



# The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7:30pm



# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted that you have been able to join us today as we celebrate  
Maundy Thursday, together with our sisters and brothers  
from Holy Trinity, Coventry.

Presiding and preaching at this service is the Very Reverend John Witcombe,  
Dean of Coventry.

The deacon is the Reverend Richard Hibbert, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry.

The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Curate, is sub-deacon.

The Cathedral Choir is directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music.

The organists are Luke Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Music, and Stephen  
Crookes, Organ Scholar. The setting is the Missa brevis by William Walton  
(1902-1983). The Missa brevis was commissioned  
for the choir of Coventry Cathedral in 1965.

In this service, we say the words in **bold** together, and invite you to stand  
and sit as indicated. However, please stay seated if you prefer.

During the service, the president will wash the feet of twelve people from the  
congregation. If you have been nominated to have your feet washed, please  
be ready to come and take one of the seats at the front at the point  
indicated in this order of service. If you haven't been nominated, but would  
like to have your feet washed and there are spare seats,  
please do come and take one.

If you have brought small children, thank you! Feel free to explore the space  
with them, and to use the toys and books provided.

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# The Gathering

*No organ music is played before the service, and all are asked to keep silent.  
At 7:30pm the Peace Bell is sounded.*

## Hymn

We **STAND** to sing:



**Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind,  
your call to hear, your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong;  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains;  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined;  
yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own,  
not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**Great God, in Christ you set us free,  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.**

*Words by Brian Wren (b. 1936)*

*Tune CP 133(1) Ryburn by Norman Cocker (1889-1953)*

## **The Greeting**

*The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, presiding, says,*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

# ***The Liturgy of Penitence***

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*The Reverend Richard Hibbert, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Coventry, deacon, says,*

Our Lord Jesus Christ says

‘If you love me, keep my commandments.’

‘Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.’

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against God’s love,  
and ask God to cleanse us.

*Everyone SITS or KNEELS and silence is kept. The deacon continues,*

Have mercy on us, O God,

in your great goodness;

according to the abundance of your compassion

blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have we sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;

wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president gives the absolution:*

The Lord, who is faithful and just,

forgive you your sins,

create and make in you a clean heart

and renew a right spirit within you

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

We *STAND* and the choir sings:

*Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we  
give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ.  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the  
sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the  
sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the  
sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right  
hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art  
most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## **The Collect**

*The president introduces a time of silent prayer and then says,*

God our Father,  
you have invited us to share in the supper  
which your Son gave to his Church  
to proclaim his death until he comes:  
may he nourish us by his presence,  
and unite us in his love;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

# ***The Liturgy of the Word***

## **The First Reading**

*We SIT for the first reading, read by the Reverend Carolyn Powell, Associate Minister at Holy Trinity Church.*

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

*We STAND to sing as the Gospel procession moves to the centre of the Nave. Please turn to face the book of the Gospels as it passes.*

**Immortal Love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea.**

**Our outward lips confess the name  
all other names above;  
love only knoweth whence it came  
and comprehendeth love.**

**We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;  
in vain we search the lowest deeps,  
for him no depths can drown:**



**But warm, sweet, tender, even yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its Olivet,  
and love its Galilee.**

**Alone, O Love ineffable,  
thy saving name is given;  
to turn aside from thee is hell,  
to walk with thee is heaven.**

*Words by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)  
Tune CP 475 Bishopthorpe melody  
and bass from Select portions of the Psalms (c.1786)*

## **The Gospel**

*The choir sings, then we all repeat,*

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**



*The choir sings:*

**I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:  
Love one another as I have loved you.**

*We all sing:*

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**



*The deacon says,*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come."

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

*John 13:1 – 17, 31b – 35*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

We all sing:

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**



*There follows a short organ improvisation as the Gospel procession returns to the Chancel.*

## **The Sermon**

*The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean, prays and we SIT for the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept for reflection.*

## **The Maundy Washing and the Prayers**

*The president and the deacons remove their outer vestments as twelve members of the congregation come forward and sit in the chairs set out around the altar. The deacon washes the president's feet before the president washes and dries the feet of those who have come forward. As feet are washed, the choir sings:*

*Ubi caritas et amor,  
Deus ibi est  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi  
amor  
Exsulemur et in ipso jucundemur  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero  
Ubi caritas et amor,  
Deus ibi est  
Amen*

*Where there is charity and love,  
there God is.  
The love of Christ brought us  
together.  
let us rejoice and exult in him.  
Let us fear the living God and love  
one another sincerely from the heart.  
Where there is charity and love  
there God is.  
Amen.*

*Those whose feet have been washed remain in their places and the president says,*

Almighty Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for him;  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as he was the servant of all,  
who gave up his life and died for us,  
but is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The president introduces the intercessions:*

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father  
through Christ the Saviour of the world.

