

Church at Home for Maundy Thursday

Renewal of Vows



Before the Service

A warm welcome from Bishop Steven and all the bishops of the diocese. Because of the Coronavirus outbreak, we are not able to join together physically at the Cathedral Church in Oxford. However, we do so from our homes at this extraordinary time.

We gather (as is traditional) on Maundy Thursday. The name 'Maundy' comes from the Latin 'mandatum' meaning 'commandment'. Christians remember Jesus giving the disciples the command to love one another just as he loved them, at the Last Supper. It is for this reason that this day is chosen for clergy and lay ministers to renew their vows.

It is a powerful statement for those who minister across the diocese of Oxford to join together in solidarity today. As part of our service, we are delighted that some of the NHS Chaplains who are priests have contributed to the service. We continue to pray for health services here and across the globe and for all the suffering peoples of the world.

As we recall our diocesan patron Saint, St Frideswide, and all through whom the deposit of Faith has been passed, we pray that we may be faithful to our inheritance as disciples of Christ at this time of fear and uncertainty. And we hold fast to the promise of 1 Thessalonians 5.24 'The one who calls you is faithful'.

The Gathering

As we gather virtually in our homes, we hear a Worship Song to prepare our hearts; after which you are invited to join in singing the Hymn

Jesus call us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear:
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

John L Bell; Graham Maule
Music: BLAENWERN

Greeting

Bishop Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve his God and Father.
All **Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

Bishop Peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

The Bishop welcomes the Congregation from around the diocese and introduces the service

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop I ask you now 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, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in God the Father.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in God the Son.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

Bishop This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Bishop May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins, and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the new covenant. During this service I invite you all to dedicate yourselves afresh to God's service, as stewards of the mysteries of God, and ministers of grace.

The Bishop of Oxford address all members of the congregation:

Christ has entrusted his ministry to the whole Church. In consequence of our baptism into Christ, we each have a ministry to exercise and a part to play in the body of Christ. Therefore I ask, will you serve the Lord with faith, humility and joy?

All **By the help of God, I will.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All glory be to God in heaven,
For peace on earth we sing,
We worship you, we bring you thanks
Our Father, glorious King.

Lord Jesus Christ, oh Lamb of God
God's only Son, be praised!
Have mercy, take our sins away,
Receive the prayers we raise.

For you alone are God most high
You are the Holy One!
To Father, Son and Spirit sing:
the glorious Three in One.

Matty Simpkins
AMAZING GRACE

Collect

Bishop

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, who anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom;
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is live and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Renewal of LLM Commitment

When you were commissioned, you undertook to be faithful in prayer, and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for his people?

LLMs

By the help of God, I will.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 43.1-7

read by a member of 'Young Disciples' Youth Group, Witney

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
 and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.'

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Renewal of Diaconal Commitment

The deacons are addressed by the Bishop and all who are a deacon respond alongside the voices of some of those ordained deacon this last year

My brothers and sisters, at your ordination as a deacon,
you received the yoke of Christ,
who took the form of a servant,
coming to serve and not to be served,
so that in your ministry
Christ's example to his Church as the servant of all
might be proclaimed.

Will you continue faithfully in the ministry
of building up God's people in truth
and serving them in his name?

Deacons **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you continue to proclaim in deed and word
the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour?

Deacons **By the help of God, I will.**

The bishop says to all the deacons

The Lord be in your heart and on your lips
that you may truly and faithfully proclaim his holy gospel;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Jesus Christ has made us into a kingdom; priests for his God and Father,
to him be glory and power for ever. Amen.
Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Gospel

Matthew 12.15-21

read by Deacon Julie Howell

Curate at St George the Martyr, Wash Common

Deacon The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Deacon Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
 my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
 and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
 nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.
He will not break a bruised reed
 or quench a smouldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.
 And in his name the Gentiles will hope.'

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Bishop of Dorchester

After the sermon we keep silence together for a few moments before:

Renewal of Priestly Commitment

The priests are addressed by the Bishop and the priests respond alongside the voices of some of those currently serving as NHS Chaplains

My brothers and sisters,
at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ
gave his disciples a new commandment,
that they should love one another,
and he prayed that they might be one.
He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love,
in the sacrament of bread and wine.
He consecrated himself to his Father's service,
to be the high priest of the New Covenant.
I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service,
as stewards of the mysteries of God
and ministers of his grace.

