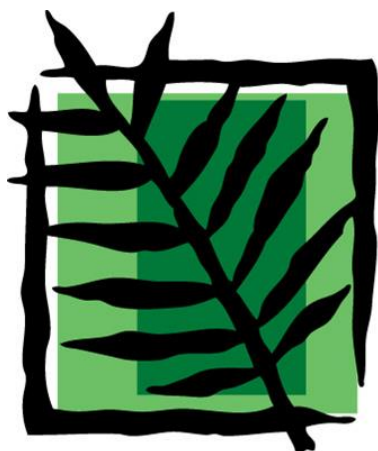


All Saints' Church, Stretford



Holy Week Programme

10th April – 17th April 2022

An Introduction to Holy Week

It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification.

Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter. Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the reading or singing of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated.

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, 'commandment') contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane. After keeping vigil ('Could you not watch with me one hour?') Thursday passes into Good Friday. It is a widespread custom for there not to be a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, but for the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation.

But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near. Finally, on Easter day, the Church rejoices at the triumphant resurrection of the Son of God.

Holy Week Programme

Palm Sunday

- 10:00am - Palm Sunday Eucharist
- 2:00pm - Children's Easter Crafts
- 9:00pm - Compline on Zoom

Monday

- 10:30am - *Chrism Mass at the Cathedral*
- 7:30pm - Healing Service with Anointing

Tuesday

- 7:30pm - Prayer Stations

Wednesday

- 7:30pm - Taizé Prayer

Maundy Thursday

- 7:30pm - Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing
(The watch will be kept until midnight)

Good Friday

- 2:00pm - The Liturgy of Good Friday

Easter Day

- 7:00am - Easter Vigil
- 10:00am - Holy Eucharist