



The Benefice of St Mary's Bocking & Panfield Church

Sunday 2nd April 2023

Palm Sunday

Staying in Contact



The Very Revd Rod Reid - Incumbent (*usual rest day Monday*)

Email: bockingchurch@gmail.com Call: (01376) 324887 www.stmarys-bocking.com

or on Facebook, search for 'St Mary's Church, Bocking', or 'Panfield Church'

Forthcoming Services

Hymns

St Mary's, Bocking

Palm Sunday - 2nd April	8am	Said Mass	See
Palm Sunday - 2nd April	10am	Sung Mass <i>with a donkey</i>	<i>special</i>
Wednesday 5th April	9.30am	Said Mass	<i>booklet</i>
Maundy Thursday - 6th April	8pm	Sung Mass followed by the Watch	
Good Friday - 7th April	2pm	The Liturgy of Good Friday	
Easter Sunday - 9th April	6.00am	Dawn Easter Service <i>followed by breakfast in the Hall</i>	
Easter Sunday - 9th April	8am	Said Mass	
Easter Sunday - 9th April	10am	Sung Mass for Easter	

Panfield Church

Palm Sunday - 2nd April	11am	Palm Sunday service	
Tuesday 4th April	5pm	Evening Prayer/Office Hour	
Maundy Thursday - 6th April	7.30pm	Holy Communion	
Good Friday - 7th April	12pm	Good Friday service	
Easter Sunday - 9th April	11am	Holy Communion	

Gospel Acclamation

*Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
above all names.*

NOTICES

Coffee Morning - We are pleased to say that the Coffee Morning last Friday and further donations at refreshments following the Sunday service, the total raised was £197. Thank you

Holy Week Booklet - At the back of the church you will find a guide to Holy Week and Easter with a reading for each day, a short prayer and a list of the services taking place across the Benefice.

Funeral - Fr Charles' funeral will take place here at St Mary's on Thursday April 6th at 1.15pm. This will be a Requiem Mass and you are warmly invited by the family to join them in celebrating Fr Charles' life.

Christian Youth Outreach - CYO do brilliant work in our local schools both primary and secondary. This month's coffee moneys will be going to support them and especially their link with Bocking School. Coffee Money from January came to £102.37 and is going to the RNLI.

Monday May 1st - May Fayre helpers needed! Please have a think about how you might help us to make it a really successful event. Pru, Margaret or Jo look forward to hearing from you a.s.a.p!

Can you help? - We have a local resident who would like to join us when she can for a Sunday service however, she needs transport. Please speak to Fr Rod or the wardens if you might be able to help.

Electoral Roll - If you have joined St Mary's recently it is likely you are not on our Electoral Roll. Indeed there may be others who have been meaning to do so, but not taken up the chance. Ahead of the APCM on May 21st, we are inviting you to join now. A short form is at the back, which is easy to fill in.

A Warm Place this Winter - Our Warm Space has been an incredible success, and will now conclude on THIS FRIDAY with a slightly shorter session which will conclude at 1.30pm. I am thrilled to say that this regular Friday community lunch space will re-launch in May, more details on that in due course.

Prayers - We keep in our prayers Peter Hopkins, Jean Goodwin, Sue, Roger, Frances, Peter, Jo, June Blackwood, Tony & Ann, and Margaret Everitt. We remember our care homes Millard House, Fern Lodge, Aspen Grange, Larchwood, The New Deanery & St Mary's Court. In our Years Mind, we pray for the families of Daisy Clarke, Julie Whillock, Cecil Jeffrey, Margery Smith, Betty Button and David Taylor.

The Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers 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.

Epistle Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Address

You will have heard of the phrase 'a picture paints a thousand words'. Some people attribute it to Napoleon but he actually said, 'a good sketch is better than a long speech'. Maybe a bit like a sermon too! Apparently, the phrase most likely originates from the turn of 20th century, and a newspaper article talking about adverts on the side of cars and taxis. Either way, it has been in use ever since, and an idiom many of us use today.

