



# ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17th, 2024



Welcome to St Laurence's this morning, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Today sees the beginning of Passiontide: our thoughts turn from Jesus' life and ministry towards his final journey to Jerusalem, and then his death and resurrection.

Today, Jesus reminds us that unless a seed die, it cannot produce a rich harvest – an insight that lies at the very heart of our Christian life. And so, like Jeremiah in today's first reading, we pray that God will inscribe this command to give ourselves to the service of love deep in our hearts.

We regret that the promised speaker from the Children's Society is unable to be with us today, but we are very fortunate to have Hannah, from a different young persons' charity, Action of Conservation, instead. She will talk about the work of this most important charity after the service in the church hall. And our preacher this morning will be Grace Blyth, who is our Children's Society parish rep

*Before the service begins...*

- *Please do not talk to each other before mass.* Talk to God before mass, and to each other afterwards. From about 9.45am we hope to have silence in church except for only the most necessary communication. (Many of us complain we never hear God speaking to us: do we give him a chance to do so?) In the silence, there is a chance to read through the lessons and to prepare for mass: in particular, to think about the things we are sorry for, have come to give God thanks for, to pray for...
- *Please do talk to each other after mass.* Please do not rush off without a word to anyone. Why not come through to the church hall for coffee – especially if you do not normally do so – and make a point of talking to people you do not know?
- During Lent, we are giving up the organ to accompany our singing. Please sing as best you can to the glory of God! After all, God created *your* voice to be used in his praise and worship. We are blessed with a resonant church, and every voice makes a difference.
- *The readings for this service can be found in the centrefold of this booklet.*

At the beginning of the service, please keep silence. As the clergy and servers enter church, the choir sing the entrance antiphon: *Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.*

We sing the first hymn

LEAD us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.

Saviour! breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
all our weakness thou dost know,  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy! (339)

In the name of the ✙ Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit:

ALL: Amen

The Lord be with you:  
and also with you.

The priest welcomes everyone to St Laurence's  
and introduces the theme of the service.

We are invited to call to mind whatever  
we have done wrong in the sight of God.

We keep silence.

You were sent to heal the contrite: Lord, have mercy



You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy



You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:

Lord, have mercy



May almighty God have mercy upon you  
forgive you your sins  
and bring you to eternal life.

Amen

During Lent, we omit the Gloria.

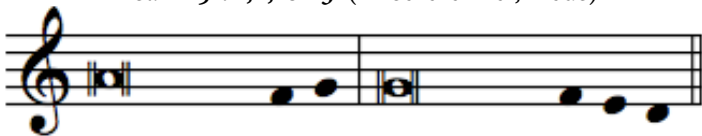
Please remain standing while the priest prays the opening prayer:

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

Amen

Then everyone sits to listen to the  
Old Testament reading (the readings are  
printed out in the Centrefold of this booklet)

Psalm 51: 1,2,10-13 (Miserere Mei, Deus)



Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great  
goodness:

according to the multitude of thy mercies do away  
mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:  
and cleanse me from my sin.

Make me a clean heart, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence:  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again:  
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:  
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Remain seated for the New Testament reading.

Song before the Gospel

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,  
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into  
campground.

Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,  
That promised land where all is peace?

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,  
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into  
campground.

The Gospel

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

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

Glory and praise to you, O Christ

Please turn to face the reader to listen to the  
words of the Gospel (John 12:20-33)

The Lord be with you:

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according  
to John: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

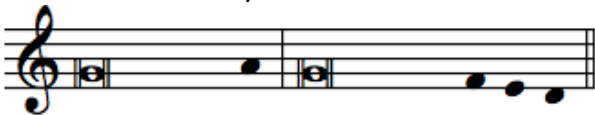
This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you O Christ.

The Gospel song continues:

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,  
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into  
campground.

Please be seated for the sermon.

Afterwards, everyone stands for the creed



We sing together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

For by his will they were created and have their  
being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

For with His blood He purchased us for God,\*  
from every tribe and language, \*  
from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" \*  
Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen

We all sit or kneel for the prayers.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Please stand for the peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

You are welcome to smile at or wave or bow to  
your neighbour.

