 The Preaching of the Passion (the service lasts one hour); **1900 The Good Friday Liturgy (Ante-Communion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion).** **Holy Saturday:** 0900 Ante-Communion of the Burial of Our Lord. **Easter services:** 2000 (Holy Saturday night) **At the Cathedral (see below): the Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection; Sunday morning at St Mary's:** 0700 The Service of Light; 0800 Holy Communion; 0930 *Procession, Blessing of the Easter Garden, and Sung Eucharist with*

*Renewal of Baptismal Vows*; 1100 *Choral Mattins*; 1210 Holy Communion; 1800 Evening Prayer at the Easter Garden.

### Additional announcements for Palm Sunday 2008

A few points about the Holy Week and Easter services this year:

**1. Palm crosses.** We have not provided palm crosses on Palm Sunday at St Mary's for the last few years, after finding that very few palms were in fact collected, and all the rest were wasted. No-one has actually complained about their subsequent absence. However we have continued to use the big ones for the Procession. In any case, as I have frequently pointed out, it is actually the *carrying* of palms and other branches, rather than *receiving* a palm cross, which is the principal purpose of the palms of Palm Sunday, and the Procession of Palms will take place as usual at the beginning of the Sung Eucharist. *However*, this year we have a certain number of palm crosses left over from the Women's World Day of Prayer Service, and these are available today for those who want them. W.R.H.

**2. The Watch of the Passion.** The chart for this annual act of devotion on Maundy Thursday night is in position today. I hope it will be initialled (or ticked) by many people *today*. This is an opportunity for *silent prayer with one another*, as together we kneel before, and in communion with, the Christ of Gethsemane. After a couple of years of not being well observed, the attendance at the Watch has been much better in the last year or two. If anyone is a bit unsure of what to do during the Watch, please have a word with me. However, guidelines and books are always available on the night. Whilst there is always a decent number at the start of the Watch, it invariably tails off later on; that is why the chart is important, even though there are always some who come towards the end. Please think about this today, and sign up if you can. The Lord said to his disciples then, and still says it now, 'Could you not watch with me one hour?' Or even half? W.R.H.

**3.** Our arrangements for **Good Friday** were changed two years ago, and it seemed a successful thing to do. These arrangements are being repeated this year. **Children's Stations of the Cross** will take place as usual at 1115. The service at 1200 will last for no more than one hour, and will be a service of the **Preaching of the Passion**, and this year it will be based on some of our Stations of the Cross. The choir will not be at this service. **The Good Friday Liturgy** will take place in the evening at **1900**, and again this should only last for just about one hour. The choir will be singing at this service.

**4. The Easter Vigil.** The theological and devotional points which I have emphasised over the years about this particular rite put it in a class of its own. Those who come to it year by year will testify to its power, as the rite moves from darkness to light, and from death to life. It is the Christian Passover: Christ re-born in the waters of death, and the baptized Christian taken into the Christ-experience. Mainly (though not entirely) because this year we have candidates for baptism and confirmation, we shall not be celebrating the Vigil at St Mary's, and 'our Vigil' will be *at the Cathedral*, where the service starts at 2000 on Holy Saturday evening. Anyone may attend this service. The feature of the Blessing of the Water (which occurs at the Easter Vigil) will take place this year at St Mary's at the Sung Eucharist on Easter Morning, together with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the formal 'return' of the Alleluia. Next year, the Easter Vigil should take place here as normal. W.R.H.

#### **Other events and notices.**

Sunday 1500 Confirmation rehearsal at the Cathedral.

Monday From 1930: Altar servers' rehearsals.  
1930: Good Friday; 1950 Maundy Thursday.

Tuesday

Tuesday evening: 1930 for 2000 in the **Church Hall**. Coffee from 1930.

**DIALOGUES WITH A DIFFERENCE on Christian Denominations.**

*with Dr Patrick Miller.*

**This week: Where do we go from here?.**

1900 Adult Confirmation Class.

1900 The main Choir Practice for the Easter Triduum.

Wednesday 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall, with *Hot Cross Buns* and a special **Raffle** in aid of the Jeel al Amal Home for Boys in Bethany. Raffle prizes will be most welcome.

Saturday 0930 Junior Confirmation Class.

**Gill and Richard Bird** thank everyone for the cards and good wishes received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

**The Electoral Roll** of the parish is now being revised. This is a routine annual revision, unlike last year, when everyone had to make a new application. The Electoral Roll is the working register of the local church; all who 'belong' to St Mary's should be on it. This revision happens every year in the run-up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. We have been plugging this lately, mainly for the benefit of those who should have signed up last year, but didn't. The Roll will be soon be frozen until *after* the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29 April, so please check to see if you are really on the Roll, and if necessary fill in an ER form

**Easter Jobs.** I am always grateful to those who do additional jobs in and around the church this time of year. The beautifully decorated church at Easter doesn't just happen; it is the result of the devotion and service of people who care. We could do with some help on Holy Saturday morning from about 1100 for a whole variety of sacristy jobs, including changing frontals and altar linen, dealing with candles and the eucharistic vessels, folding service-papers, and all that sort of thing. I shall be busy with Confirmation Candidates for much of the morning, and will not be able to do some of the things that I normally do on that day, so I shall be more than grateful for any additional help. W.R.H.

**Coffee Morning coach outings.** Advance notice that there are **three** coach outings planned for this year: Thursday, 19 June to **Eastbourne**; Thursday 11 September to **Chichester and Bosham**; and Friday, 28 November to **Portsmouth** for the *Victorian Festival of Christmas*. Further details in due course, but book the dates now. J.B.

A fair number of **Christian Stewardship Envelopes** are still awaiting collection. They are conspicuously near the west door, just by the sign 'You've Got Mail.'

**Knitting for Lent.** Please bring any finished 'caps for sailors' either on Easter Day or the Sunday after. Please leave them in the bag in the Welcome Area.

**Lent boxes** are due back next Sunday. Those who are able to gift aid their donations are asked to enclose their cheque (made out as indicated on the leaflet) together with the completed Gift Aid form inside the Lent box.

**Easter Flowers.** If anyone would like to make a small donation for Easter flowers in church, please see Sybil Hale or Sue Davis.

There are some brightly coloured posters for **Good Friday** and for **Easter Day**. Might they all be taken away today? They are no use afterwards. Ewell needs to know that the parish church is very much in business at this time of year.

We have been notified of the death last week of **Ray Fell**. Our Christian sympathy goes to Betty at this time. Ray's funeral will be at the United Reformed Church on Monday, 31 March at 1500. May he rest in peace.

*Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.*