

ST PAUL'S  
BRIGHTON



# THE SOLEMN LITURGY



**FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**3 APRIL 2026**

**12 NOON**

Welcome to **St Paul's Church**, a parish in the Diocese of Chichester and affiliated to The Society under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda.

*In the liturgy of Good Friday, we listen to God's Word in Holy Scripture and join in the telling of the whole story of the Lord's Passion. We offer our lives to God as we venerate the Cross which is processed into church as we say in action all that we cannot put into words today. We then receive the Body of Christ consecrated at Mass the previous evening, and so experience the salvation won for us on the Cross. Everything in this liturgy points us to the fact that we are not simply commemorating Christ's passion and death as a past event. The liturgy brings the power and effect of that event into the here and now—into our own lives.*

*Why did Christ have to suffer and die? The Father asked him to live a life which would perfectly express the life that we are called to live, in the love and service of the Creator—this life, in a world where sin and egotism are active, gradually and inevitably carried Jesus to the suffering and death which today, Good Friday, commemorates. Yet his death is not simply a tragedy or a dead end. It is the expression of God's pardon and love: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son". So, today, we do not only reflect on the tragedy of the Cross to which Our Lord was nailed, but on his glorious triumph over suffering and death, a triumph he won for us by his suffering and death.*

The Mass is offered daily across our parish and our sister parish of St Bartholomew's, Ann Street. Confessions can be heard after any Mass. For enquiries about baptism, marriage or funerals, please contact the Parish Office in the first instance.

We rely on the generosity of those who come here to sustain our life. Please do give so that this may continue to be a place where the love of God is known and shared. All donations are gratefully received.

- You can make a donation using the collection plate during the Mass. If you pay Income Tax, please do fill out a yellow Gift Aid envelope for your donation, which enables us to increase the value of your donation by 25% without costing you anything.
- You can leave a donation in the box in the narthex.
- You can use the contactless machine in the narthex.
- You can scan the QR code to make your donation:
- You can make a bank transfer using these details.  
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¶ *Before the liturgy, we keep a prayerful atmosphere in church. We stand when the clergy and servers enter (no bell is rung today).*

*The Priest goes to prostrate himself before the Altar. We pray in silence.*

## **THE COLLECT**

*We respond to the prayer:*

**Amen.**

¶ *We sit to listen to the Scriptures.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

*At the end of the readings:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 31**

*We make the response to the Psalm:*

**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

¶ *We stand to hear Christ speak to us in the Gospel.*

### **THE GOSPEL: John 18:1-19:42**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

¶ *We sit. No response is made to the announcement of the Gospel.*

¶ *We stand after Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified:*

So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

¶ *We kneel in silent prayer for a few moments after the verse recounting the death of Our Lord:*

And bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

¶ *We stand for the remainder of the Gospel.*

*After the Gospel:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

¶ *We sit. No response is made to the conclusion of the Gospel.*

## THE HOMILY

¶ *We stand to pray.*

## THE SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

*Intercessions are made for:*

*Holy Church*

*The Pope*

*All orders & degrees of the faithful*

*Catechumens*

*The unity of Christians*

*The Jewish people*

*Those who do not believe in Christ*

*Those who do not believe in God*

*Those in public office*

*Those in tribulation*

## THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

### HYMN: NEH 95

**WHEN I survey the wondrous Cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his Blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson like a robe,  
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;  
Then am I dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

## THE SHOWING OF THE HOLY CROSS

*The Cross is brought into the church and carried through, stopping three times.*

*We turn to face the Cross and each time the Cross is lifted up we make the following response:*

Behold the wood of the Cross,  
on which hung the salvation of the world.



**Come, let us worship.**

## THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

*First, the clergy and servers venerate the Cross and then we approach. The veneration is traditionally made by kneeling down and kissing the foot of the Cross as a sign of love for Our Lord and of reverence for his Cross.*

¶ *We sit after the Priest has venerated the Cross.*

*During the veneration, the following is sung.*

*The Reproaches*

*O my people, what have I done unto thee? or wherein have I wearied thee?*

*Testify against me.*

*Because I brought thee forth from the land of Egypt: thou hast prepared a Cross for thy Saviour.*

*Hagios ho Theos: Holy God*

*Hagios ischyros: Holy Mighty*

*Hagios athanatos, eleison hemas : Holy and Immortal, have mercy upon us.*

*Because I led thee through the desert forty years and fed thee with manna, and brought you into a land exceeding good: thou hast prepared a Cross for thy Saviour.*

*Hagios ho Theos: ...*

*O my people, ...*

*Antiphon*

*We worship you, O Lord, we venerate your cross, we praise your Resurrection.*

*Through the Cross you brought joy to the world.*

*Psalm Verse*

*May God be gracious and bless us :*

*and let his face shed its light upon us.*

*The antiphon is repeated:*

*We worship you, ...*

*Verses from Crux fidelis (NEH 517)*

*Faithful Cross, above all other, One and only noble Tree:  
None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.  
Sweetest wood, and sweetest iron, Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

*Sing my tongue. the glorious battle: Sing the ending of the fray:  
Now above the Cross the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay:  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, As a Victim won the day. Faithful Cross, ...*

*To the Trinity be glory Everlasting, as is meet :  
Equal to the Father, equal to the Son and Paraclete :  
Trinal Unity whose praises All created things repeat. Sweetest wood, ...*

¶ *We stand as the Blessed Sacrament is processed to the Altar. As the Sacrament passes us, we bow or genuflect as a sign of reverence towards the Lord present truly in the Sacrament.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Today, we receive in one kind the Blessed Sacrament that was consecrated at Mass yesterday evening.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

*When coming up to receive Communion, please come forward to the Altar rail. Anyone who is baptised and receives Holy Communion in their home church may receive Communion here. If you seek a blessing from the Priest, do bring this booklet with you as a sign to him of your intention.*

*At the distribution of the Sacrament:*

The Body of Christ.

**Amen.**

*During Communion we sing (NEH 82):*

**Drop, drop, slow tears,  
And bathe those beauteous feet,  
Which brought from heaven  
The news and Prince of peace.**

**Cease not, wet eyes,  
His mercies to entreat;  
To cry for vengeance  
Sin doth never cease.**

**In your deep floods  
Drown all my faults and fears;  
Nor let his eye  
See sin, but through my tears.**

**Drop, drop, slow tears,  
And bathe those beauteous feet,  
Which brought from heaven  
The news and Prince of peace.**

¶ *We stand to pray.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*We respond to the prayer:*

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

*We respond to the prayer:*

**Amen.**

*The clergy and servers genuflect towards the Cross as they leave the Sanctuary.  
The Cross will remain exposed as a focus for our prayer.*

*Today, the most solemn day in the Christian year,  
we depart the church in **complete silence**.*

*The stark emptiness of the church will last until our celebration of **Easter**  
when we rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord,  
who by dying overcame death and restored our life.  
The Church begins this highest of high days and holiest of holy days with the Easter Vigil,  
which for us is celebrated at our sister church of St Bartholomew's tomorrow at 8pm.  
Solemn Mass on Easter Day here at St Paul's begins at 11am.*