#### THE OFFERTORY

Gifts of bread and wine are placed on the  
altar. There is no collection at this point in the  
service. Please leave your offering in the box  
as you leave church (if you have not done so).

We stand to sing the offertory hymn:

Who is this, so weak and helpless,  
child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
rudely in a stable sheltered,  
coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation,  
who this wondrous path has trod;  
he is God from everlasting,  
and to everlasting God.

Who is this – a Man of Sorrows,  
walking sadly life's hard way,  
homeless, weary, sighing, weeping  
over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Saviour,  
who above the starry sky  
now for us a place prepareth,  
where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him raining  
 drops of blood upon the ground!  
 Who is this – despised, rejected,  
 mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
 'Tis our God, who gifts and graces  
 on his church now poureth down;  
 who shall smite in holy vengeance  
 all his foes beneath his throne.

Who is this that hangeth dying  
 with the thieves on either side?  
 Nails his hands and feet are tearing,  
 and the spear hath pierced his side.  
 'Tis the God, who ever liveth  
 'mid the shining ones on high,  
 in the glorious golden city,  
 reigning everlastingly.

*W Walsham How (1823–97)*

### THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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. Amen

The priest invites the people to join in  
 the eucharistic celebration, the *Great*  
 Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you  
 and also with you.

Lift up your hearts  
 We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
 It is right to give thanks and praise

Father, we give you thanks and praise:



Father, for your gift of life:



Father, you raise us from the dead:



Jesus is our resurrection:



Giver of eternal life:



Jesus gives us hope in darkness:



Out of darkness into life:



With angels and archangels:



With all the company of heaven:



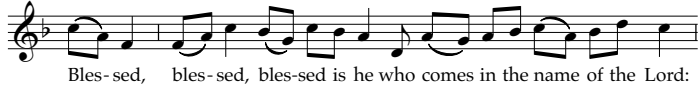
CANTOR: PEOPLE:



PEOPLE:



CANTOR: CHOIR:



PEOPLE:



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 be to us 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.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

PEOPLE:



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 & 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 St Laurence & all the saints,  
 may praise and glorify you for ever,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
 through him and with him and in him,

PEOPLE:



in the unity of the Holy Spirit,



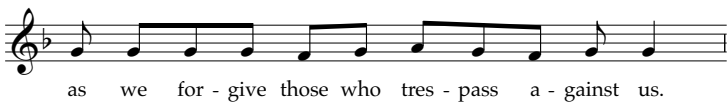
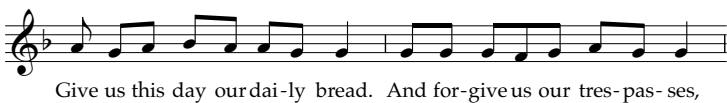
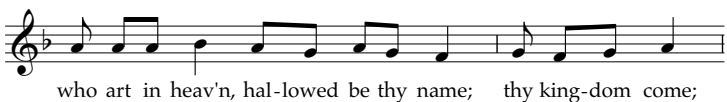
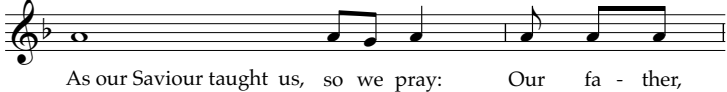
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
 for ever and ever.



Remaining standing, we sing together the  
 Lord's prayer:

PRIEST:

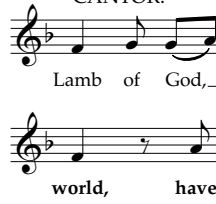
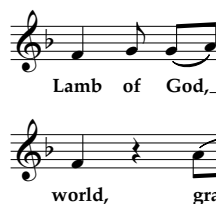
PEOPLE:



We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,  
 because we all share in one bread.

Please kneel

CANTOR:	PEOPLE:
	
	
	

Behold the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

The priest will say to all: The body of Christ  
and everyone who intends to receive  
communion replies together: *Amen*.

