



**Team Parish of Christ the King  
St Aidan's, Brunton Park  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Passion Sunday**

Today is Passion Sunday, the beginning of Passiontide, the most solemn two weeks of the church year. Today we begin to prepare to walk together with Jesus through these two weeks, through the exhilaration of Palm Sunday, the despair of Holy Week, the pathos of Maundy Thursday, the pain of Good Friday and the emptiness of Holy Saturday.

Today's Bible readings, Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones coming to life and Jesus' raising of Lazarus from death to life, might seem strange choices for Passion Sunday. They seem to pre-empt the coming of Easter in two weeks' time. But in looking beyond the darkness of their immediate situations, they both offer hope for the future; hope for the exiled people of Israel of a return to their land, and hope of new life beyond the grave in the resurrection of Jesus foreshadowed in the raising of Lazarus.

So these readings remind us that we too have a hope, however dark the present or the immediate future might seem, as they raise our eyes beyond the next two weeks, the cross and the tomb, to the resurrection joy of Easter Day. Alleluia to that (even on Passion Sunday)!

**Ezekiel 37.1-14 (abridged)**

The LORD set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD: 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.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh, and skin; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, 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, '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 to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you up from your graves. 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.'

### **John 11.1-45 (abridged)**

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 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 so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved them, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then he said to the disciples, '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.' 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 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. 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.' 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.'

Martha went back and called her sister Mary. 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.

He came to the tomb, a cave with a stone lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha 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 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.'

## **TODAY**

9:30am: **Passion Sunday:** Rev'd Ben Pullan and Mr Bernie Troughton lead our service as Mr Ken Newitt preaches from Ezekiel 37.1-14 and John 11.1-45 (Rev'd Rundell at St Matthews and St Cuthbert's)

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
7:30pm: **The Chosen Series, at St Cuthbert's church**

**Sat** 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

**Sun 2nd** 9:30am **Palm Sunday:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides over our service as we listen to a dramatised reading of the Passion

## **DATES FOR LENT LUNCHESES – 12pm start**

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY - HOLY WEEK**

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April: 9:30am **Palm Sunday**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm: **The Chosen (Episode 6) with Compline**

Tues 4<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm: **The Chosen (Episode 7) with Compline at St Columba's**

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm: **The Chosen (Episode 8) with Compline**

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm: **Maundy Thursday**

Fri 7<sup>th</sup>: 10.00am: **Good Friday Family Worship / Messy Church**  
2.00pm: **An Hour Before the Cross**

Sun 9<sup>th</sup>: 6.00am: **Easter Vigil**  
9.30am: **Easter Sunday Family Communion**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> 2:15pm **Funeral service of Vera Selby**

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm **Prayer and Praise**

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm **Lunch Group at the Rugby Club**

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm **Film Club – The Lost King**  
8:00pm **Men's Group – 'Nautical Talk' by Chris Sayers**

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/2023PassionSunday>

**PALM SUNDAY** – Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and we'll begin the service with a procession into church. Please meet outside the Post-office for 9.30am if you'd like/are able to join the procession.

**LUNCH GROUP** - will meet on 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Northern Rugby Club at 12:00pm for a 12:30pm lunch. Names to Pat and Pauline if you wish to join us.

**AGM AND DCC ELECTIONS** – St Aidan's AGM will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, and we will need to appoint at least 3 new DCC members. Please consider if you would like to be part of shaping the life and work of St Aidan's Church, and if so let Gerard know that you'd like to stand. (there are meetings involved, but it's honestly not too bad!)

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** - continues via Zoom it's study of St Luke's gospel during Lent with a JOURNEY TO THE CROSS IN LUKE - Jesus' parables on the way to Jerusalem. Monday's 7.30pm. All welcome. Zoom link below, or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details.

**ZOOM CODES** – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

**BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS:** if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

**CHURCH OPENING** – church is open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

**DONATIONS** - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

### ***For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer***

**For the church** – Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner

**For the community** – Christian Aid, the Children's Society, and other charities supported by the church and the Saturday café

**For the world** – for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton

**For those who have died** – George Owen, Jean Forrester, Vera Selby and on their anniversaries: George Robinson, Edward Chaneller, Alfred Minford, John MacLeod, George Tomlinson, Katharina Middleton, Max Smith, Margery Archbold

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