*The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, continues:*

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.  
We commit ourselves  
to follow his example of love and service.  
Lord, hear us  
**and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.  
We pray for the unity of your Church.  
Lord, hear us  
**and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through  
his disciples' message.  
We pray for the mission of your Church.  
Lord, hear us  
**and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,  
but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved.

Lord, hear us

**and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded his disciples  
that if the world hated them it hated him first.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord, hear us

**and give us your peace.**

On this night, he accepted the cup of death  
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.

We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear us

**and welcome all your children into paradise.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### **The Peace**

*We STAND. The president introduces the peace, saying,*

Jesus says:

‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

neither let them be afraid.’

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*The deacon says:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Everyone shares the Peace. You might like to think of someone you know  
and phone them after the service to share Christ’s Peace with them.*

## The Offertory Hymn

We sing:

**O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray  
that all thy Church might be for ever one,  
grant us at every Eucharist to say  
with longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done.'  
O may we all one bread, one body be,  
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;  
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;  
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,  
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of peace:  
thus may we all one bread, one body be,  
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;  
O bring them back, good shepherd of the sheep,  
back to the faith which saints believed of old,  
back to the Church which still that faith doth keep:  
soon may we all one bread, one body be,  
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

**So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,  
may we be one with all thy Church above,  
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,  
one with the saints in one unbounded love:  
more blessed still, in peace and love to be  
one with the Trinity in Unity.**

*W.H. Turton (1856-1938)*

*Tune CP 318 Song I Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

## Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

*The president says,*

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord.  
We know that it was not only our ancestors,  
but we who were redeemed  
and brought forth from bondage to freedom,  
from mourning to feasting.  
We know that as he was with them in the upper room  
so our Lord is here with us now.

**Until the kingdom of God comes  
let us celebrate this feast.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,  
you bring forth bread from the earth.

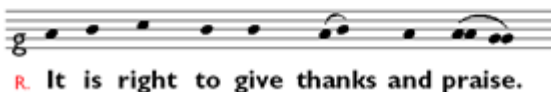
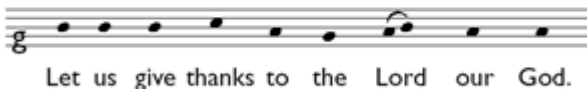
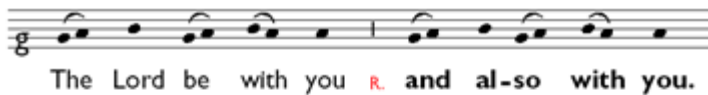
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of the universe,  
you create the fruit of the vine.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*The president sings, and the people respond:*



*The president continues,*

It is indeed right to give you thanks,  
Father most holy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For on this night he girded himself with a towel  
and, taking the form of a servant,  
washed the feet of his disciples.  
He gave us a new commandment  
that we should love one another as he has loved us.  
Knowing that his hour had come,  
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples  
to be a memorial of his passion,  
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,  
and feast with him in his kingdom.  
Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

*The choir sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy  
glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*The president continues,*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

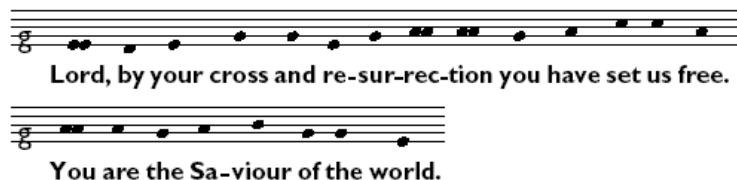


Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

*The deacon sings:*



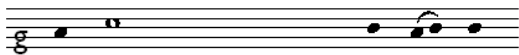
*Everyone replies:*



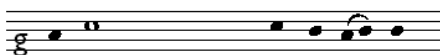
*The president continues:*

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary, Michael  
and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

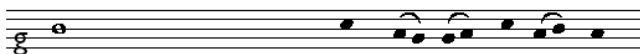
*The president sings:*



by whom, and with whom, and in whom,



in the unity of the Ho-ly Spi-rit,

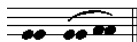


all honour and glory be yours, al-migh-ty Fa-ther,



for ev-er and ev-er.

*Everyone responds:*



**A-men.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*We SIT. Please feel free to say the Lord's Prayer in any language or version you feel comfortable with. The president introduces:*

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying,*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **The Invitation to Communion**

*The president says,*

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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei:*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

## **The Giving of Communion**

*The ministers and the people receive Communion. During the distribution,  
the choir sings:*

*Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord,  
giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain.  
For us thy wretched folk is any word?  
Who knew that for our sins this is thy pain?  
For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds,  
Why must thou suffer torture for our sins?  
Let our hearts suffer in thy Passion, Lord,  
That very suffering may thy mercy win.  
This is the night of tears, the three days' space,  
Sorrow abiding in the eventide,  
Until the daybreak with the risen Christ,  
And hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied.  
So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord,  
That they may sharers of thy glory be;  
Heavy with weeping may the three days pass,  
To win the laughter of thine Easter Day.*

