

Parish of Kidlington
and
Hampton Poyle



Welcome to
the First Mass of Easter
5am Easter Sunday
20th April 2025

What Will we do in the Dawn Mass?

The oldest feature of the celebration of Easter is a vigil of watching and waiting, which in early times the church kept throughout the night, meditating on the mighty acts of God in the scriptures, and praying until dawn, when Christ's resurrection was acclaimed.

Our dawn gathering begins with a short vigil, using two of the (twelve) traditional vigil readings, and recalls both the watching and waiting of the church and the dawn visit of Mary Magdalene to Christ's tomb that first Easter day.

In the Service of Light, the resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed in spoken and sung word and dramatic ceremony. The Easter candle symbolises Christ, the light of the world, risen from the darkness of the grave. On the candle is the sign of the cross (the symbol of life and death), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (Christ is the beginning and end of all things), the numerals of the current year (Christ is present among us now), and five 'nails' (the wounds of Christ). The candle is then lit and the light of Christ is carried in procession into the dark church, where the ancient proclamation of Easter is sung.

This leads us into the Liturgy of the Word and Easter Gospel.

In the early centuries Easter was the only time when baptisms took place— in time, Easter became the opportunity for everyone to renew their baptism vows as the affirmation of our union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Today we rejoice with George Kerry and his family as he is baptised at our 10am service. Also at that service John Ryder and Zoe Floyd will be admitted to Holy Communion.

No Easter celebration is complete without the Eucharist. Our vigil culminates in the first mass of Easter where the risen Christ is our host and we are his guests.

THE VIGIL

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introduction: Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy dawn in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world to gather. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ let us recall how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work that he has begun.

Reading – *Genesis 1 1-5, 26-29a; 31*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "let there be light", and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'Day', and the darkness he called 'Night'. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our own image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created

humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them, and God blessed them. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is Kept

Prayer: Almighty God,
Who wonderfully created us in your own image
And yet more wonderfully restored us
Through your Son Jesus Christ;
Grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
So we may share the life of his divinity;
Who is alive and reigns with you and the holy spirit,
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: - *Ezekiel 37 1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley: it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."
Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones, I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live: and you shall know that I am the Lord.'" So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the lord God, come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain that they may live.'" I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost: we are cut off completely' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from the graves O my people. I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I the Lord have spoken and will act', says the Lord"
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Silence

Prayer:

Almighty God,
Who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself;
Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
That all who hear it may be reconciled to you;
Through him who died for us and rose again
And reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Blessing of the Fire and Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory
Through your Son, the light of the world.
Make this new fire + holy,
And inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration,
And bring us one day to the feast of eternal light,
Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is brought forward and held high

Christ yesterday and today
The beginning and the end
Alpha
And Omega;
All time belongs to him,
And all the ages;
To him be glory and power,
Through every age and for ever.

Amen

*The candle is lowered to touching height
and the five 'nails' are inserted*

By his holy
and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord
guard us
and keep us. **Amen**

The candle is lit from the fire

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
Banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

THE PROCESSION.

We light our candles and the light of Christ leads us into the dark church,. The Paschal candle is raised each time for:

The light of Christ
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We sit or stand as the Paschal candle is placed in its stand and the priest sings the ancient Easter hymn of praise, the Exultet

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn 83—*Love's Redeeming Work is Done*

The Gospel *John 20 1-9*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Hear the Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to Christ our Saviour

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said "and we don't know where they have put him."

So Peter set out with the other disciples to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter, who was following, now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Please sit

The Sermon

Please stand

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the Easter mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. In silence we reflect on our need for God's constant love and forgiveness as we try to live these promises; and how, in our stumbling and failing through God's grace we are daily picked up, held and restored to life again.

Silence

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesu Christ, who
redeemed the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life
to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him

This is the faith of the church

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

As we turn again to Christ, we are assured of his pardon and enriched
with his grace. Through his resurrection
victory we are absolved of our offences and led ever
onwards to a fresh start and new life in him.

And so we pray

Please kneel / sit to pray

The Intercessions

Please stand

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace
be with you!' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer each other an Easter sign of peace:

The Lord is Risen , and the answer, He is risen indeed

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord is here

His spirit is with us

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness;
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty;

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love.

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away your love remained steadfast.
From them, you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.
He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and,
taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them saying,
'Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
Do this is remembrance of me.'

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks and said, '
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 sin.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ the Lord is ris'n again, Alleluia
Christ has broken every chain, Alleluia
Hark, angelic voices cry, Alleluia
Singing evermore on high, Alleluia.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal
splendour for which you have created us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

Our Father....

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.**

(sung)

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and
drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

Around Christ's table, everyone is welcome.

At communion:

The body of Christ

Amen

After communion:

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and
brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
We who drink his cup bring life to others;
We whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
So we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Hymn 428—Thine be the Glory

The Blessing

Go in the light and peace of Christ
Thanks be to God



And now.....

to.....

BREAKFAST!

HAPPY EASTER