



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

Palm Sunday
[The Sunday next before Easter]
29th March 2026

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 50.4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Philippians 2.5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 21.1-11

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴ This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'

¹¹ The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

BCP Sunday 29th March - The Sunday next before Easter - Palm Sunday

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 95

This Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist;

4p.m. Reflective Service to mark the beginning of Holy Week

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

Next week's CW readings Sunday 5th April - EASTER DAY

Jeremiah 31.1-6; Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18

BCP Sunday 5th April - EASTER DAY

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 129

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 6a.m. Dawn Service with Fire (Market Place);

8a.m. BCP Communion; 10a.m. Festival Eucharist;

4p.m. Festal Evensong

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. All Ages Eucharistic Family Service

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Easter Day Eucharist

Canon Graham's Open Office is NOT available this Monday 6th April 2026

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

Restore@4: Please note the service that was due on Easter Day has been moved to **today**, a week earlier.

At **4pm** the Palm- Sunday service **today** will be a simple quiet service gathering around the cross in the Parish Church.

Preparation for Easter day. Last year people were very generous in donating **tin foil wrapped mini chocolate Easter eggs**. It would be really appreciated if Parish Church members were able to assist us again this year.

The Flower Team at Holy Trinity would welcome help and donations of flowers to decorate our church for Easter. If you are able and willing join us on **Saturday 4th April** from **9.30am**.

Easter Flowers in the Parish Church. Although the building work has begun and we have lost the “wash room”, the Flower guild hope to create a splendid display of seasonal spring flowers in the church at Easter. If you would like to help towards the cost of providing flowers this Easter, please put a donation in an envelope marked “Easter flowers” and place it in the glass chest in the church by Thursday 2nd April. If you wish the flowers to be dedicated to a loved one, please add their name on the envelope. Pam Barnes, Parish Church Flower Guild.

As a parish we have been privileged to see **Revd Julian Wilson** grow into his ministry among us, first as **Assistant Curate** and then as **Associate Priest**. We would like to offer him a **farewell gift** in thanksgiving for his time and service here. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope marked “**Fr J**” and give it to the **Churchwardens** of your church. A **farewell gathering** will take place at **Saint Lawrence Church** on **Saturday 25 April at 4.00 p.m.** This will include a short service of **Evening Prayer**, followed by **light refreshments**.

On **April 17th**, the **Illuminated Orchestra** are coming to **St John Baptist** to give two concerts (**6.15pm and 8.45pm**) of music by Hans Zimmer and other film favourites. Tickets can be found at illuminatedorchestra.co.uk

On **April 24th** at **7.30pm**, we will be welcoming **The King's Men** to **St John Baptist**. Due to popular demand, the singers from King's College, Cambridge will be returning with what should be a wonderfully varied and exciting programme, ranging from classical to more contemporary music.

From the Parish Calendar:

- **HOLY WEEK (see back page)**
- Wed 1 Apr 1.10pm: Organ Recital (Pavlos Triantaris – Letchworth) – St John Baptist
- Sat 4 Apr 9.30am Church Cleaning – Holy Trinity

HOLY WEEK 2026

Monday 30th March

- 9.15am Morning Prayer – St John Baptist
- 12.00noon Midday Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer – St John Baptist
- 6.30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Eucharist – Holy Trinity
- 8.00pm: Said Compline – St John Baptist

Tuesday 31st March

- 9.15am Morning Prayer – St John Baptist
- 12.00noon Midday Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 6.30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Eucharist – Holy Trinity
- 8.00pm Sung Compline – St John Baptist

Wednesday 1st April

- 9.15am Morning Prayer – St John Baptist
- 10.30am Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 12.00noon Midday Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer – St John Baptist
- 6.30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Eucharist – Holy Trinity
- 8.00pm Said Compline – St John Baptist

Thursday 2nd April – MAUNDAY THURSDAY

- 9.15am Morning Prayer – St John Baptist
- 12.00noon Midday Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 7.00pm Supper followed by Eucharist – Parish Hall, Watermoor
- 7.30pm Liturgy of The Upper Room followed by Watch – St John Baptist

Friday 3rd April – GOOD FRIDAY

- 9.00am Standing at The Cross – St Lawrence
- 9.15am Morning Prayer – St John Baptist
- 12.00noon Led Reflections – St John Baptist
- 2.00pm Liturgy of The Cross – St John Baptist
- 6.00pm Musical & Biblical Meditations on The Stations of The Cross – St John Baptist

Saturday 4th April – HOLY SATURDAY

- 10.00am Said Eucharist – St John Baptist
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer – St John Baptist

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Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!