At your ordination you accepted the yoke of Christ
for love of the Lord and his Church.
Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to Christ
and to become more like him,
joyfully sacrificing your own pleasures and ambitions
to bring his peace and love to your brothers and sisters?

Priests

By the help of God, I will.

Bishop With the example of the Lord who washed his disciples' feet, will you be faithful in serving the needs of others and diligent in caring for those in need and trouble, in strengthening the faithful, and in searching out the indifferent and the lost?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you fashion your life according to the pattern of Christ, that you may be a true pastor, by word and example, to the people whom you serve?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you work in partnership with all whom the Lord has given you, and encourage all the baptized to grow as the royal priesthood of the new covenant?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you be a faithful minister of the mysteries of God by leading the worship of his people with devotion and care and by teaching the Christian faith with conviction and joy?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you continue in the way of Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church of God, whose grace is sufficient to meet your need?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake all these things, give us also the strength to perform them, that he may complete that work which he has begun in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Wherever you are and whoever you're with, with family, or on your own or even in a shielded household situation, remember that Christ's peace is more than a handshake or a hug. It is something from the heart and, whether with a warm smile, a nod, a bow or a face on a screen, God's peace in the Spirit moves among us.

Video

You Sing to me sung by Shuk Gant, living in the Parish of Abingdon. It's a song about feeling lost and discovering God with us, singing to us and calling us home.

I didn't know that I could be so graceless,
Struggling to exist in my own skin,
Calling out for someone, please to love me,
Losing all connection from within.
I didn't know that you would be so patient
I didn't know that I could be so blind,
I've battled through a thousand wars to find you,
Running fast and you were right behind.
And you sing to me.
You sing to me.
Woooooh
Living scared that I could feel so lonely
Sinking past where anyone should go
I didn't think that anyone could find me....
but you were there the moment I let go..
And you sing to me, you sing to me
Woooooh,

Rest now you are home
Rest, you're not alone.
You sing, sing.
Woooahhh
Rest now, you are home.

Prayers

The Bishops of Buckingham and Reading

Ending with The Lord's Prayer

Bishop In times of hope, in times of trouble,
 In times of sorrow, in times of praise,
 as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Renewal of Episcopal Commitment

The bishops are addressed by two younger members of the diocese

Bishops Reverend Fathers and Mother in God,
 will you be faithful to the promise you made
 at your consecration
 to uphold the truth of the gospel?
By the help of God, I will.

Will you promote unity, peace and love
among all Christian people, especially in our diocese,
and be diligent in prayer and the reading of the holy scriptures?

Bishops

By the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to become more like our High Priest and
Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all,
and so to be an authentic sign of Christ's loving presence
among us?

Bishops

By the help of God, I will.

*All join to say with John Sykes the chair of the House of Laity of Diocesan
Synod and a lay member of St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean,
Maidenhead church*

All

**Lord God,
in our baptism you called us
and brought us into your Church
to bear witness to faith in the crucified Christ
and to be his faithful disciples to the end of our lives;
so now with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke
of obedience
and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do
your perfect will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

All sing Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King,
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name.

Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name.

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, th'eternal name.

Words: M. Saward (b.1932)
Music: GUITING POWER

Encouragement

A word of encouragement from Canon Sue Booyes, Chair of the House of Clergy

The Dismissal

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who has made heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord:
All **now and for ever. Amen.**

Bishop God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministries,
that at this time of challenge you may know God's power
and in your weakness you may know God's strength;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Deacon Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**



*“There are many things that can only be
seen through eyes that have cried”*

Oscar Romero

Many helpful resources, inspiring stories and ways to worship, reflect and live as faithful Christians in challenging times are all available on the diocesan website:

oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19



DIOCESE of OXFORD

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

Services for the Triduum

The services for the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) will be like no other we have experienced. Live-streamed worship will be available for everyone across the Diocese of Oxford, these services complement the prayers, meditations and worship offered by local churches. Visit oxford.anglican.org/livestream and find out how you can join in.

Maundy Thursday 8.15pm

Diocesan Eucharist. Bishop Colin presiding.

Good Friday

A series of six short addresses from Bishop Steven with hymns and prayers.

Easter Eve 8pm

A Vigil for Our Times – see rumoursofhope.co.uk

Easter Day 10am

Diocesan Eucharist. Bishop Steven presiding.

Acknowledgements

Excerpts from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England and Common Worship: Times and Seasons are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006. Reproduction of the hymns in this service paper falls within the provisions of CCLI 535160. Rainbow montage by Morwenna Buckley.