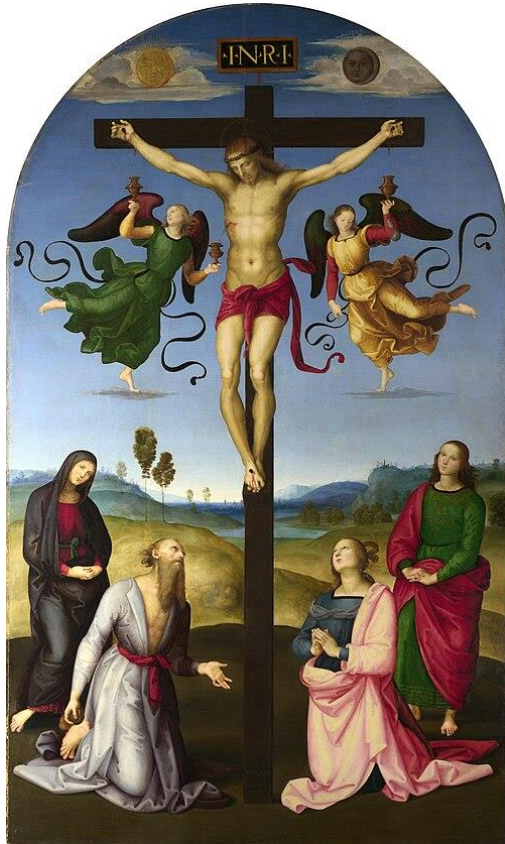


  
COVENTRY  
CATHEDRAL



# **Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**

3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026, 2pm

# Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

*Thank you for joining us for Stations of the Cross, a service used by Christians all around the world for many centuries.*

*At this service, we say together the words printed in **bold**.*

## **The Stations of the Cross - A Brief History**

*The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.*

*In the late fourteenth century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.*

*The number of stations has varied immensely through the centuries from as few as five to as many as thirty-six, but the now traditional number of fourteen was established by Clement XII in 1731 – nine scriptural stations and a further five based on popular devotion. However, owing to the increasing ecumenical popularity of this devotion there have been attempts to create a wholly scriptural set on which to focus.*

*The selection of stations presented here all have their root in the biblical story of Jesus rather than drawing on legend or popular, yet unscriptural, stories. This development makes the Stations of the Cross more accessible to all traditions within the Christian Church.*

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*The Cover image is 'The Crucified Christ with the Virgin Mary, Saints and Angels' (The Mond Crucifixion), painted 1502-1503 by Raphael (1483–1520). National Gallery.*

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## The Gathering

*The ministers enter in silence. The president says,*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

*Matthew 16:24-25*

As we move through these Stations of the Cross, let us become aware of Christ's suffering, his pain, and his love for us. And so, as we begin our pilgrim journey, let us look inward, calling to mind our faults, our failings, and those times in our lives when we neglected to feel the love of God, that dwells within the depths our hearts.

*A brief moment of silence follows.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## **First Station: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

*Mark 14:32-36*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear  
and faced the agony of your impending death:  
be with those who share that agony  
and face death unwillingly this day.

You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity:  
give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.

To you, Jesus, who sweated blood,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Second Station: Jesus betrayed by Judas and arrested**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

*Mark 14:43-46*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend:

be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused.

You knew the experience of having your love thrown back in your face for mere silver:

be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.

To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Third Station: Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands".' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven".' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death.

*Mark 14:55-64*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:

be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.

You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:

deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the experience and wisdom of others.

To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Fourth Station: Peter denies Jesus**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.  
At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

*Mark 14:72*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,  
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied:  
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.  
You understood the fear within Peter:  
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.  
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Fifth Station: Jesus judged by Pilate**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*Mark 15:14-15*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency:  
be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the  
powerful.

You were the victim of unbridled injustice:

change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to  
your way of peace.

To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy  
upon us.**

## **Sixth Station: Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

*Mark 15:17-19*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:

be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.

You endured unbearable abuse:

be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.

To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Seventh Station: Jesus carries the cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*Mark 15:20*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem:

be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.

You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross:

help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us.

To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Eighth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Mark 15.21*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:  
be with those from whom life drains all energy.

You needed the help of a passing stranger:  
give us the humility to receive aid from others.

To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy  
upon us.**

## **Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

*Luke 23:27-31*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:  
move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.  
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':  
bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.  
To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## Tenth Station: Jesus is crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

*Mark 15:24*

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh: transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer.

To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Eleventh Station: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

*Luke 23:39-43*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief:

hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.

You spoke words of love in your hour of death:

help us to speak words of life to a dying world.

To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Twelfth Station: Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*John 19:26-27*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end,  
yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:  
be with all broken families today  
and care for those who long for companionship.  
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:  
give us a love for one another  
that is stronger even than the fear of death.  
To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Thirteenth Station: Jesus dies on the cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Mark 15:34-37*

*Silence.*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross

and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:

give courage to those who die at the hands of others.

In death you entered into the darkest place of all:

illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.

To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## **Fourteenth Station: Jesus laid in the tomb**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

### **Reading**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

*Mark 15:46*

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:

be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes.

You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:

be with all who suffer and die in secret,

hidden from the eyes of the world.

To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,

be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*The president introduces the Lord's Prayer.*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us.

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

## The Collect

*The president continues,*

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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.  
**Amen.**

## The Responory

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and nation;  
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests  
serving our God.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us  
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and made us a kingdom of priests  
to stand and serve before our God;

**To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honour, glory and might, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.

**Amen.**

*All depart in silence.*

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.



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### **DAILY SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL:**

Regular services at the Cathedral follow this pattern. For special services and up-to-date information about one-off cancellations of the services below, please check the calendar on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/full-calendar>

#### **Monday - Friday**

8:30 – 9.00am: *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

(followed on Thursdays by BCP Holy Communion)

4 – 4:30pm: *Evening Prayer*

(or Wednesday and Thursday during school terms: *Choral Evensong, 5:15 - 6pm*)

#### **Saturday**

12 – 12:10pm: *The Litany of Reconciliation*

#### **Sunday**

10:30 – 11:45am: *The Cathedral Eucharist*

4 – 5pm: *Choral Evensong*

## **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.

**TODAY - GOOD FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**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 SERVICES**

**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.*