



**DIOCESE OF  
COVENTRY**

# **The Chrism Eucharist**

*The Reaffirmation of Ministerial Vows  
with the Charge of the Bishop  
and the Blessing of Oils*

**Maundy Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, 10:30am**

# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you here today, in particular lay and ordained ministers from across the diocese. Our worship today has four main sections:

**The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry** places the ordained ministry in the context of the royal priesthood of the whole Church, while giving due emphasis to its distinctive calling. Those who are ordained do not cease to be part of the *laos* - the people of God – in the same way priests continue to be deacons, and Bishops continue to be priests. This truth is articulated in the way those in different orders are asked to stand and reaffirm their ministries.

Leading into this renewal of commitment, **the Charge** is an opportunity for Bishop Sophie to expand on what it means to be **“Walking Forward Together”** in this season of our shared life as a Diocese, as we discern a refreshed vision for our diocese for the coming years.

**The Blessing of the Oils** is a very ancient ceremony, performed traditionally on Maundy Thursday so that the oils could be used in baptism at Easter. *The oil of the sick* is used in obedience to James 5:14, as a sign and means of God’s healing love and power.

*The oil of catechumens* is used for the signing of the cross before baptism, as a symbol of God’s grace to resist evil and follow Christ. *The oil of chrism*, traditionally blessed by the Bishops and priests of the diocese, is used for the solemn anointing of those who have been baptized and those who are to be confirmed, Bishops and priests at their ordination, and altars and church buildings at the time of their dedication.

Finally, **the Eucharist** is the climax to this act of worship, as we gather round the Lord’s table to “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes”.

In this service, we say the words in **bold** together, and invite you to stand, sit and otherwise move as indicated. However, please stay seated if you prefer. You are welcome to take photographs, but not until after the service, please.

Everyone in the Cathedral this morning is warmly invited to stay for tea/coffee after the service.

Those who reserved **oils** can collect these and “***Thy Kingdom Come***” resources from the Sir John Laing Centre after the service.

*Thy Kingdom Come* is a global season of prayer running from Ascension to Pentecost. During these days, Christians across the Anglican Communion and many other denominations join together in prayer. To support you in this season, three prayer resources are available: one designed for young people, a prayer guide, and a daily novena written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally. This year’s theme, *God with us*, invites us to reflect on God’s abiding presence in our lives and communities.

On behalf of the Dean and Cathedral Chapter, a very warm welcome to your Cathedral and we pray that your time with us here today is blessed as we worship together and reconnect with friends and colleagues from across the Diocese.

*At this service, the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, will be presiding and preaching. The deacon is the Reverend Matthew Arnold, Assistant Curate in the Edgehill Benefice. The Reverend Su McClellan, Cathedral Associate Minister, is the sub-deacon.*

*The Chamber Choir is directed by Liam Condon, Assistant Director of Music. The Communion setting is Collegium Regale Service by Herbert Howells. The organists are Joe Watson, Acting Director of Music and Adam Heron, Organ Scholar. We are very grateful to the Reverend Andy March and other gifted clergy-colleagues for leading us in worship songs.*

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# **The Gathering**

*Songs of worship will be led by the band from 10:10 am.*

## **Holy Forever**

**A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us  
And all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb**

**Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all**

*And the angels cry, Holy  
All creation cries, Holy  
You are lifted high, Holy;  
Holy forever*

**If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen**

**Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever**

**Your name is the highest...**

**Hear Your people sing Holy...**

**You will always be Holy  
Holy forever!**

*Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham  
CCLI Song #7201044*

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and Jenn Publishing*

## Bless God

**Blessed are those who run to Him,  
Who place their hope and confidence in Jesus;  
He won't forsake them.  
Blessed are those who seek His face,  
Who bend their knee and fix their gaze on Jesus;  
They won't be shaken.**

*Chorus:*

***Come on and praise the Lord with me;  
Sing if you love His name.  
Come on and lift your voice with me;  
He's worthy of all our praise!***

