

wantage parish

PASSION SUNDAY 22 March 2026

Holy Trinity Sung Eucharist: New People's Mass (Dom Gregory Murray)

Hymns: NEH 79 (128ii), 95, 90 (omit *), 82, 86

Parish Church Choral Eucharist: Missa brevis (G.P. da Palestrina) **Motet:** O Lord increase our faith (Henry Loosemore) **Voluntary:** O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde groß (J.S. Bach)

Hymns: NEH 393, 294, 358, 461 (Corvedale)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday 21 March	4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)
Sunday 22 March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: PASSIONTIDE BEGINS <i>Preacher at all morning services: the Curate</i> 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) 9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) 10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) 5pm Tenebrae (Parish Church)
Monday 23 March	9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church) 3.30pm–4.30pm TBG: Teens' Bible Group (Parish Church)
Tuesday 24 March	9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group (<i>What's On Where</i>)
Wednesday 25 March	ANNUNCIATION 3pm–6pm Around Table (Holy Trinity) <i>Last orders at 5.30pm</i> 7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)
Friday 27 March	12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church) 9pm Compline (Parish Church)
Saturday 28 March	4pm Evening Prayer (Holy Trinity) 7.00pm 'Via Dolorosa', concert by Wantage Parish Church Choir (Parish Church) <i>See notice below.</i>
Sunday 29 March	PALM SUNDAY <i>*British Summer Time Begins (clocks forward one hour)*</i> 8am Eucharist (Parish Church) <i>Preacher: the Curate</i> 9.15am Liturgy of the Palms (Holy Trinity) <i>followed by procession to Market Place.</i> 10am Ecumenical Service (Market Place) 10.30am Choral Eucharist <i>with enactment of the Passion</i> (PC) 5pm Improvisations on the Cross with John Ridgway (Parish Church)

Morning Prayer is usually said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday–Friday

Eucharist at the Convent Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

What's On Where: For information about regular church groups and activities, see the church noticeboard, the link in the eNews, or scan the QR code:



READINGS & PRAYERS

First 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 round 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, 'Prophesy 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, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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 prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your 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.'

Psalm 130

The response for the psalm is: **Response: Out of the deep have I cried, O Lord.**

Second Reading: Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel: John 11.1-45

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

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Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend

Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

For Your Prayers: Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth, Natalie, Sirma, Chris, Pat and Dave, Alan and Dawn, Rachel, Niamh and Orlaith, Aubrey, Kathryn, Becky, Pat, Suzan Clark, Diane Dyche, David, Gordon, Peter, Alastair, Joe, Peter, John, Elda, Karen, Angela, Tracey.

RIP: Vernon Brett, Michelle Wilkins.

Please also pray for: Open the Book.

Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:

8am: Zechariah 9.9-12; Psalm 118.19-24; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 21.1-11

10:30am: Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; The Passion narrative according to the Gospel of Saint Matthew (Dramatised form)

Hymns at HT: NEH 185, 459, 484*, 84, 461

Hymns at PC: NEH 336 (descant JPR), 185, 66, 186

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TENEBRAE SERVICE: Today at 5pm. Tenebrae – Latin for "shadows" or "darkness" – is based on a solemn Christian Holy Week service, combining traditional readings with hymns and music from the choir.

PRAYERS FROM OUR PATRONS: the Parish will be prayed for at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on Sunday 22 March. St George's Chapel is our Patron, and is involved in supporting the parish especially in recruiting the incumbent.

PALM SUNDAY: Our celebration of Palm Sunday is a joint celebration between the two churches in our Parish and the Wantage and Grove Church Partnership. We will meet at **9.15am at Holy Trinity** for a very short liturgy of the Blessing of the Palms, and then process (on the pavement and footpaths) to the Market Square for 10am. All are invited either to join the procession or to make their own way to any or all parts of the celebration. The **8am congregation** is reminded that the Western half of the Market Place car park will be closed in preparation for this service.

PILGRIMAGE: Congratulations to our Parish Pilgrims for completing their walks to Canterbury Cathedral. Visit: <https://wantageparish.com/services/spiritual/pilgrimage> to read about their journeys.

VIA DOLOROSA – The Way Of Suffering. Join the choir for a reflective evening of music and readings for Lent and Passiontide on **Saturday 28 March at 7pm** in the Parish Church, as we follow the journey of Christ's Passion. The programme includes music by Handel, Pergolesi, Stainer and Ola Gjeilo, alongside readings from poets and writers including Gerard Manley Hopkins, John Donne and T S Eliot. Tickets: £12, concessions: £10, under-18s: free, sold in aid of Wantage Parish Music Guild. To book, scan the QR code in the eNews or visit: www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-parish-music-guild.

EASTER FLOWERS & EASTER FIZZ: Donations are invited towards our Easter celebrations, as well as towards Easter eggs for the children! Donations can be made in church or online, via a one-off donation on the Parish Giving page or by bank transfer to: ECC of the PCC of St Peter and St Paul Wantage, Sort Code: 40-52-40, A/C: 00036295. Please put 'Easter' as the reference. If you would like your donation to be in memory of somebody special, please email the Parish Office.

ELECTORAL ROLL & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: Forms are available from 15 March. The annual meeting with election of churchwardens and PCC members is taking place in May. If you are new to the congregation, or have not yet signed up on the electoral roll, please do so **between 13 March and 23 April**. Application forms are available in both churches. Please also note that the clergy and churchwardens will be approaching members of the congregation about different roles, and are more than happy to be pro-actively approached if you are interested in a particular position or area of the church's work.

WANTAGE PARISH MAGAZINE: The Spring edition of the Wantage Chronicle is out now and available in both churches. The focus of this edition is 'Beauty'. The magazine is free, but a donation of £2 would cover the cost for you and another.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd Katherine Price (Rest Day: Tuesday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

Curate: Revd Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

Children & Young People's Minister: James Clarke (Rest Day: Tuesday)
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Parish Administrator: Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: Klara Ignell safeguarding@wantageparish.com

Director of Music: Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

Personal Discipleship Plan: Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

Parish Website: www.wantageparish.com