

Parish of Calne & Blackland – Holy Week & Easter 2019

14th April - Palm Sunday

8.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion
 10.00 am St Mary's Palm Procession + Francis the donkey + dramatic reading of the Passion gospel + united Parish Eucharist

15th April - Monday

8.30am St Mary's Morning Prayer
 5.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
 7.00pm St Mary's Meditation + Compline

16th April - Tuesday

8.30am St Mary's Morning Prayer
 5.30pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
 7.00pm St Mary's Meditation + Compline

17th April - Wednesday

8.30am St Mary's Morning Prayer
 10.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion
 5.30 pm St Mary's Evening Prayer
 7.00 pm St Mary's Meditation + Compline

18th April - Maundy Thursday

8.30am St Mary's Morning Prayer
 11.00 am Salisbury Cathedral:
 Blessing of the oils, renewal of ministerial vows
 7.30 pm St Mary's Commemoration of Last Supper, stripping of the altars, and vigil of prayer

19th April - Good Friday

8.30am St Mary's Morning Prayer
 9.15 am *From St Edmund's RC church, Oxford Road*
 The Way of the Cross (stopping at 'stations' through the town)
 11.00am *Methodist Church, Silver Street*
 Calne Partnership of churches' Service
 2.00-3.00 pm St Mary's An hour at the cross
 7.00pm St Mary's Choral Meditation for Good Friday led by St Mary's choir & friends

20th April - Holy Saturday

9.30 am St Mary's Making the Easter Garden (children and young people v. welcome)
 7.00 pm St Mary's Vigil service

21st April - Easter Sunday

5.30 am St Mary's Lighting new fire + Paschal candle + renewal of baptismal vows + Dawn Eucharist
 8.00 am St Mary's Holy Communion
 9.30 am St Peter's Holy Communion with Easter eggs
 10.00 am St Mary's Parish Eucharist / Baptism / Hallelujah chorus / Easter eggs
 10.45 am Holy Trinity Parish Eucharist with Easter eggs



Holy Week and Easter 2019

Two thousand years ago a young man in his early thirties from the town of Nazareth in northern Israel arrived in the capital city of Jerusalem with a group of friends and followers. He was Jesus. They had come to celebrate a Jewish festival known as "Passover". In this festival the Jewish people remembered (and still remember today) that they became a people when they were delivered from slavery in Egypt under the Pharaohs to a place of freedom. The story may be familiar.

Jesus came into Jerusalem as the city began to prepare for the Passover festival. The gospel writers tell us that he arrived with something of a fanfare... we commemorate it on Palm

Sunday. Jesus celebrated Passover with his friends, the disciples, in an 'upper room' during which he taught them to love and serve one another just as he had come to serve them - he demonstrated this by washing their feet. He then went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane where he was betrayed and arrested and taken before the Council of the High Priest, on trumped-up charges. He was then taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. Pilate was reluctant to get involved to begin with but feared civil unrest and so he had Jesus flogged before sending him away to be crucified - a form of death reserved for criminals.

Jesus died on what we call today 'Good Friday'. It was 'good' not because of the manner of Jesus' death but because of the act of love and reconciliation that lies at the heart of it. The cross of Jesus is God's sign which, as incredible as it might seem, says "I love you!". Without Christ's death there would be no resurrection. Without Good Friday there can be no Easter Day. We may prefer to go straight from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, from one apparent triumph to another, but we cannot circumvent the cross and Jesus' brutal suffering and death. There is no way around it but only through it. That's why it's important that we walk the way of the cross through Holy Week so that we can be touched in worship by the extraordinary, and in many ways the terrifying truth of the gospel which yet remains Good News even after 2000 years.

So please do join with as much of the Holy Week journey as you are able. You will find the details of services and activities overleaf. And when it arrives I wish a very 'Happy Easter'.

With Easter Blessings,

Bob

