

Dear friends,

For the first time since I have lived in this town there is to be no Good Friday procession, followed by a service on the market square. A sombre, thoughtful occasion but always one with the additional joy of meeting Christians from the other churches in town to share the moment with. This act of worship, importantly, was a reminder to the townsfolk, enjoying a bank holiday, of the reason for Easter.

Is Easter to become just a public holiday where we enjoy chocolate eggs and consume fruit buns with a cute little cross on top? What can we do to keep the message of Easter alive? We can start from where we are. Overcoming our fears of talking about Easter starts with being honest with each other about what we're really afraid of. We're afraid that people might reject us, mock us or judge us. Here's the bad news: they might really do all of those things. But the good news? We place ourselves in a position to be used by God to change someone else's life. We get to see God at work and know that we're a part of it. So when we trust God in scary situations we can expect our relationship with him to deepen. Easter blessings to each and all......JD

The weekly readings are taken from the Common Lectionary and reflect those used on the immediate Sunday in our own church and very many others. In normal times we use them on a daily basis in our chapel at 10am. They can be used equally for private devotions. In the chapel the Prayers of Intercession include those requested by members of the public and our own congregation. We pray too for our sister church in Fenstanton, for the local community, for Churches Together in St Ives, and the Imans and worshippers at the local Mosques. We pray for each other and our world.

Apríl 2025

- L. To your cross, O Lord, we come for healing,
- R. For you alone can make us whole.
- L. We come with the broken hearted and broken spirited,
- R. For you alone can make us whole.
- *L.* We come with those with broken relationships
- R. For you alone can make us whole.
- L. We come with the broken in body and mind,
- R. For you alone can make us whole.
- L. We come with the weak and the disabled,
- R. For you alone can make us whole.
- All. We come with the sinners and the guilty For you alone can make us whole.

(The Rhythm of Life; Celtic Daily Prayer, David Adams, 2008)

Let us keep silent for our reflection and confession.

All. When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding though the truth is there to see, forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us.

Bring to mind the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!

THE READING

for ever and ever

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

To the words 'Merciful Father' please respond with 'Hear us in your steadfast love'.

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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory,

Amen.

LAll. In the night-time of our fears and in our time of questioning, be present, ever present God.

Be present with those camped out in the fields of hopelessness, with refugees, the sick and the homeless, those who live lives of quiet desperation. Be present until the desert places Blossom like the rose And hope is born again.

(Kate McIllhagga)

All. O Christ, the Master carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails,
purchased our whole salvation,
wield well your tools in the workshop of
your world, so that we who come
rough hewn to your bench
May be fashioned to a truer beauty of
your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake, Amen.

(George MacLeod)

THE GRACE

All. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all ever more. Amen.

Readings for April

Special dates for the month of April 13th - Palm Sunday 17th - Maundy Thursday 18th - Good Friday 20th - Easter Sunday

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Tues 1st
               Isaíah 43 v16-21
Weds 2nd
               Psalm 35 v1-9
Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>
               Philippians 3 v4b-14
               Luke 22 VI-13
Frí
Sat
               John 12 v1-8
Mon 7<sup>th</sup>
               Psalm 118 v1-2, 19-29
Tues 8th
               Isaíah 50 v4-9a
Weds 9th
               Psalm 31 v9-18
Thurs 10th
               Philippians 2 v5-11
       11^{th}
Frí
               Luke 20 v9-19
       12^{th}
Sat
               Luke 23 V1-49
Mon 14th
               Psalm 36 v5-11
Tues 15<sup>th</sup>
               Isaíah 49 v1-7
Weds 16th
               Psalm 88
Thurs 17th
               1 Corinthians 11 v23-26
     18^{th}
               John 18 v1- ch19 v42
Frí
       19^{t\hat{h}}
               1 John 5 v5-12
Sat
Mon 21st
               Psalm 16
Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>
               Song of Solomon 2 v8-17
Weds 23rd
               Psalm 105 v1-9
               1 Corinthians 15 v29-34
Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>
Frí
       25^{th}
               John 21 V1-14
Sat
       26^{th}
               Mark 16 v9-15
Mon 28<sup>th</sup>
               Psalm 30
Tues 29<sup>th</sup>
               Acts 9 v1-6
Weds 30th
               Psalm 86
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Readings for May

Special dates for the month of May 11th-18th - Christian Aid Week 29th - Ascension Day

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Thurs 1st
               Revelation 5 v11-14
Frí
               John 11 v27-44
              John 21 V1-19
Sat
       3^{rd}
\mathcal{M}on 5^{th}
               Psalm 23
Tues 6<sup>th</sup>
               Acts 9 v36-42
Weds 7th
               Psalm 146
Thu
               Revelation 7 v9-17
Frí
       9^{th}
               Luke 24 v36-49
       10^{th}
               John 10 v22-30
Sat
Mon 12<sup>th</sup>
               Psalm 148
Tues 13th
               Acts 11 v1-18
               Psalm 98
Weds 14th
               Revelation 21 v1-6
Thurs 15th
               Mark 15 v46- 16 v8
Frí
Sat
       17^{th}
               John 13 v31-35
\mathcal{M}on 19<sup>th</sup>
               Psalm 67
Tues 20<sup>th</sup>
               Acts 16 v9-15
Weds 21st
               Psalm 40 v1-9
      22^{nd}
               Revelation 21 v10, 22 - ch22v5
Thu
Frí
       23^{rd}
               Matthew 28 v1-10, 16-20
Sat
       24^{th}
               John 14 v23-29
Mon 26<sup>th</sup>
               Psalm 97
Tues 27<sup>th</sup>
               Acts 16 v16-34
Weds 28th
               Psalm 68
Thurs 29th
               Revelation 22 v 12-14, 16-17, 20-21
       30^{th}
               Luke 24 v44-53
Frí
Sat
       31^{st}
              John 17 v 20-25
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May 2025

In the whole bright world rejoices now with laughing cheer!
 with boundless joy!
 the birds do sing on every bough:

All. Alleluía!

R. Then shout beneath the racing skies with laughing cheer! with boundless joy! to him who rose that we might rise:

All. Alleluía!

God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, with laughing cheer! with boundless joy! our God most high, our joy, our boast: Alleluia!

(a 17th century Easter carol)

Let us keep silent for our personal reflection and confession.

All. Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity,
by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice
and the whole earth cries Glory!
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Iona Abbey Worship Book page 36)

THE READING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever

Amen.

Let us pray together now for a deeper awareness of God's wisdom in our world.

R. For all whose lives are confused and bewildered; for those who can see no sense in life,

All. Lord, may your wisdom teach us understanding.

- R. For those who see God's wisdom as foolishness; for those who entrust their security to what is perishable;
- L. Lord, may your wisdom show us where lasting treasure is found.
- All. For all in positions of authority and responsibility, through the world. Lord, may your wisdom give insight and integrity.
- for those who find it hard to make decisions;
 for those paying dearly for past mistakes;
- R. Lord, may your wisdom work in us for good, in every situation.
- All. Lord, God of Wisdom,

 Realign our minds and hearts and wills

 to be at one with you, in all we think,

 and feel and do.

Amen.

THE GRACE

All. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all ever more. Amen.

This space is for your own notes

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love that weeps and grieves And now he blesses hers who stood and wept And would not be consoled, or leave her love's Last touching place, but watched as low light crept Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs A scatter of bright birdsong through the air. She turns, but cannot focus through her tears, Or recognize the Gardener standing there. She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why, why are you weeping?', Or sees the play of light That brightens as she chokes out her reply, 'They took my love away, my day is night.' And then she hears her name, she hears Love say The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day. Malcolm Guite

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