All who are prepared and are accustomed to  
receiving holy communion are invited to join  
with us this morning. Please follow the guidance  
of the churchwardens, who will invite you to  
the front of the church to receive if you wish.  
Please receive the host standing, and allow the  
priest to drop the wafer into your hand. If  
you wish to share in the chalice, please move  
over to a chalice bearer to the left or right of  
the priest. If you would like a blessing instead,  
please bow your head.

**Communion Anthem:**

Ave, Ave verum corpus  
natum ex Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine.

Cuius latus perforatum  
unda fluxit et sanguine  
esto nobis proegustatum  
in mortis examine.

(Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, which  
truly suffered, crucified for humankind; from whose  
wounded side water and blood flowed; be our  
nourishment in the trials of death.)

**Communion hymn**

LORD Jesus, think on me,  
And purge away my sin;  
From earthborn passions set me free,  
And make me pure within.



Lord Jesus, think on me,  
With care and woe opprest;  
Let me thy loving servant be,  
And taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery  
Be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
When flows the tempest high:  
When on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
That, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
And share thy joy at last.



NEARER, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee;  
Even though it be a cross  
That raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be —  
Nearer, my God, to thee!  
Nearer to thee!

Though, like the wanderer,  
The sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me,  
My rest a stone.  
Yet, in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer, my God, to thee!  
Nearer to thee!

There let the way appear  
Steps unto heaven;  
All that thou sendest me  
In mercy given:  
Angels to beckon me  
Nearer, my God, to thee!  
Nearer to thee!

Then, with my waking thought  
Bright with thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs  
Bethel I'll raise  
So by my woes to be  
Nearer, my God, to thee!  
Nearer to thee!

Or, if on joyful wing  
Cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon and stars forgot  
Upward I fly,  
Still all my song should be  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*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.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,  
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,  
in whose Body and Blood we have communion  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

After this prayer, please be seated for the Church notices, then stand for God's blessing  
Go in the peace of Christ: Thanks be to God.

Everyone sings the last hymn as the clergy, choir and servers leave the church.

PRAISE the Lord! ye heavens, adore him;  
Praise him, angels in the height;  
Sun and moon, rejoice before him,  
Praise him, all ye stars and light:  
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken,  
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
Laws, which never shall be broken,  
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;  
Never shall his promise fail;  
God has made his saints victorious.  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Hosts on high, his power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify his name!

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,  
Lord, we offer to thy name;  
Young and old, thy praise expressing,  
Join their Saviour to proclaim.  
As the saints in heaven adore thee,  
We would bow before thy throne;  
As thine angels serve before thee,  
So on earth thy will be done.

*Martin Rinkart (1636)*

After the service, please do go through to the Church Hall for coffee which today is the gift of Fr Charles in celebration of his birthday. Over coffee, we will have Hannah from Action for Conservation, a UK-based charity led by young people that aims to teach children about conservation and help them develop environmental awareness. There will be a collection for this charity at the end of mass this morning.

For more info, their website is:  
[actionforconservation.org](http://actionforconservation.org)

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## This week

**Monday:** mass at 7.30am, a great way to start the week.

**Wednesday:** mass at 10.30am preceded by exposition of the sacrament.

**Thursday:** mass in the Lady Chapel at 9.45am, followed by Knit and Natter in the choir vestry.

**Next Sunday** is Palm Sunday. This is a really important day in the Church year – we begin the story of Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem, following him in his passion crucifixion and finally his resurrection. Full details of all our Holy Week services can be found on the back of this insert.

Over coffee next Sunday, our knit and natter group will be selling **hand-made Easter presents** to raise funds for the church. Come armed with cash!

We very much hope that as many people as possible will attend the **Easter Eve service** on Saturday March 30th, celebrated by Bishop Peter Selby, to support the eight members of the congregation who are going to be confirmed by him that evening.

#### **Thursday – Roddy Williams masterclass in church**

We are delighted to announce a vocal masterclass in church by the world famous singer Roderick Williams. He will be coaching young singers and pianists in how to sing (and play) better. He is a most engaging character, and a great communicator, and it will be fascinating to watch him interacting with the young superstars of tomorrow.

This is free and open to all, 1.30–4.30 – you’re welcome to come and go, but please do so quietly.

