What’s going on in...

HOLY WEEK and EASTER 2017

St Paulinus Church, Crayford
Since the earliest days, Christians have sought to reflect upon the meaning of Christ’s journey to the cross and resurrection by walking this final week with rituals that are dramatic, historic, reflective and sombre. We invite you to join us at St Paulinus this year to meet Christ, and one another, on his journey – a journey that will change history and change your life.

Palm Sunday, 9th April
8am Mass
10am High Mass and Procession
6pm Confirmation Service

Your king comes to you…humble and riding on a donkey. – Zechariah 9:9

As Jesus entered Jerusalem in this final week, he rode a donkey, subverting ideas of power and prestige, and was welcomed and adorned by the crowds with palm leaves and singing. At 10am Mass we begin in the Church Hall, to process with palm crosses singing of Jesus’ entry and offering our praise too, and we join in a dramatized reading of the account of his death.

The Passion (12) – Film Showings
In 2008, BBC produced a new mini-series portraying Jesus’ last week, his trial, death, and resurrection. Starring James Nesbitt and Joseph Mawle, it offers us a chance to explore the story of Jesus’ passion vividly, to provoke reflection and inspire devotion. In four episodes spread suitably throughout Holy Week, this offers you the chance to be drawn more deeply into the action, and to follow this with the only fitting response – worship.

Episode 1 – Monday 10th April, 7.00pm
Episode 2 – Tuesday 11th April, 7.15pm
Episode 3 – Good Friday 14th April, 3.00pm
Episode 4 – Holy Saturday 15th April, 7.15pm

Please note these episodes carry a 12 certificate, and are suitable only for those 12 years old and over.
HOLY MONDAY, 10TH APRIL
7pm ‘Passion’ Film Episode 1, followed by 8pm Mass
This day our film journey begins with Jesus’ entry to the city, and the political turmoil that surrounds him. Our Mass readings focus on the place of Judas, who is caught up in this turmoil, and whose reactions will profoundly shape the events of the coming week.

HOLY TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL
7.15pm ‘Passion’ Film Episode 2, followed by 8pm Mass
This day our film journey continues the action, with a focus on those closest to Jesus. Our Mass readings focus on the devotion of Jesus’ friend Mary, anointing him with costly perfume as if to prepare him for burial.

HOLY WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL
9.30am Mass, 8pm Stations of the Cross
After mocking him…they led him out to crucify him. – Mark 15:20

Our usual Wednesday morning Mass continues the story of Holy Week. In the evening, we follow a series of meditations around 14 stages or ‘stations’ of Jesus’ journey from trial to burial. We use the wooden figures around the church, and texts from the Gospels and reflections by other Christian pilgrims, to guide and inspire our path.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 13TH APRIL
8pm Mass of the Last Supper
9-11:45pm Silent Vigil
11:45pm Compline
So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. – John 13:14

All clergy renew their ordination vows and commitment to Christ’s ministry at the Cathedral Chrism Mass in the morning. In the evening, we celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper, an occasion of great drama and ritual. It is a celebration of Jesus’ table fellowship which he intimately shares with us, and of the gift of Holy Communion through which he is with us, nourishes us, and makes us one. As Christ washed his disciples’
feet like a servant, so the priest washes parishioners' feet as a gesture of the gift of service and the power of humility. At the end of the service, the Blessed Sacrament is processed solemnly to the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel. This altar, decorated with many flowers and candles, represents the Garden of Gethsemane, where Christ went after the Supper, to pray and consider what lay before him. Once laid there, vestments change to the mournful purple, and in silence and darkness the chancel is cleared of all items, reflecting how the disciples fled and left Jesus in his hour of need, to face the burden alone and desolate. A silent Vigil before the Altar of Repose reflects the disciples’ night watch before Jesus’ arrest, and concludes with a simple service of night prayer, called Compline.

**GOOD FRIDAY, 14TH APRIL**

10:45am for 11am Walk of Witness (Riverside)
12:30pm Stations of the Cross
2pm The Liturgy of Good Friday
3pm ‘Passion’ Film Episode 3

*It was about noon, and darkness came over the whole land…* - Luke 23:44a

We mark the day of Christ’s death on the cross through a variety of ways. Churches Together in Crayford join together, meeting at the Riverside in town, to process with a large cross up the hill to the garden space by Church Hill, for a short service, followed by refreshments in a nearby Church. Over lunchtime, we walk the Stations of the Cross in Church, much like earlier in the week, but with a different set of readings, and some hymns. At the Liturgy of Good Friday, a very ancient rite, everything is designed to show that things are not right: furniture is out of place, the altar cloth does not fit, and ministers enter and fall prostrate in the chancel. There are simple but sombre prayers, and the veneration of the cross (made from the stump of the Christmas tree). To reflect the desolation of the day, no bread or wine is consecrated, and the reserved Sacrament is distributed and used up completely. The third ‘Passion’ episode follows the story of this day of desolation and sadness.

**HOLY SATURDAY, 15TH APRIL**

7.15pm ‘Passion’ Film Episode 4, followed by 8pm Easter Vigil Ceremonies

*And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.* – Matthew 28:2

Our final episode of the ‘Passion’ glimpses the steady and shocking realization by the disciples that Jesus is back, that he is alive. The Easter Vigil is a powerful service, the first service of Easter. We commence with a bonfire outside Church, the blessing of the Paschal candle (the symbol of Christ’s resurrection presence with us), its procession into Church and singing of the ancient Exultet, which announces Christ’s rising from the tomb, and a set of Bible readings emphasise this as the event which transforms everything with God’s power and hope.

**EASTER DAY, 16TH APRIL**

7am Churches Together Dawn Service (Garden of Remembrance)
8am Mass
10am High Mass and Procession

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.* – Luke 24:5

Join us as we pull out all the stops in celebration that ‘Christ is risen indeed – Alleluia!’ The Church is re-invigorated with light, colour, flowers, and sounds of joy, a feast for the senses after the purgation of Lent. Hymns and readings inspire a holy happiness, as we celebrate the deep joy and hope that we have that Christ is risen, death is conquered and sin is vanquished. Easter Day is a day of hopeful vision for our lives and for the life of our community and world. Join us to praise God for his victory, to ask for his power and newness in our lives, and to pray that his glory and light would shine in the darkest corners of our world, the very world Christ came to save.