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The Church Celebrates Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He enters the Holy City to accomplish his saving work by dying and rising again. In our own way, we too go to meet him carrying our palm crosses. The blessing of palms and procession is the first of the commemorative actions of Holy Week, which remind us of the last events in Our Lord's earthly life. It is also an act of praise to Christ our King who reigns and triumphs from the Cross; and it expresses our readiness to take up our cross and follow Jesus as we go with him to his place of suffering and death.

After this ceremony and the opening prayer (the Collect), the reading of the full events of the coming week follows in the form of the Passion from one of the Gospels. Coming as it does after the procession, it reminds us that the kingly power of Christ is the power of self-giving love alone.



Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week

These are days on which we can reflect on what Christ has done for us before we are called to become involved in the momentous events of the last three days of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday

In the morning of this day, the Bishop of the Diocese celebrates the Mass of the Chrism in his Cathedral. Since this Eucharist commemorates the institution of the priesthood, the priests of the diocese gather, with the deacons and the Bishop, to renew their ordination vows. At the Chrism Mass the Bishop consecrates the Holy Oils for use in the parishes during the coming year. The *Oil of Chrism* – for use at Baptisms, Confirmations and Ordinations and the *Oil of the Sick* – for anointing the sick and dying.

Later on Maundy Thursday, in their Parish Church, the people gather to celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper. Here the strongest theme is one of love and service. We dwell on the concept of the Servant Christ who is willing to give up his life for his friends. This is demonstrated for us in the act of Christ washing his disciples feet. It is from this action that we receive the name of the day. "**Maundy**" comes from the first word of the anthem "*Mandatum novum do vobis*". (*A new commandment I give you.*), which was traditionally sung on the Thursday of Holy Week. It is this theme of love and service, following the example of Jesus, which is behind the tradition of the Queen distributing Maundy money to the poor and needy.

The second theme of this evening is the *Last Supper* itself and the institution of the Eucharist. Here Jesus gives himself to us in a new and special way. He promises that he will be near us always under veil of bread and wine.

After the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday evening, the consecrated Hosts (breads) are transferred to another place, which is made bright with candles and flowers. This represents Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. And we, his disciples of today, are encouraged to watch with him as he prepares for his suffering and death. We remember the words to his disciples "*Could you not watch with me one hour?*"



**Ardal Cenhadaeth Elwy
Cadeirlan Llanelwy
ac Eglwys y Plwyf Llanelwy**

Elwy Mission Area
St Asaph Cathedral and St Asaph Parish Church

**March / April
2018**

Services

Sunday

8am Eucharist
9.30am Parish Eucharist
11am Cathedral Eucharist
11am Informal Worship
3.30pm Evening Prayer

Monday to Friday

9am Morning Prayer
6pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday

6pm Stillness and Prayer

2nd Wednesday

9pm Sung Compline

The Holy Eucharist

Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 7pm
Wednesday 10.30am
Thursday 10am at the
Parish Church
Friday 9.30am (Welsh)



CADEIRLAN
LLANELWY
ST ASAPH
CATHEDRAL

Collect for St David

God our Father,
you gave Saint David to
the people of Wales to
uphold the faith: encour-
aged by his example,
may we joyfully hold fast
to the things which lead
to eternal life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, to
whom with
you and the
Holy Spirit be
all honour
and glory,
now and for
ever. **Amen.**



Good Friday

The Eucharist is not celebrated either today or on Holy Saturday. The only two days in the Christian Church when this is so. With Mary and John we stand at the foot of the Cross.

Holy Saturday

Easter begins with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. In accord with ancient tradition this is a night of vigil for the Lord. The Vigil begins the lighting and blessing of the Paschal Candle. On this night everything is new. The Paschal Candle is lit, representing the light of the Risen Christ among his people, and the joy of Easter is proclaimed. Then follows a selection of readings from scripture which tell of the wonderful things God has done for his people from the beginning of time. It is the history of our salvation. This is followed by the liturgy of baptism. In the early days of the Church it was on this night that new Christians were baptised and confirmed, following preparation throughout Lent. If there is no baptism the congregation renew their own baptismal promises. The First Eucharist of Easter then follows. From the moment when the Easter Candle is lit, the joy of the Church at the Lord's resurrection overflows into the next fifty days of Eastertide.



Holy Week—The symbolism of light at the Vigil service

What can I do?

The important thing for us to note is the link between the events of the last four days of Holy Week. They are not individual, unrelated events. The Jewish day begins at sunset – so the events of Maundy Thursday evening are part of the events which take place on Good Friday. Jesus' time in the grave on Saturday is linked with his bursting of its bonds during Saturday night. Yet so often we try to separate these important events by only celebrating on Sunday morning.

If you really want to make sense of the Easter event, then try coming to church on Thursday evening, Friday, Saturday evening and Sunday morning! Try it! It will make all the difference to your celebration of Easter. It is a big commitment – but there again, Jesus made rather a big commitment for us too!



Saint of the Month: St David 1st March

David was a monk and bishop in the 6th Century. He was reputed to be a great example of the ascetic, spiritual life but was also highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, particularly the poor and the sick.

He is believed to have founded the monastery at Menevia (now St Davids), and also at least a dozen other monasteries. He is said to have based his Rule of Life for his monasteries on that of the Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol and refraining from unnecessary speech.

He died about the year 601 and has been regarded as the patron saint of Wales since at least the 12th Century.

One of his famous sayings is "Remember the little things" which has become a strapline for the Diocese in 2018.