**Blessed are those who walk with Him,  
Whose hearts are set on pilgrimage with Jesus;  
They'll see His glory.  
Blessed are those who die to live,  
Whose joy it is to give it all for Jesus,  
And for Him only.  
Oh Jesus, all for Your glory!**

*Chorus*

***Come on and bring your offering;  
Sing if you've known His grace.  
Come on and lift up your holy hands;  
He's worthy of all our praise.***

**Bless God in the sanctuary; Bless God in the fields of  
plenty;  
Bless God in the darkest valley; Every chance I get, I  
bless Your name.  
Bless God when my hands are empty; Bless God with a  
praise that costs me;  
Bless God when nobody's watching; Every chance I get,  
I bless Your name.  
Bless God when the weapon's forming; Bless God when  
the walls are falling;**

**Bless God 'cause He goes before me; Every chance I get, I bless Your name.**

**Bless God for He holds the victory; Bless God for He's always with me;**

**Bless God for He's always worthy; Every chance I get, I bless Your name.**

**Every chance I get, I bless Your name.**

*Chorus*

**He's worthy of all our praise;**

**He's worthy of all our praise.**

*CCLI Song # 7206380*

*Brandon Lake | Brooke Ligertwood | Cody Carnes*

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*Brandon Lake Music*

## **Build My Life**

**Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing**

**Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring**

**Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe**

**We live for You**

**Jesus the name above ev'ry other name**

**Jesus the only one who could ever save**

**Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe**

**We live for You**

**We live for You**

**Holy there is no one like You**

**There is none beside You**

**Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are**

**And fill me with Your heart**

**And lead me in Your love to those around me**

**Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing...**

**Jesus the name above ev'ry other name...**

**Holy there is no one like You...**

**I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken**

**Holy there is no one like You...**

*Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett  
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Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Said And Done Music; Thankyou Music;  
Martin, Karl Andrew; Bethel Music Publishing; Kaple Music*

## **Boldly I Approach**

**By grace alone, somehow, I stand where even angels fear  
to tread;  
Invited by redeeming love Before the throne of God  
above.  
He pulls me close with nail-scarred hands, Into His  
everlasting arms.**

**When condemnation grips my heart, And Satan tempts  
me to despair,  
I hear the voice that scatters fear; The Great I Am, the  
Lord, is here.  
O praise the One who fights for me, And shields my soul  
eternally!**

*Chorus:*

***Boldly I approach Your throne; Blameless now, I'm running  
home. By Your blood I come, welcomed as Your own, Into the  
arms of majesty.***

**Behold the bright and risen Son, More beauty than this  
world has known;  
I'm face to face with Love Himself, His perfect, spotless  
righteousness.  
A thousand years, a thousand tongues, Are not enough  
to sing His praise.**

*Chorus*

**This is the art of celebration: Knowing we're free from condemnation.**

**O praise the One, praise the One, Who made an end to all my sin!**

*CCLI Song # 7014655 Rend Collective © 2014  
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## **10,000 Reasons**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul, worship His holy Name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy Name.***

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul...***

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,  
Your Name is great and Your heart is kind;  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing,  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul...***

**And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near and my time has come;  
Still my soul sings Your praise unending,  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul...***

*Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman  
© 2011 Thankyou Music, Said And Done Music, sixsteps Music,  
SHOUT! Music Publishing*

## **O Praise the name**

**I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Saviour on that cursed tree**

**His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God**

**Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King  
O praise the Name of the Lord our God...**

**He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God...**

*Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson  
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*At 10:20 am everyone remains SEATED as the ministers gather in the Ruined Cathedral, moving down the Queen's Steps to stand waiting at the West Screen for 10:30. At 10:28, the Dean welcomes the congregation from the Pulpit followed by the Peace Bell.*

