

## Notices :

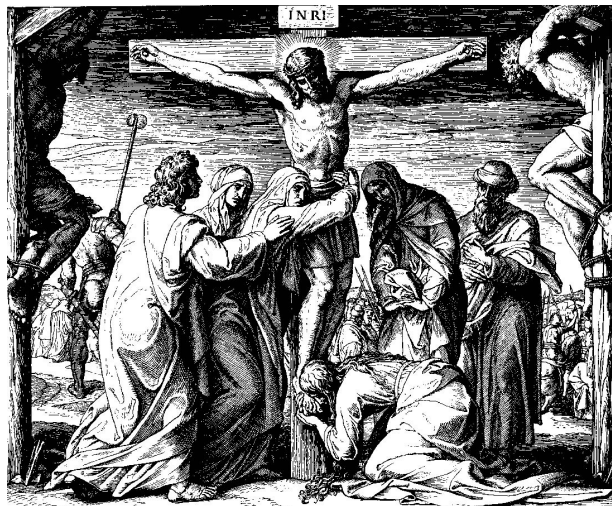
**Unless there is a danger of death** no sacraments are celebrated between the Maundy Thursday liturgy and the Easter Vigil.

**Easter Flowers**—contributions gratefully received by Jane Saint-Sernin towards the cost of flowers for Easter—an excellent way to thank Janet, Louise and Fr Grant, our team of flower arrangers!

**Gifts of champagne** for the **Easter Vigil** are gratefully received.

**The AGM of the Church Council** will take place on Sunday, 12th April immediately after the 1030 Eucharist. The notices are on the noticeboard halfway down the stairs. Please consider signing up if you would like to be elected to the Church Council but do remember that you must be on the Electoral Roll in order to do so.

**The Newsletter Editor** (john\_crothers@hotmail.com) is looking for good copy for the Pentecost edition of the Newsletter. If you have contributions please email him on the address above by the 12th April.



**In Your Prayers please remember those on our sick-list:** Beryl Bateman, Pamela Bruetsch, Jean-Paul Buffet, Ginette Barbé, Angela Casone, Tim Clarke, Anne Cozic, Jeanine & Caroline Cullinan, Huy Sun (Dara), Deidre Dalton, Gregor Dallas, Chris Defrasne, Anne Gould, Ophélie Goubault, Karen Griggs, Vaughan Hart, Irene Hicks, Sally Hughes, Ernest Jeyam, Kalvinder, Karen, Prudence Kupka, Muriel Lamoureux, Hans Mayer, Jane Maurin, Monique Moron, Kenneth Nyakana, John & Yvonne Rogers, Émile Vaillant, David Wetsel, Anitha Yannick, Lucas, Margo, Alex and Max, Sarah, Laurence, Marie-Thérèse, Susan, David, Paul, Saul.

**Those who have died:** David Sweeney, Bill Neale.

# St George's Paris

## Good Friday : 3rd April 2026

A warm welcome to St George's. Today's liturgy is one of the most ancient in the Church's repertoire, with its roots very clearly in the synagogue tradition with which Jesus himself would have been familiar. It is austere in the extreme - unaccompanied singing, stark ceremonial and a simplicity which is almost brutal. We listen to the scriptures, culminating in St John's account of the Passion.

A cross is brought in, which we are invited to accept symbolically into our own lives during the Veneration. We recognise the cosmic contradiction whereby the instrument of Jesus's torture and death becomes the means for us of life and joy. All Christian liturgy is conducted in the light of the resurrection, but remembering that we are in fact, in one extended liturgy during Holy Week, the intercessions are followed by a deliberately incomplete sign of communion.

We do not celebrate the Eucharist today, but we receive Holy Communion in the form of bread only, the same eucharistic presence alongside which the Watch was kept last evening, so keeping in mind Christ's declaration that he would not drink from the fruit of the vine until he drank it again new in the Kingdom.

