

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
5th SUNDAY OF LENT
Passion Sunday
21st March 2021

NOTES

Due to Covid restrictions, list entries in italics are private services. Please do not come to these unless you have been personally invited.

Joining instructions for online services and events are provided in the notices below.

Please be aware that all services and events are subject to late changes, and get in touch before finalising your plans.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Said Eucharist
11:00 am Coffee and Catch-Up on Zoom
7:00 pm Lent Course on Zoom

THURSDAY – ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:45 am Morning Prayer
12:30 pm Festival Eucharist for the Annunciation

NEXT SUNDAY – PALM SUNDAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 28th MARCH</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 31st MARCH</u>
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalms 31:9-16	Psalms 70
Philippians 2:5-11	Hebrews 12:1-3
Mark 11:1-11	John 13:21-32
Mark 14:1-end 15	

FROM THE VICAR

If you're one of those people who likes words, this Sunday may be of particular interest to you. 'Passion Sunday' is the nickname of the fifth Sunday in Lent because it is the day on which Passiontide begins. But what is meant by 'passion'?

Nowadays, passion is mostly a word for a powerful longing or yearning, bordering on obsession. Contestants on TV talent shows speak of their

passion for cooking, for singing, for dancing. Besotted characters in drama shows speak of their passion for each other. Passion, in this sense, occupies the complex and disputed territory where love, desire and ambition meet.

This does not seem to be the same thing at all as the kind of passion that we reflect on today and in these last few days of Lent. The passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ has to do, above all, with his suffering. He is arrested, abandoned, falsely accused, wrongly convicted, tortured and ultimately crucified. This is an older meaning of the word passion, one that connects more closely with its Latin root which means 'to suffer'.

But perhaps these different strands of thought may be woven together more easily than at first seems possible or likely. If we think of them as having something to do with *love* we can see how.

The kind of passion that enables a person to commit themselves to the suffering and endurance required to succeed at some particular skill or profession suggests a love for that activity, a valuing of it for its own sake. Without it, one would never be able to persevere.

These are comparatively trivial examples of the passionate love that held Jesus to his course. It was love for us, for the very people who subjected him to this suffering, that kept him steadfast.

This helps us, I think, to recognise that the passion of Jesus is rather more active than we sometimes imagine. It's easy to think of him as a helpless victim, to prefer pathos to genuine passion. Jesus *chose* this path, we do well to remember, and bore its sufferings willingly out of love for us. Love for you. Love for me.

As Passiontide begins this year, we are invited to reflect on Christ's sufferings in a focused and deliberate way. To see them clearly, to understand them properly, it helps to think about 'passion' as an active expression of God's love for humanity. I pray that we may all be granted grace to enter more deeply into this holy mystery.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

POST-COVID VOLUNTEERING

We are hopeful that over the next few months things at St Nicholas will return to a more familiar pattern. Much of this depends on things beyond our control – the progress might in fighting the virus, Government policies, national church advice. *But some of it depends on you!* In order to be able to do everything we would like to do, we need volunteers, lots of them. There are opportunities to get involved in church opening, stewarding services, church cleaning, various roles in worship, and many other things. Please get in touch if you are willing to help.

SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

The following services will take place in church during Holy Week. Please let us know if you are planning to attend.

Monday 29th March –

Said Eucharist @ 7:00 pm

Tuesday 30th March –

Said Eucharist @ 12:30 pm

Wednesday 31st March –

Said Eucharist @ 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday (1st April) –

Liturgy of Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 pm followed by the Watch to Midnight

Good Friday (2nd April) –

Liturgy of Good Friday @ 2:00 pm.

In addition to those for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, there will be an extra e-Church video on Maundy Thursday.

MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer has now resumed in the church building. Please do join us if you would like. Morning Prayer will also continue on Zoom for those who want it and are able to organise it. Please speak directly to Fran Bell about this.

COFFEE AND CATCH-UP ON ZOOM

Join us on Wednesdays at 11am for a coffee and a catch-up! A chance to see one another and share fellowship and fun, until we can meet in person again. The Zoom details are below; please get in touch with Alice if you have any questions or problems.

Topic: Wednesday Coffee and Catch-up

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638167553>

Meeting ID: 876 3816 7553

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP

Having started on Tuesday 16th February at 7:30 pm, Kate Mitchell will continue to host an informal coffee, chat, and fellowship group for parents of senior school children. The group will meet on Zoom for around 40 mins on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays thereafter.

Please do join as your other commitments permit and feel free to spread the word to anyone else you feel may be interested. Contact Kate on kimitchell882@gmail.com to register interest and be sent the recurring Zoom link.

Kate says: 'I hope that this will be a relaxed space in which we can get together over a coffee to draw encouragement and inspiration off each other about growing our own faith as parents, sharing our faith with our children, and living with teenagers who have had their school and social lives tipped upside down due to school closures and social distancing. Bring a drink of your choice for a catch up and then we will close with a restful compline for the last 5-10 mins. If you can't make the entire time you can just drop in and drop out as you need to.'

EASTER EGGS

If you'd like Traidcraft Easter Eggs this year, please order them direct, at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.

BUILDING REPAIRS

It's a year since the first lockdown was announced. We are all missing meals out with friends, cancelled holidays and theatre trips and that new spring outfit. But have you noticed that your bank balance has increased? Please consider making a donation to the church so that vital repairs to the East Window can take place and the work of mission and ministry at St Nicholas' can continue apace when we eventually re-open. *Joan Beresford*

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Did you know that you can forward the e-Church bulletins to your families and friends? Just click the 'forward' arrow in your email system. This is a terrific, and very easy, way of sharing the good news. Our materials are already being accessed by people all over the world, but there's plenty of room for lots more. People can also 'like' the videos on YouTube and subscribe to our mailings either by contacting the Parish Office or clicking on the button in the front page of the website. Do get in touch if we can help with any of this.

QUIET DAY FOR LENT OR HOLY WEEK

The Community of St Francis in Metheringham will host a Zoom Quiet Day – *The San Damiano Cross - Sights and Insights* – on Monday 29th March. To register, or for more information, please email Sr Maureen at metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk.

READINGS

Sunday 21st March

COLLECT

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM

PSALM 51:1-13

Refrain: Make me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement. **R**

I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart. **R**

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds. **R**

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit. **R**

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son,

today I have begotten you';

as he says also in another place,

'You are a priest for ever,

according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL

JOHN 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 24th March

COLLECT

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

DANIEL 3:14-20, 24-25, 28

Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?'

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defence to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.' He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.' Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.'

CANTICLE

BLESS THE LORD (FROM THE SONG OF THE THREE)

Refrain: Blessed are you for ever.

'Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever;
And blessed is your glorious, holy name,
and to be highly praised and highly exalted for ever. **R**
Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
and to be extolled and highly glorified for ever.
Blessed are you who look into the depths from your
throne on the cherubim,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever. **R**
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
and to be extolled and highly exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,
and to be sung and glorified for ever. **R**

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 8:31-42

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.'

They answered him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.' They said to him, 'We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.' Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.'

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**