We should remember always to do the little things as we seek to grow the Church is this part of the Kingdom.

Diary March

Thursday 1st - David, Bishop, Patron of Saint of Wales:

9.30am Schools Service for St David's Day

10am Eucharist at the Parish Church

7.30pm Kentigern Guild at the Cathedral

Friday 2nd 10.30am Lent Course at the Parish Church

Saturday 3rd: St Kentigern Hospice Spring Fair at the Cathedral

Sunday 4th - Lent 3

Tuesday 6th: 7.30pm Choir Association AGM

Wednesday 7th: 7.30pm Lent Course followed by Sung Compline

Friday 9th: 10.30am Lent Course at the Parish Church

Saturday 10th: 10am Cathedral Choir Association Hymnathon

Sunday 11th - Lent 4 Mothering Sunday: Services at the Cathedral at the usual times. Parish Church 10.15am Combined Eucharist

Wednesday 14th: 7.30pm Lent Course followed by Sung Compline

Friday 16th: 10.30am Lent Course at the Parish Church

Sunday 18th - Lent 5

Monday 19th - Joseph of Nazareth: 9.30am Eucharist

Wednesday 21st: 7.30pm Lent Course followed by Sung Compline

Friday 23rd: 10.30am Lent Course at the Parish Church

Sunday 25th - PALM SUNDAY

Monday 26th - of Holy Week: 9.30am Eucharist & Address

Tuesday 27th - of Holy Week: 7pm Eucharist and Address, 9pm Sung Compline

Wednesday 28th - of Holy Week: 10.30am Eucharist and Address, 7pm Seder Meal

MAUNDY Thursday 29th: 11am Diocesan Chrism Mass, 7pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

GOOD Friday 30th: 12noon The Three Hours

HOLY Saturday 31st: 9am Morning Prayer, 10am Preparation of the Cathedral and Parish Church for Easter, 7pm Vigil, Confirmation and 1st Eucharist of Easter

Diary for April

Sunday 1st - EASTER DAY

Monday 2nd: 10am Grand Opening of the new Tea Room

Wednesday 4th: 7pm Organ Recital by Alan McGuinness

Sunday 8th - Easter 2

Monday 9th - The Annunciation: 6pm Choral Eucharist

Thursday 12th: 7.30pm Parish Church AGM

Saturday 14th: 7pm Manchester Jazz Band Concert organised by the Friends of the Cathedral

Sunday 15th - Easter 3

Monday 16th: 7pm Mission Area Team Meeting

Saturday 21st: Cathedral Choir visiting Llanrwst to sing Evensong

Sunday 22nd - Easter 4

Wednesday 25th - Mark, Evangelist: 10.30am Eucharist

Sunday 29th - Easter 5



Coming up:

5th May: The Feast of St Asaph

10th May: Ascension Day

20th May: Pentecost: usual service and 3pm Confirmation Service

27th May: Trinity Sunday

31st May: Corpus Christi

1st June: The Visitation of the BVM to Elizabeth



Eastertide goes on for 50 days (longer than Lent). It

should do, because it is more important than our period of preparation for Easter. It is good that we have a chance to savour the greatest mystery in Jesus' life – his resurrection.

Sunday by Sunday in Eastertide we hear in the gospels information which helps us to appreciate what God has done for us by raising Christ from the dead.

On the early Sundays in Eastertide the gospel is in the form of history or narrative - various accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances as he shows himself to his disciples to strengthen their – and our faith. Later in Eastertide we hear St. John's gospel as Jesus teaches his disciples about the effect of the new life he has come to offer (eg how he will share it, how we should put it into practice, and who will help us do this). Then the gospels begin to direct our thoughts to the promised gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Collect for the Annunciation

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; 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.**



Principal Holy Day in April

The Annunciation of our Lord to the BVM - 9th April

(Usually 25th March but changed this year because of Holy Week)

We celebrate that great day of decision: Mary's acceptance of the role that God has chosen for her in his plan of redemption.

The story of the announcement of the coming of God made flesh in the person of his Son, Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One, is heard in the proclamation of the good news from the gospel of Luke. The feast marks the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary and has been celebrated in the Church since at least the late fourth century. The perfect humanity and the complete divinity of Jesus is affirmed, following the controversies around those orthodox assertions, which themselves led to the acknowledgement of Mary as *Theotokos*, God-bearer, which in the West became translated as Mother of God. The celebration thus took on strong associations with the person of Mary, and became known in England as Lady Day. In recent years, the Church has re-affirmed the day as a Feast of our Lord, on which his virgin-mother still has a unique place of honour.



Organ Recital Series 2018

4th April - Alan McGuinness
Director of Music

2nd May - Huw Morgan
Abergavenny

6th June - Damian Howard
Director of Music, Lancaster RC Cathedral

4th July - John Hosking
Assistant Director of Music

1st August - Paul Rosoman
New Zealand

5th September - Christopher Herrick
Concert Organist



Holy Week 2018

We will be having a guest preacher with us during Holy Week, who will be preaching daily from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day.

He is Fr Richard Peers, who is currently working as the Diocesan Director of Education for the Diocese of Liverpool. We are looking forward to welcoming Fr Richard into our midst. Do come along to hear his message to us as we approach the great Festival of Easter.



Happy Easter!

A happy and blessed Easter to you! Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Alleluia!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.



For further information

Contact: 01745 532581 (Diocesan Office)

Cathedral Website: stasaphcathedral.wales

Parish Church Website: stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