Today the choir will sing the **Passion, Reproaches and Improperia** by Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611), and the motet during Communion will be **Adoramus te** (a 6) by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643).

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Please keep silence in church before the Liturgy of the Day. The clergy and servers enter and prostrate in silence. The Opening Prayer begins immediately after which we sit for the Liturgy of the Word.

### Opening Prayer

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Please remain seated for the psalm for the day (Ps. 22) :

*My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me \* and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint? O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not \* and in the night-season also I take no rest. And thou continuest holy \* O thou worship of Israel. Our fathers hoped in thee \* they trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them. They called upon thee, and were holpen \* they put their trust in thee, and were not confounded. But as for me, I am a worm, and no man \* a very scorn of men, and the out-cast of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn \* they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying, He trusted in God, that he would deliver him \* let him deliver him, if he will have him. But thou art*

## Holy Week : 29th March—5th April 2026

Friday 3rd	<b>Good Friday</b>	0915 Mattins 1230 Stations of the Cross <i>(Meet at the Rond Point des Champs Elysées)</i> 1745 Evensong 1930 Liturgy of the Day <i>With Passion Gospel &amp; Veneration of the Cross</i>
Saturday 4th	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	0915 Mattins 2100 Vigil and First Eucharist of the Resurrection <i>With Blessing of the Fire &amp; Exultet, followed by a champagne reception</i>
Sunday 5th	<b>Easter Day</b>	0830 Holy Communion (1662 BCP) 1030 Solemn Eucharist

**Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory, Thy too rigid sinews bend;  
For awhile the ancient rigour That thy birth bestowed, suspend,  
And the King of heavenly beauty On thy bosom gently tend.**

**Thou alone was counted worthy This world's Ransom to sustain,  
That a shipwrecked race might ever Thus a port of refuge gain,  
With the sacred blood anointed From the Lamb for sinners slain.**

**Laud and honour to the Father; Laud and honour to the Son;  
Laud and honour to the Spirit; Ever three and ever one:  
Consubstantial, co-eternal, While unending ages run. Amen.**

#### Lord's Prayer

*We remain standing to pray together*

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*During Communion the choir sings A Litany by William Walton.*

#### Post Communion Prayer

*Please stand.*

#### Prayer over the People

*After the prayer the clergy and servers scatter, like the disciples who fled in fear. We then depart immediately **in silence**. There is no Blessed Sacrament in church, it is traditional to genuflect to the Cross instead.*

*he that took me out of my mother's womb \* thou wast my hope, when I hanged yet upon my mother's breasts. I have been left unto thee ever since I was born \* thou art my God even from my mother's womb. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand \* and there is none to help me. Many oxen are come about me \* fat bulls of Basan close me in on every side. They gape upon me with their mouths \* as it were a ramping and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint \* my heart also in the midst of my body is even like melting wax. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my gums \* and thou shalt bring me into the dust of death. For many dogs are come about me \* and the council of the wicked layeth siege against me. They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones \* they stand staring and looking upon me. They part my garments among them \* and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O Lord \* thou art my succour, haste thee to help me. Deliver my soul from the sword \* my darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth \* thou hast heard me also from among the horns of the unicorns. I will declare thy Name unto my brethren \* in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. O praise the Lord, ye that fear him \* magnify him, all ye of the seed of Jacob, and fear him, all ye seed of Israel; For he hath not despised, nor abhorred, the low estate of the poor \* he hath not hid his face from him, but when he called unto him he heard him. My praise is of thee in the great congregation \* my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him. The poor shall eat, and be satisfied \* they that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for ever. All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord \* and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him. For the kingdom is the Lord's \* and he is the Governor among the people. All such as be fat upon earth \* have eaten, and worshipped. All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him \* and no man hath quickened his own soul. My seed shall serve him \* they shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and the heavens shall declare his righteousness \*unto a people that shall be born, whom the Lord hath made.*

