

St George
Bickley

The Order for Mass on
the Sixth Sunday
of Easter

5th May 2024 at 10.30am

Parish Priest
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Welcome to St George's! This booklet contains all the material you will need for today's celebration of Mass. We hope that you will find this service easy to follow, but please do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an induction loop and you will find the best results away from the pillars.

Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted play area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys. There are two further play stations in the side aisles. Older children are very welcome to join the Children's Church, who go out to the Hall shortly after the service has started, and return before Communion.

A toilet is at the back of church, behind the screen. After Mass, please join us in the hall for refreshments. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.

Mass setting: Dom Gregory Murray, New People's Mass.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the procession of the clergy and servers, and to sing hymn REH 389:

**Love is his word, love is his way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again,
Love, only love, is his way
*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,
Better than splendour and wealth.***

**Love is his way, love is his mark,
Sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at the table, host to the Twelve;
Love, only love, is his mark.**

**Love is his mark, love is his sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
"This is my body, this is my blood."
Love, only love, is his sign.**

Love is his sign, love is his news,

**“Do this,” he said, “lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood.”
Love, only love, is his news.**

**Love is his news, love is his name,
We are his own, chosen and called,
Sisters and brothers, parents and kin,
Love, only love, is his name.**

**Love is his name, love is his law,
Hear his command, all who are his:
“Love one another; I have loved you.”
Love, only love, is his law.**

**Love is his law, love is his word:
Love of the Lord, Father and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,
Love, only love, is his word.**

Luke Connaughton (1917-79) © McCrimmon Publishing Ltd.

The priest sings:

Priest In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy
 Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The priest introduces the Mass, sends Children’s Church to their activities, and invites the people to recall and confess their sins:

Priest As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ’s love
 and receive his risen life, let us acknowledge our failures
 to abide in him and to allow his words to abide in us.

People I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,

People **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing the Kyries:

People Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We all sing the Gloria.

People **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Then the priest prays the collect:

Priest Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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.

People **Amen.**

Now sit to listen to the first reading:

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (*Acts 10; 25-6, 34-5, 44-8*).

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated to sing Psalm 98

(alternative chant)

W. H. LONGHURST

213

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a | new_ | song :
for | he hath ' done | marvel- ' lous_ | things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his | holy | arm :
hath he | gotten ' him- | self the | victory.
- 3 The Lord declared | his sal- | vation :
his righteousness hath he openly | shewed ' in the | sight of ' the |
heathen.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the | house of | Israel
:
and all the ends of the world have seen the sal- | vation | of our | God.
- 5† Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, | all ye | lands :
sing, re- | joice, and | give_ | thanks.

† = 2nd half of chant

Remain seated for the second reading:

Reader A reading from the first letter of St John. (1 John 4; 7-10)
My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away. This is the word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Stand for the gospel acclamation after a brief pause for reflection.

Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choir Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Priest The Lord be with you,

People **And also with you.**

Priest A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. (*John 15; 9-17*)

People **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Priest Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.

All stand to say the Nicene Creed:

People I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and
invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son
of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from
God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,
not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him
all things were made. For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our
sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered
death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy,
catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for
the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.

Priest Let us pray to the Father who sustains and nourishes us
through the One he has sent to be for us the Bread of Life.

Reader Lord, in your mercy, / Lord, hear us.

People Hear our prayer. / Lord, graciously hear us.

At the prayer for the departed,

Reader Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

People **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

When the prayers of the saints are asked,

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

In conclusion to the prayers:

Priest May we always live lives that radiate your divine love.
Merciful Father,

People **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Please sit, as the Choir sing “Cantate Domino” by Giuseppe Pitoni (1657-1743), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.

Stand to sing hymn REH 522, as the altar is prepared and the collection is taken. If you want to give by card, there is a card reader at the back of church.

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,**

Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The Priest says

Priest Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Priest May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Priest sings the opening of the Eucharistic Prayer:

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Words of Institution. Then all make the Memorial Acclamation:

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.

People **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

The Priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, and all sing:

People **Amen!**

Please stand for the Lord's Prayer.

Priest At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to sing,

People **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.**

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our day, 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.

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

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Now sing the Agnus Dei

People **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (repeated)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Then kneel.

Priest 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.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Priest If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

The people come forward to receive Communion. If you have not been baptized and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of Communion, carrying this order of service.

During Communion hymn REH 398 is sung, all remaining seated or kneeling.

**Once, only once, and once for all,
His precious life he gave;
Before the Cross in faith we fall,
And own it strong to save.**

**'One offering, single and complete,'
With lips and hearts we say;
But what he never can repeat
He shows forth day by day.**

**For as the priest of Aaron's line
Within the holiest stood,
And sprinkled all the mercy-shrine
With sacrificial blood;**

**So he, who once atonement wrought,
Our Priest of endless power,
Presents himself for those he bought
In that dark noontide hour.**

**His Manhood pleads where now it lives
On heaven's eternal throne,
And where in mystic rite he gives
Its presence to his own.**

**And so we show thy death, O Lord,
Till thou again appear,
And feel, when we approach thy board,
We have an altar here.**

William Bright (1824-1901)

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

Priest Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Please sit for the notices.

Then stand for the blessing and dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, always.

People **Amen.**

Priest Go forth, the Mass is ended. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Clergy and servers process to the Shrine of Our Lady to sing the Easter anthem to Our Lady, the Regina Caeli:

People **Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!**

Priest Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

People **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Priest Let us pray. O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, didst vouchsafe to bring joy to the whole world; grant that, through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life: through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Remain standing to sing hymn REH 506 as clergy and servers depart:

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

**The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

**The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!**

George Herbert (1593-1632)

The organist plays "Menuet Gothique" by Léon Boëllmann (1862-97).

Scripture readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published & copyright 1966, 1967 & 1968, by Darton, Longman & Todd and Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc., and are used by permission of the publishers, or from NRSV.

Collection: we take a collection during the second hymn, towards the cost of providing services and the upkeep of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please place your offering in one of the envelopes in the pews (completed with your name and address) and place it in the collection plate when it is circulated during the hymn. Pens are in the pews. A card reader to give by contactless payment is available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.

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