## **The Gathering**

*Everyone STANDS to sing as the robed ministers and clergy move to the seats reserved for them at the front of the Nave. The Honorary Canons, Area Deans and Cathedral Clergy to the Canons' stalls, and the Bishop, Deacons of the Oils and of the Rite to their allotted seats around the Nave Altar.*

## Goodness of God

**I love You, Lord, oh Your mercy never fails me,  
All my days I've been held in Your hands.  
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so, so good.  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire,  
In my darkest night, you were close like no other.  
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend,  
I have lived in the goodness of God.**

**Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give  
You everything  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
(Repeat)**

**All my life You have been faithful...**

## The Greeting

*Everyone remains STANDING. The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry, presiding, greets the people.*

Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests  
to serve his God and Father.

**Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

Grace, mercy and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The Bishop adds further words of welcome.*

## The Litany of Reconciliation

*The Deacon of the Rite, the Reverend Matthew Arnold, Assistant Curate in the Edgehill Benefice, introduces the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.*

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class from class.

**Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations  
to possess what is not their own.

**Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands  
and lays waste the earth.

**Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others.

**Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, the refugee.

**Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men,  
women and children.

**Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God.

**Father, forgive.**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgives you.

*The Bishop says,*

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. **Amen.**

## The Collect

*The Bishop says,*

Let us pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on our ministry.

*SILENCE is kept.*

Heavenly Father,  
you anointed your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit and with power  
to bring to us 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 our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Everyone SITS.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **The Old Testament Reading**

*Read by Anthony Rich, Licenced Lay Minister in the Parish of St John Baptist, Berkswell.*

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

<sup>11</sup>This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down

every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord.

<sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

*Everyone STANDS for the reading of the Gospel. The deacon announces:*

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!'

<sup>10</sup>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.’ <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

<sup>12</sup>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?’ <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>31</sup>Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.” <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

*John 13.1–17, 31b–35*

*At the end, the deacon says,*

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*Preached by the Right Reverend Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Coventry.*

*Please remain STANDING until the Bishop has prayed, then SIT. After the Bishop has spoken and returned to her seat, silence is kept then we stand to sing.*

## Hymn

**There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of man's mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

*Words by F.W. Faber (1814-1863)*

*Tune CP 598 Corvedale by Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)*

# ***The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry***

*The Bishop says to everyone,*

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.

*The Bishops STAND as Thomas Darker, Cathedral Verger, addresses them:*

At your ordination as Bishop you received the gift of the Spirit, that you might lead the Church in mission, and send out ministers in Christ's name; that you might promote its unity, uphold its discipline, and guard its faith; and that you might teach and govern the people committed to your charge. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, watching over Christ's own flock, and building them up in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace?

*The Bishops reply,*

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

*The Bishops remain standing and Bishop Sophie invites the priests to STAND as David East, a Churchwarden says,*

At your ordination to the priesthood, you were given authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the Gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?

*The priests reply,*

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

*They remain standing. The Bishop invites the deacons to STAND as Jayne Ball, Coordinator of Coventry Street Pastors, says,*

At your ordination as a deacon, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth, and serve them in his name?

*The deacons and priests reply,*

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

*They remain standing. The Bishop invites the Readers, together with the licensed and authorized lay ministers, to STAND as Anna Naish, Diocesan Lay Learning and Training Lead says,*

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?

*The Readers and the licensed and authorized lay ministers reply,*

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

*They remain standing. The Bishop invites head teachers and all those involved in the work of Church schools, to STAND as a Student says,*

In your calling to serve children and young people in our schools, Christ, who is the Teacher of all, chose you to lead children into fulness of life, for the kingdom of God belongs to them. Will you dedicate yourself anew to the sacred task of caring for children and young people, making God's truth known to them and building them up in God's love?

*The head teachers and all those involved in the work of Church schools reply,*

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

*They remain standing. The Bishop invites all others involved in active service of Christ and the people from the congregation and the choir to STAND, and says,*

The Church is the body of Christ and to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Will you work together to promote the body's growth in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light?