#### Second Reading: Hebrews 4;14-16; 5:7-9

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help. During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

*Please stand for the gradual hymn (REH 124) :*

**O sacred head, sore wounded, Defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head, surrounded With mocking crown of thorn;  
What sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendour The hosts of heaven adore!**

**Thy beauty, long desired, Hath vanished from our sight:  
Thy power is all expired, And quenched the light of light.  
Ah me! for whom thou diest, Hide not so far thy grace:  
Show me, O Love most highest, The brightness of thy face.**

**In thy most bitter passion My heart to share doth cry.  
With thee for my salvation Upon the cross to die.  
Ah, keep my heart thus moved To stand thy cross beneath,  
To mourn thee, well-belovèd, Yet thank thee for thy death.**

**My days are few, O fail not, With thine immortal power,  
To hold me that I quail not In death's most fearful hour:  
That I may fight befriended, And see in my last strife  
To me thine arms extended Upon the cross of life.**

**Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John**

*The chant is set by Victoria (1548-1611).*

**Sermon**

*Please be seated for the address.*

**General Intercessions**

*Please stand for the ancient nine suffrages offered for God's church and world. After the prayers we sing the hymn (REH 130).*

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride**

**Forbid it Lord that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**His dying crimson like a robe,  
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;  
Then am I dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

**Veneration of the Cross**

*Please stand as the cross is brought in to church. As it moves into church the procession stops three times and the minister sings*

Behold the wood of the cross :



4 O come, \_\_\_\_\_ let us wor - ship

*All genuflect at each station in prayer. To venerate genuflect (or bow if infirm) in front of the cross, then kiss the cross both as a sign of love and fidelity for Jesus and reverence for the Cross on which he died. During Veneration the choir sings the **Improperia** and **Reproaches** by Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611).*

*O my people, what have I done to thee? Or wherein have I wearied thee? Answer me!  
Because I brought thee out of the land of Egypt, Thou has prepared a cross for thy Saviour.*

*Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!*

*Because I led thee through the desert forty years, and fed thee with manna,  
and brought thee into a land exceeding good, thou hast prepared a cross for thy Saviour.*

*Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!*

*What could I do more for thee that I have not done? I planted thee my choicest vine, and thou hast become exceeding bitter unto me. For when I was thirsty thou gavest me vinegar to drink mingled with gall and hast pierced with a spear the side of thy Saviour.*

*Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy and immortal, Have mercy upon us!*

*We venerate thy Cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify thy holy Resurrection:  
for by virtue of the Cross, joy has come to the whole world.*

*Faithful Cross! Above all other*

*One and only noble Tree!*

*None in foliage, none in blossom,*

*None in fruit thy peer may be;*

*Sweetest wood and sweetest iron!*

*Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

**Holy Communion**

*The Blessed Sacrament is brought into church as we sing the following hymn (NEH 78) :*

**Faithful Cross! Above all other, One and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom, Now in fruit thy peer may be;  
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron, Sweetest weight is hung on thee.**

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle, Sing the ending of the fray,  
O'er the cross, the victor's trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay:  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, As a Victim won the day.**

**God in pity saw man fallen, Shamed and sunk in misery,  
When he fell on death by tasting Fruit of the forbidden tree:  
Then another tree was chosen Which the world from death should free.**

**Therefore when the appointed fullness Of the holy time was come,  
He was sent who maketh all things Forth from God's eternal home:  
Thus he came to earth, incarnate, Offspring of a maiden's womb.**

**Thirty years among us dwelling, Now at length his hour fulfilled,  
Born for this, he meets his Passion, For that this he freely willed,  
On the cross the Lamb is lifted, Where his life-blood shall be spilled.**

**He endured the nails, the spitting, Vinegar and spear and reed;  
From that holy body piercèd Blood and water forth proceed:  
Earth and stars and sky and ocean By that flood from stain are freed.**