

THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY, PULBOROUGH



THE EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

8.00pm Saturday 4th April, 2026

Celebrant: Fr Paul
Preacher: Austen Hindman
Organist: Tony Hancock
Setting: Thorne

The congregation gather outside the west door of the church

Fr Paul introduces the Vigil

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord:

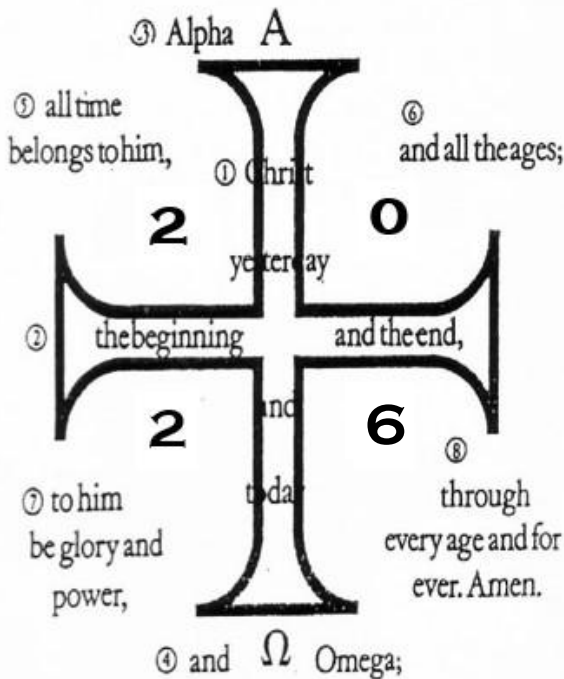
We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Fr Paul blesses the new fire:

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one
true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your
heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Easter Candle is now marked using the following words.



Christ yesterday and today,
 the beginning and the end,
 Alpha and Omega,
 all time belongs to him,
 and all ages; to him be glory and power,
 through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

By the holy and glorious wounds
 may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen.**

*Fr Paul lights the Easter Candle from the Holy Fire with the taper,
 saying:*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Fr Paul bearing the Candle moves into the church, followed by the altar party and congregation. After a short time all stop and the Candle is raised. Fr Paul sings:

The Light of Christ
Thanks be to God

All move further into the building and then stop again. The versicle and response are repeated, and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

All proceed to the centre of the building and stop once more. The versicle and response are again repeated, and all other candles in the church are now lit.

Fr. Paul sings the Easter Proclamation (The Exsultet) from the pulpit

During this the following is used:

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with musical symbols indicating phrasing and dynamics. The lyrics are: (P The Lord be with you. (And al-so with you.) P Lift up your hearts (We lift them up to the Lord. P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (It is right to give him thanks and praise.

At the end of the Proclamation all sing:

Amen

The Vigil

Fr Paul says:

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

Please sit

The First Reading Genesis 1. 1-2.4a

Read by Andy Leese

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.'

And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Hymn: LO&N 401 Keith D. Pearson (born 1925)

- 1 Jesus the Word has lived among us,
sharing his fullness, truth and grace,
God's only Son, the Father's loved one
reveals him to the human race.
Jesus the Word has lived among us
sharing his fullness, truth and grace.**

- 2 He was with God from the beginning
and through him all things came to be.
He lightens darkness, conquers evil,
gives life for living, glad and free.
He was with God from the beginning
and through him all things came to be.**
- 3 Sing praise to God who sent Christ Jesus
to be his sign of endless love;
sent him to live his life among us,
lifting our hearts to things above.
Sing praise to God who sent Christ Jesus
to be his sign of endless love!**

Silence

Please stand

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

The Second Reading Exodus 14.10-end and ch15 v1a
Read by Frances Hancock

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us

serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:
'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Hymn: O&N 132 v1

***Aisomen pantes laoi* John of Damascus (c.675-749) translated
John Mason Neale (1818-1866)**

**1 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
 Of triumphant gladness;
 God has brought his Israel
 Into joy from sadness.
 Loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke
 Jacob's sons and daughters,
 Led them with unmoistened foot
 Through the Red Sea waters.**

Silence

Please stand

Lord God our Redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit

The Third Reading: Ezekiel 36. 24-28

Read by Alyson Heath

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the
countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean
water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your
uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Hymn: NEH 530 – Psalm 42/43

R: As the running deer seeks the flowing brook, even so my soul longs for you, my God

- 1 My soul is a | thirst for God,
Even for the | living God:
But when shall | I attain
The vision | of his face? R**
- 2 O send your | light and truth,
And let them | be my guide,
To reach your | holy hill,
The place of | your abode. R**
- 3 Why so heavy | O my soul?
Why so disquiet | ed within me?
O put your | trust in God,
My helper | and my God. R**
- 4 To God's altar | will I go,
To God my | chiefest joy:
On the strings | of the harp
I will offer | him my praise. R**

Silence

Please stand

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life
in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen**

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia, Christ is risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GLORIA is introduced with fanfare and bells

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**Glory to God in the Highest, and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God, in the Highest.

**For you alone are the Holy one,
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
Glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.**

The Collect

O Lord of all life and power
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour,
Glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Please sit

The New Testament Reading: Romans 6. 3-11

Read by Hannah Holloway

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ
Jesus were baptized into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
We know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.
For whoever has died is freed from sin.
But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death he died, he died to sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

**The Gradual Hymn: O&N 8
Donald Fishel (born 1950)**

*Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to His name.*

- 1 **Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation: *Chorus***
- 2 **Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen: *Chorus***
- 3 **We have been crucified with Christ;
Now we shall live for ever: *Chorus***
- 4 **God has proclaimed the just reward:
'Life for us all, Alleluia!' *Chorus***
- 5 **Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour: *Chorus***

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 28. 1-10

The Alleluia is sung by the choir and then repeated by the congregation



The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

The Homily

Please stand as the altar party moves to the Font while organ music is played

The Blessing of the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.
Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.
Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.
Saving God, **give us life.**

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.
Saving God, **give us life.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who are baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you'.

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia alleluia

The peace of the Lord be always with you alleluia alleluia
and also with you. Alleluia, alleluia

Fr Paul says:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn: NEH 112

Jesus lebt, mit ihm auch ich

Christian Fuerchtegott Gellert (1715-1769),

Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)

- 1 **Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia.**

- 2 **Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia.**

- 3 **Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.**

**4 Jesus lives! our hearts know well,
nought from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
Tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia.**

**5 Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia.**

Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

The Prayer over the gifts is said

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise



Fr Paul continues with the prayer:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this night of our redemption
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Fr Paul continues until the following is used:

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Fr Paul continues and leads into the conclusion of the prayer to which all sing: Amen

Please kneel or sit

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**



The Giving of Communion

Fr Paul issues the invitation to communion in these or very similar words:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Receiving consecrated wine directly from the chalice is offered for those who feel comfortable to do this. **Please do not dip the consecrated wafer into the chalice.***

Please wait to be directed to communion.

Choir anthem: "Exultet" Richard Shepherd

The Communion Hymn: NEH 121

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

**1 This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:**

***Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen, arisen!***

**2 My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west:
Shall wake the dead in number: Chorus**

**3 Death's flood hath lost its chill,
 Since Jesus crossed the river:
 Lover of souls, from ill
 My passing soul deliver: Chorus**

Please kneel or sit

The Prayer after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The following prayer is then said by all:

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and
bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