#### **Meetings this week**

**Wednesday:** Church Council meet in the choir vestry

**Thursday:** Both confirmation groups meet at the Vicarage, 7.30pm, to run through the Easter eve service together.

#### **Eco/Energy Community Workshop**

On Friday April 5th, Donnachadh McCarthy will be coming back to St Laurence’s to give advice on how to green your home and reduce your day to day living costs using eco-tips.

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#### **For your prayers**

**our young people preparing to receive holy communion for the first time:**

Vino, David, Leia, Neo, Prosper, Giovanni and Chloe

**those preparing for confirmation on Easter eve:**

Valeria, Vanessa, Miles, Simone, Maureen, Dorna, Hilma, Dona

**among the sick:** Myrna Perkins, Beverley & John Lashley, Taleta Haye, Minette Stevens, Sarah Cole, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Marcia Sanderson, Ottis Edwards, Elaine Stanislaus, Marcia Wilson, Robert Green, Roy Brown, Kayla Brown, Ros Ovbiovbio, Marva Mayne, Natasha Joseph, Degus Vassell, Anita Greenidge, Thelma Corbin, Beverley Willacy, Kevin Counihan, Charles Gasa, Josette Owens, Everton White, Elaine Thompson-Dixon, Everton Bend, Annette Cox-Simmons, Selena Goodyear, Ron & Kay Lanston, Esme Francis, Girda Carty, Cheyne Reid, Daphne Moore, Leon Haynes, Elizabeth Halfpenny, Ometa Alli, Eugenie Gregory, Dolphus Perkins, Paul and Maureen Gettens, Capt Andrew Stone, Diane Coleman, David Staples

**recently departed:**

Ernie Brown

**anniversaries:**

17th Ivy Souter; 19th Dorothy Prior; 20th Pamela Merchant, John Barber; 21st Anne Goodman; 22nd Alan Richardson, Sally Thomas, Wilfred Price, Howard Copeland; 23rd Ethel Belsey, William Pen, Bill Fenn;

## **Services for Holy Week and Easter**

*– only two weeks away!*

**Palm Sunday, March 24th:** We will begin mass this morning in the Church Hall, with the blessing of palms, and then process through to church, imitating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the midst of his disciples and the welcoming crowds.

### **Monday of Holy Week**

Mass with address at 7pm, followed by a musical meditation for Holy Week led by Mairéad Sheerin and Cat's Chorus

### **Tuesday of Holy Week**

Mass with address at 7pm, followed by music

### **Wednesday of Holy Week**

10.30am: said mass with address

7pm: Healing Mass with address, with anointing and laying on of hands for any who desire.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Mass of the Last Supper at 8pm, with washing of feet and vigil in the garden of repose until midnight.

### **Good Friday:**

9am morning prayer and office of readings

12.30pm, meditation on the cross led by Fr Charles, with specially composed organ music by Huw Morgan. We are delighted that Huw himself is coming back to St Laurence's to play for us.

2pm: the liturgy of Good Friday, followed by hot cross buns in the church hall

### **Easter Eve:**

8pm – Easter vigil, baptism, confirmation and first mass of Easter, celebrated by Bishop Peter Selby, former Bishop of Kingston and then Worcester.

### **Easter Day:**

8am mass of the dawn

10am: Festive Eucharist

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to donate to the Easter flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please let the churchwardens or Sybil Bair have your donation, marked with the name of the person in whose memory it is given (if applicable).

### **Annual Meeting and Parish lunch**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners this year will be on April 14th, and will be followed by a delicious parish lunch, to which all are invited. It's time to start thinking about whether this might be the year you'd like to stand for election to the church council.

Also, if you aren't already on the Church electoral roll, you should be, if you attend St Laurence's at least monthly. Forms available at the back of church, or from the parish office.

### **Today's sidespersons team:**

Marian Steill, Cheryl Boyce, Sybil Bair, John Lashleyt

**Chalice rota:** Gabriel, Ijeoma

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### **Contact us**

**Parish Clergy:** Fr Charles: 020 8698 2871,

**Parish Office** (Richard Swann): 020 8698 9706 e: [info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk](mailto:info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk), w: [stlaurencecatford.org.uk](http://stlaurencecatford.org.uk)