*They reply,*

**By the help of God, we will.**

*A young person addresses everyone who is standing:*

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will accomplish it.

*Everyone replies,*

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

*Everyone SITS and the Bishop says,*

My brothers and sisters, pray for all who minister, that they may be constant in prayer and steadfast in faith, and serve God's people with joy.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Bishop:* Pray for your Bishops, that despite our unworthiness we may be faithful to the great trust that has been handed to us. Pray that we may become more like our Good Shepherd and great High Priest, the teacher and servant of us all, and so become more and more a sign of Christ's loving presence among you.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Deacon:* Pray for your priests. Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, that they may be faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, and lead his people in the way of salvation.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Bishop:* Pray for your deacons, that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace. Pray that he who has called them to his service may make them worthy of his calling.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Deacon:* Pray for all who minister God's love, that the Lord will strengthen them with the truth of his Word and the gifts of his Spirit.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Bishop:* Pray for the families of those who minister, for their homes, and for all with whom they share their lives.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*SILENCE is kept and then the Bishop says,*

May the Lord in his love keep us ever close to him, and may he bring us all to the fullness of eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Everyone STANDS. The Bishop introduces the Peace:*

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.

**And also with you.**

*The deacon says,*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Everyone exchanges a sign of peace with those seated nearest to them, in whatever way feels most comfortable.*

# ***The Blessing of the Oils***

**Hymn**

*Everyone remains STANDING to sing.*

**Pour out thy Spirit from on high,  
and thine assembled servants bless;  
graces and gifts to each supply,  
and clothe each one with righteousness.**

**Within thy temple when they stand,  
to teach the truth as taught by thee,  
Saviour, like stars in thy right hand  
let all thy church's pastors be.**

**Wisdom and zeal and faith impart,  
firmness with meekness, from above,  
to bear thy people in their heart,  
and love the souls whom thou dost love;**

**To watch and pray and never faint,  
by day and night their guard to keep,  
to warn the sinner, cheer the saint,  
to feed thy lambs and tend thy sheep.**

**So, when their work is finished here,  
may they in hope their charge resign;  
when the Chief Shepherd shall appear,  
O God, may they and we be thine.**

*Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

*Tune CP 122ii Gonfalon Royal P.C. Buck (1871-1947)*

*Bishop Sophie says,*

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual  
blessing.**

## **The Oil for the Sick**

*“They planted so we eat. We plant so they eat.” This is a Palestinian proverb, and the oil which is being blessed today is produced in Palestine by cooperatives which are part of the Palestine Fair Trade Association. Using this oil supports farmers in Palestine, and it is particularly apt that it should be used and distributed on the day when we remember that Jesus was anointed for his death and burial in Palestine.*

*The Reverend Lou Peet, Assistant Curate, St Michael's Stoke, presents the oil for the sick - signifying God's healing love and power - brought from the Cathedral Ruins, and says,*

Bishop Sophie, this oil is brought from a place of brokenness.

*The Bishop says,*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, gentle and merciful,  
creator of heaven and earth.

Your Word brought light out of darkness,  
and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth.

Your anointed Son brought healing  
to those in weakness and distress.

He broke the power of evil and set us free from sin and death  
that we might praise your name for ever.

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest  
on those who are anointed with this oil in your name;  
may they be made whole in body, mind and spirit,  
restored in your image, renewed in your love,  
and serve you as sons and daughters in your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Oil of Catechumens

*The Reverend Mary Morris, Assistant Curate, St Paul's Foleshill, presents the oil of catechumens - signifying God's grace to resist evil and follow Christ - brought from the Font, and says,*

Bishop Sophie, this oil is brought from the place of baptism.

