



The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist

HM Tower of London

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we move into the most important week in the Christian year. We start with Palm Sunday. Here is a moving picture by Spanish artist Pedro de Orrento (1580–1645) and a poem by Giles Fletcher (1586–1623) both of which, in their different ways, set the scene for Palm Sunday.



Stanza 32 of *Christ's Triumph over Death*, by Giles Fletcher

It was but now their sounding clamours sung,
'Blessed is he that comes from the Most High.'
And all the mountains with Hosanna rung;
And now, 'Away with him – away!' they cry,
And nothing can be heard but 'Crucify!'
It was but now the Crown itself they gave,
And golden name of King unto him gave;
And now, no King, but only Caesar they will have.

A Palm Sunday thought

In many churches, Palm Sunday begins with an open-air procession where everyone carries a palm cross. This leads us into the beginning of Holy Week and our spiritual journey towards the Cross and Easter. I was reminded that, here in London, I have on occasion found myself caught up in either a procession or a protest, simply because I have been trying to get from A to B. Similarly, in the last week, innocent people have found themselves caught up in the French protests and processions against the planned rise in retirement age. I suspect that on what we now call Palm Sunday, many local people, whether by accident or design, found themselves joining the procession that Jesus made into Jerusalem. The church has, at times, condemned all those taking part in that procession, and it made me think how careful we need to be about judging the motives of individuals in crowds. As the crowd moved from shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David' on that first Palm Sunday to 'Crucify him' on Good Friday, at least some of those in the 'multitude' would have been innocent bystanders. We need to think carefully about how we form judgements about others and try not to lump them together indiscriminately. I suspect that there might be some amongst those watching us as we make our Palm Sunday procession here in The Tower of London on Sunday who, whether through ignorance or prejudice, might come to some quite strange judgements about our motives and purpose. For our part, however, we can be clear that we are echoing the joyful crowd at our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Other chapel news

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the flowers for Easter and beyond. People have been very generous and I am so grateful. There is still time if you would like to make a donation.

Please note this year's Holy Week services. They are all important, but it is a particular delight to tell you that the **Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally** (who is also Dean of the Chapels Royal) will be with us in the White Tower on Maundy Thursday for our service at 7pm.

Bring and Share Coronation Big Lunch, 7th May 2023, after the 11am service.

Please don't forget to sign up for this event; just send Debbie (Chapel Administrator) your name.

With my prayers and best wishes for you all, Roger.

Easter Flowers

As in previous years, I am collecting money for **Easter Flowers**. If you would like to donate towards the flowers, please bring either cash or a cheque with you on Sunday, or send a cheque to me at the address at the end of the Newsletter. Flowers are often given in memory of people who have died, and these names will be remembered at Easter. Thank you.



Services Details for 2nd April 2023

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1050 Choral Matins, with procession of witness
(Meet outside the Fusiliers' HQ.)

Psalm 31: 9-18.

Readings

Isaiah 50: 4-9a.
Matthew 27: 1-13.

Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Malcolm Guite is a poet, singer-songwriter, academic and Anglican priest, whose wife is also an Anglican priest. Although now retired from full-time ministry, he still lectures and writes regularly in the Church Times, where his poems can be read in 'Poet's Corner'. He is very well-known in poetry circles and is often quoted by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who has praised his 'brevity, clarity and capacity for paradox'. Because of Malcolm Guite's detailed research into the work of CS Lewis, he was interviewed as a guest on Radio 4's *Great Lives Series* in 2017, where the historian Professor Suzannah Lipscomb talked to him about CS Lewis, whose works had inspired her life.

Palm Sunday is one of a series of sonnets written for Holy Week, and published in 2012.

Palm Sunday

Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guardedness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.

Malcolm Guite b. 1957

Ukrainian families from Mariupol in the Tower on Saturday morning. Both wives have no idea where their husbands are at the time of writing this



Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday

0915 Holy Communion

Chapel of St John the Evangelist

1100 Choral Matins

Meet at 1050 outside the Fusiliers

Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th April

2000 Said Compline

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Thursday 6th April – Maundy Thursday

1900 Holy Communion

Chapel of St John the Evangelist

The Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapels Royal, will be attending

Friday 7th April– Good Friday

1900 Liturgy of the Cross

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Sunday 9th April - Easter Sunday

‘He is risen, he is risen indeed, Halleluiah’

0915 Holy Communion

Chapel of St John the Evangelist

1100 Easter State Parade

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Primrose from Tracy’s Garden



Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1e5006701213>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Madeleine, Dan, Derek, Colin, Ian, Patti, Florence, Bridget and Christopher.

RIP

John Dailly, Per-Hugo Lager, Alan Stern.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen

With best wishes to all, Roger.



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