It seemed appropriate to me as we reflect on another week of searing images from the devastation of the tornadoes ripping through the US, to continued awful images from Ukraine and of course the late Paul O'Grady whether it be the last picture of him on holiday back in January, or as is alter ego Lily Savage.

Images have a way of leaving their mark, often much longer than that of words. Just in recent years we had migrants including the young boy being washed up on European beaches, the tanks in Tiananmen Square, fall of the Berlin Wall or of course planes crashing into the Twin Towers.

Images... pictures, bringing back memories, feelings and emotions.

Those powerful and memorable images aren't always about bad things in our world. As many of you know for a few years now, we as a family have found great joy in visiting Disneyland Paris, a place that it is all about images, pictures, memories.

Whether you like Disney or not, you can't deny that they have utilised the power of picture incredibly well. The cynic might say, and made a lot of money along the way, and they wouldn't be wrong, but the Disneyesque images have given us pictures that for many bring much needed joy from Mary Poppins and Bert enjoying a jolly holiday... to Elsa and Anna in Frozen, let alone good old Mickey Mouse himself. Each instantly recognisable.

I am sure we would agree that images are indeed then powerful things, and as we begin Holy Week, I was struck by the amount of imagery it presents us with.

Captured beautifully for us today with our very own Donkey! Well Shetland Pony but the image was created for us. Taking us back to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, but on a donkey. With the crowds cheering, palms being waved, a scene of joy and adulation. Totally unaware, across on the other side of the city, Pontius Pilate, ruler and Governor was leading a procession of Roman cavalry and centurions into the city of Jerusalem. Passover was beginning and he needed to re-assert his authority.

Imagine the spectacle of that entry. From the western side of the city, the opposite side from which Jesus enters, Pontius Pilate leads Roman soldiers on horseback and on foot, shields and armour gleaming. Drummers beat out the cadence of a march for this was no ordinary entry into Jerusalem.

As we journey through Holy Week the images continue, from Jesus washing the feet of his friends, and then breaking bread together. Later that evening as they move to the Garden of Gethsemane, they sleep while he waits and prays. An argument ensues after he is betrayed, and then he is led away. Then the two meet as Pilate fears Jesus, literally washing his hands of his death.

Notwithstanding the power of the cross, and those nails, the crown of thorns. The simplicity of the tomb that followed and three days later, it is empty, for he is risen. All of which form Stations of the Cross, and once again we are using the wonderful images from Turvey Abbey. They are all around St Mary's and I encourage you to pick up a booklet at some point over the coming week and travel with Christ, and with those images.

We weren't there for any of those moments but through the images and pictures, we are invited to imagine that we were.

And that for me is the key to Holy Week, it is an invitation first and foremost.

Of course, in one week's time we will be here, Lent will be over, Easter Day will arrive and maybe little will change, another Holy Week gone. But if we accept the invitation to walk the way of the cross, to take in the images of the Cross and journey to it then we may be transformed by it.

Those images we spoke of don't just flash into our minds and leave with no impact, but instead lead us to tears, or to open our hearts, maybe reminding us to be thankful for all we have. They shape who we are, and as a result we often act differently, possibly with more compassion, with greater kindness. These moments may not last as long as they should but we are changed.

It is the same in Holy Week too, instead of being casual images that we turn away from or quickly move on, by dwelling with them they may be seared onto our minds, our hearts and become part of discerning our faith, and knowing who we are in the sight of God. The invitation is not just to see, to truly take in, but to change as a result.

One of the best of those images, pictures is the palm cross you hold in your hands. It can also be used as a way to pray over this week.

Begin by holding the bottom, calling to mind your cares and burdens and leave them at the foot of the cross. Then reflect on the arms of the cross, a reminder the God's arms surround you today. And then finally, hold the top, mindful that we have a King who sits above everything, a sure guide, and a sure hand in everything. Keep it at home, may it draw each of us back to the Easter story which is the foundation and heart of our faith.

Christ holds us at the centre of his life, will we this Holy Week and Easter, hold Christ and the Cross at the centre of ours? Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.