*The Bishop says,*

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
the protector of all who believe in you.  
Your anointed Son overcame the powers of evil  
when he was lifted high upon the cross.  
By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest  
on those who are anointed with this oil in your name;  
as they come to the waters of baptism  
may it be for them a sign of your defence in their fight  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and bring them to share in Christ's victory.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Oil of Chrism

*The oil of chrism, traditionally blessed by the Bishops and priests of the diocese, is used for the solemn anointing of those who have been baptized and those who are to be confirmed, Bishops and priests at their ordination, and altars and church buildings at the time of their dedication. It is also used to mark a transition to a new ministry or undertaking.*

*The Reverend Ann McCabe, Assistant Curate, All Saints Allesley, presents the oil of chrism, brought from the Chapel of Unity, and says,*

Bishop Sophie, this oil is brought from a place of  
unity and reconciliation.

*The Bishop says,*

Blessed are you, Sovereign God and Eternal Father,  
upholding by your grace all who hear your call.  
Under your Old Covenant,  
priests and kings were anointed to serve you,  
and in the fullness of time you anointed your Son  
by the Holy Spirit  
to be the Christ, the Saviour and Servant of all.

*All Bishops and priests extend a hand towards the oil of chrism.*

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest  
on those who are anointed with this chrism in your name;  
let it be for them a sign of joy and gladness  
as they share in the royal priesthood of the New Covenant  
and make known the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
we lift our voices of thanks and praise.

**Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*We SIT.*

## ***The Liturgy of the Eucharist***

### **Offertory Motet**

*The Bishop and assisting ministers move to the Nave Altar. Everyone remains seated as the choir sings:*

God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have  
everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but that the world through him might be  
saved.

*from John 3.16,17  
Music by John Stainer (1840-1901)*

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Table**

*The Bishop invites congregation to stand and says,*

Pour upon the poverty of our love  
and the weakness of our praise  
the transforming fire of your presence.  
**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*We remain standing.*

*The Bishop says, and everyone responds:*

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.**

It is indeed right and good

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit

you anointed him to be the servant of all

and ordained that he should enter

into your kingdom through suffering.

And now he stands by us and pours out for our healing

the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope.

In your wisdom and love you anoint your holy people

to be a royal priesthood, to share in Christ's suffering

and to reveal his glory to the world.

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 sings,*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The Bishop continues,*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

*The deacon says,*

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

*The Bishop continues,*

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, Michael, and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Everyone SITS or KNEELS and SILENCE is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*The Bishop says,*

Trusting in the anointing power of the Spirit,  
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 Bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying,*

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

*Before the distribution the Bishop says,*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy 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 as the officiating clergy and those assisting with communion and anointing receive Communion, gathered in a circle around the nave altar.*

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

## The Giving of Communion

*If you wish to receive gluten-free bread, please ask and we will be happy to accommodate you. Priests are available to offer anointing and prayer in the "pilgrim bays" of the Cathedral. During the distribution the choir sings:*

Ave verum corpus,  
natum de Maria Virgine,  
Vere passum, immolatum  
In cruce pro homine,  
Cuius latus perforatum  
Vero fluxit sanguine,  
Esto nobis praegustatum,  
In mortis examine.

*Hail true body,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
which suffered and was offered truly  
on the cross for all men,  
whose side, pierced,  
flowed with true blood;  
for us our food, now  
and in the testing time of death.*

O Dulcis, O pie,  
O Jesu Fili Mariae;  
Miserere mei. Amen.

O tender, O loving,  
O Jesus Son of Mary;  
Have mercy on me. Amen.

*Words attributed to Pope Innocent VI (1282-1362)*  
*Music by William Byrd (1543-1623)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The Bishop introduces:*

Good Shepherd,  
you have welcomed us at your table  
and have anointed us with the oil of gladness:  
may your goodness and mercy  
follow us all the days of our life  
that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.  
**Amen.**

*We pray together:*

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,  
and you have made yourself known  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Abide with us, we pray,  
that, blessed by your royal presence,  
we may walk with you all the days of our life,  
and at its end behold you  
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

# ***The Dismissal***

## **Hymn**

We *STAND* to sing. During the hymn the procession of robed ministers and clergy moves to the West Screen. As the procession passes you, please turn to face the West Screen.

**Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;  
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.  
Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,  
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,  
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;  
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,  
To live for God in all we say and do.**

**Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,  
From death's despair the gift of life restored;  
Our call to serve, to wash each others' feet,  
To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.**

**Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;  
To sow God's righteousness throughout the world;  
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,  
The kingdom's harvest from a mustard seed.**

**Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,  
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,  
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

*Words © Ally Barrett*

*Tune CP 362 Woodlands Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

## The Solemn Blessing

*The Bishop gives the blessing:*

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

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

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,  
cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word.  
**Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace.  
**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon says, and everyone replies:*

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Organ Voluntary

*Pange Lingua - Nicolas de Grigny (1672 - 1703)*

*Pange Lingua en Taille à 4*

*Fugue à 5*

*Récit du Chant de l'hymne précédant*

*The deacons carry the oils into the Sir John Laing Centre. Those who have reserved oils are invited to follow them there. In addition, "Thy Kingdom Come" resources are available there too.*

## **Safeguarding at Coventry Cathedral**

We are committed to the safeguarding of all people. For details, please visit <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/safeguarding>

Our Safeguarding Team are:



**Canon Kate**  
Chapter  
Safeguarding  
Lead



**Jane Williams**  
Cathedral  
Community  
Safeguarding  
Officer



**Jo Brake**  
Safeguarding  
Lead for Policy  
and Process

You can report a concern to our Safeguarding Team by emailing [cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:cathedral.safeguarding@coventrycathedral.org.uk) or phoning 02476 52 1360 Alternatively, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team led by Sarah Price by phoning 024 7652 1345 or emailing [safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@coventry.anglican.org)

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Dean John's Farewell Celebration**

As we prepare to give thanks for Dean John's ministry among us, all members of the congregation are warmly invited to his Farewell Do on Saturday, 9 May at 7pm. This will be a joyful moment to gather, share stories, and offer our appreciation for his leadership and friendship.

Dean John's final Eucharist service will be on Sunday, 17 May at 10.30am and his final Choral Evensong at 4pm, where he will preach and preside. If you wish to attend either or both of these, please scan this QR code to register your attendance.

There are lists at the back of the nave, should you prefer to register that way. We hope many of you will join us for this special occasion.



## **HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL**

### **Maundy Thursday Evening Eucharist – 7.30pm**

*The Holy Eucharist with Foot-washing and the Stripping of the Altar, recalling Christ's commandment of love and the gathering darkness of the Passion.*

### **GOOD FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

#### **Liturgy of the Day – 9am**

*A solemn service of prayer and reflection at the foot of the Cross, this will be followed by a Walk of Witness in the City Centre (Broadgate) to Holy Trinity Church at 10.30am*

#### **Stainer: The Crucifixion - 6pm**

*Join Coventry Cathedral Chorus for a moving performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer, a much-loved meditation on the Passion combining reflective choruses, recitatives and congregational hymns.*

*Tickets: £15 adults | £5 young adults (18–25) | Children free.*

*Book at [coventrycathedralchorus.com](http://coventrycathedralchorus.com), or contact [tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com](mailto:tickets@coventrycathedralchorus.com) | 01676 532436.*

### **EASTER DAY, 5<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Dawn Eucharist – 6am**

*The Service of Light with Baptism and Confirmation, proclaiming Christ's Resurrection at first light.*

#### **Cathedral Festal Eucharist – 10.30am**

*A joyful celebration of the resurrection with word, sacrament and song.*

#### **Festal Choral Evensong – 4pm**

*The Easter Day story is crowned with choral prayer and praise as the light of Resurrection lingers into the evening.*

All are warmly invited to share in this sacred journey from the Cross to the empty tomb, and into the hope and joy of Easter.