*Words by Peter Abelard (1079–1142), Translated by Helen Waddel  
Music by Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)*

## **The Prayers after Communion**

*The president says,*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries  
of your body and blood  
that we may know within ourselves  
and show forth in our lives  
the fruit of your redemption,  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Almighty God,**  
we thank you for feeding us  
at the supper of your Son.  
**Sustain us with your Spirit,**  
that we may serve you here on earth,  
until our joy is complete in heaven  
and we share the eternal banquet  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Conclusion**

### **The Stripping of the Sanctuary**

*As the Cathedral is stripped of ornamentation, the choir sings:*

1. O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee :  
O let my prayer enter into thy presence, incline thine ear unto my  
calling.
2. For my soul is full of trouble : and my life draweth nigh unto hell.
3. I am counted as one of them that go down into the pit : and I have  
been even as a man that hath no strength.
4. Free among the dead, like unto them that are wounded, and lie in  
the grave : who are out of remembrance, and are cut away from thy  
hand.

5. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit : in a place of darkness, and in the deep.
6. Thine indignation lieth hard upon me : and thou hast vexed me with all thy storms.
7. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me : and made me to be abhorred of them.
8. I am so fast in prison : that I cannot get forth.
9. My sight faileth for very trouble : Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched forth my hands unto thee.
10. Dost thou shew wonders among the dead : or shall the dead rise up again, and praise thee?
11. Shall thy loving-kindness be shewed in the grave : or thy faithfulness in destruction?
12. Shall thy wondrous works be known in the dark : and thy righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten?
13. Unto thee have I cried, O Lord : and early shall my prayer come before thee.
14. Lord, why abhorrest thou my soul : and hidest thou thy face from me?
15. I am in misery, and like unto him that is at the point to die : even from my youth up thy terrors have I suffered with a troubled mind.
16. Thy wrathful displeasure goeth over me : and the fear of thee hath undone me.
17. They came round about me daily like water : and compassed me together on every side.
18. My lovers and friends hast thou put away from me : and hid mine acquaintance out of my sight.

*At the end, everyone STANDS. The choir and ministers remove their surplices, vestments and albs, and the final lights are extinguished. A server carries the lighted torch through the congregation and out by the West Screen to the Ruins. The ministers and people turn to watch as the light passes.*

*The choir, the ministers and the people leave at once, without ceremony or order. Please maintain absolute silence as you leave the Cathedral.*

***Following the Maundy Thursday evening service, you are invited to keep watch in the Chapel of Christ in Gethsemane, just as Jesus invited his disciples to keep watch with him in the Garden of Gethsemane as he prayed before his arrest. This is a silent vigil and will begin after the service (at around 9pm) and will finish at 10pm when the Cathedral will be secured for the night.***

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*If you would like to make a one-off donation to the Cathedral via your phone, or set up a recurring donation, please use the QR code below. There are also contactless donation points and collection boxes near the entrance.*

*Thank you for your support.*



If you would like to revisit this evening's sermon or see orders of service in advance, please visit this page:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/worship-music/services>

### **JOINING OUR CHOIRS**

Boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 11 are welcome to audition for our Cathedral Choir. Do you know a child who loves to sing? There are many benefits to joining the choir – new friends, a free, world-class music education, choir pay, singing services and at special events in amazing places, choir tours, broadcasts, recordings and social events too. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the choir, please be in touch with the Director of Music to arrange a meeting.

[rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:rachel.mahon@coventrycathedral.org.uk)

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### **Easter Services**

*Please note that throughout Holy Week, Holy Communion will take place at noon rather than at Morning Prayer.*

### **Good Friday Liturgy**

Friday 29th March at 9am

*A solemn, reflective service where we listen again to the story of Jesus' suffering and death and spend time worshipping Him for His service and sacrifice for us.*

### **Stations of the Cross**

Friday 29th March, 2 – 3pm in the Cathedral Ruins

*A poignant way to observe Good Friday, Stations of the Cross allows us to visually follow the steps Jesus took on His way to the Cross.*

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### **Easter Dawn Eucharist**

Sunday 31st March, 6 – 7am in the Cathedral Ruins

*Join us for this joyous service to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, with the beautiful backdrop of the dawn sky. At this service, Bishop Ruth Worsley will be performing baptisms and confirmations.*

*\*\*Please note that the clocks go forward on 31st March\*\**

### **Easter Day Eucharist**

Sunday 31st March, 10:30 – 11:45am in the New Cathedral

*All are welcome to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at this special Easter Eucharist service.*

### **Festal Evensong**

Sunday 31st March, 4 – 5:15pm

*Join us for this Festal Evensong service, with beautiful music to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a perfect way to end this holy day.*

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