



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 21st March 2021
The Fifth Sunday of lent
Passion Sunday**

Welcome

Welcome back to St John's it is so lovely to have the congregation back in the church. We hope that you enjoy today's service whether you are in the church or in the comfort of your own home. We thank all those who have helped keep the services running over the past few months and look forward to spring in the church.

Today we are joined by the Venerable Rosemarie Mallet, Archdeacon of Croydon.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

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**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Psalm Today :

First Reading

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Gospel

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

John 12.20-33

For your prayers:

We pray for God's love to surround:

Peter Brice, Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

We pray for those who have died recently:

Gloria Sayer

We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:

22nd March Kathleen Perkins (1982)

George Crouch (1996)

Alec Bookless (2003)

Kenneth Jones (2016)

23rd March Emily Read (1980)

Rob Rodwell (1983)

Dorothy Joyce (1990)

Irene Hopgood (2017)

25th March Richard Howells (1978)

Eileen Jones (1981)

John Garland (2011)

26th March Frederick Chater (1987)

Winifred Parks (2005)

Betty Chaplin (2016)

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.

Please give NOTICES for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda bookingsstjohns@gmail.com preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before * Tuesday * each week.

**If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call
Tel: 0208 6572343 or email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com**

The Parish Office

Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6

mobile number 07958 682103

email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

**To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search
St John the Divine Selsdon**

THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK'S LENT CALL 2021

In the last year so much has changed and we have all become much more aware of the fragility our lives and our communities. The footballer, Marcus Rashford, has helped to raise everyone's awareness of the need to ensure that our children are adequately fed during school holidays. But it is not just schoolchildren who are at risk. Whole families are in need of help, as well as couples and individuals. That is why the diocese is focusing the Bishop's Lent Call this year on food insecurity, both here in the Diocese and in our Link Dioceses.

**We are collecting for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.
Please see our website for more details www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk**

You can make your donation down the drain at the back of church.

Sunday Services at 10 am

Could we remind everyone of the following:

Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death

It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open

1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church

2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them

3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others

4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door

We hope to have a slow return to normal services and will still be streaming the service live on our facebook page at 10 am and there will also be a link on the website for a week

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND
PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION**

BOOKS BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

A message from Gill Sharpe

I have been (slowly!) working through the church library which, as you probably know, has been very much enlarged by the legacy of Douglas and Sandra Walford, to weed out books which now need a new home.

I have delivered the first lot to Book Aid and received the following letter from the Director. I thought the congregation would like to see it, as I will certainly be asking them for spare bibles (see last paragraph).



Dear Gillian

Thank you for your phone call today and I hope that you manage to drop off the boxes of books successfully! Book Aid has been closed during this recent lockdown hence the lack of a response recently. However we are poised waiting for the go-ahead to reopen, unsure, of course, when that will be!

We are always grateful to receive good books to send abroad on our programme. Last year we sent approx. 400,000 in shipping container loads to our partner bookshops in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria which help to maintain Christian bookshops in those countries. The ministry is founded on the principles of making books available 'at locally affordable prices' so that the shops can support themselves and last for many years.

The next country we will be packing for is Zimbabwe although they are in such need that they have asked us for half the shipping container to be filled with Bibles. We know that humanly speaking this is just not possible so we have to trust God to provide. Would St John's 'Spread The Word' about this for us? There is some urgency and Bibles in usable condition would be a real blessing.

*Once again many thanks Gillian
God bless*

Christine Pulsford- Director Book Aid Charitable Trust

**We don't know when our own book sales will come back to St John's in these uncertain times so we ask you to keep your books until we announce there is a sale so we don't have any books lying around the church and hall as we need all the space we can get at the moment.
Thank you for your co-operation in advance**





Plant Sale

SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE

With this in mind, please sow an extra seed or two, or pot up any spare plants from your garden.

Maybe make an extra pot or two of marmalade or put an extra cake in the freezer to sell on the day. Thank you.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

REMEMBERING AT EASTER

This year St John's is offering the opportunity to remember those we never forget by placing an Easter Lily card on an Easter Tree



If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, a donation box will be placed at the back of church at the 10am service each Sunday until Easter Day

Please write your loved one's name on an Easter Lily card, put it in the box provided at the back of church or return to Gill Salter or a Churchwarden

The card will be attached to an Easter Tree which will be placed in church on Easter Saturday 3 April 2021 at 10.30am

**If you would like any further information or help please contact
Gill Salter on 0208 405 9971
salterg@outlook.com**

Father Michael's Diary

DOORS TO HEAVEN

If you visit a Greek Orthodox Church you will find the layout rather different to what we are used to. The altar for instance instead of being the most prominent feature is hidden away behind a screen, a screen made up of pictures. Only they are not pictures, they are icons and the screen is the iconostasis. Icons are most distinctive feature of Orthodox Christianity and as well as in churches every orthodox home will have its icon corner, the place of prayer in the house.



Icons are pictures, but very stylised pictures. The subject matter varies enormously but each subject is always represented in the same way, for instance all icons of the Transfiguration have the same design, but interpreted in slightly differently by each iconographer, for whom the preparation of the icon is at every stage an act of prayer. The image is reduced to a minimum of details and the perspective is distorted so that lines move toward rather than away from the person at prayer before the icon thus drawing them into it.

An icon is an instrument for the transmission of Christian tradition and faith, an aid to mental prayer and a means by which through sacred imagery the Holy Spirit speaks to the believer. Wherever an icon is set that place becomes more easily a place of prayer. An icon is not an end in itself but assists the believer in in going beyond what can be seen with our physical eyes into the realm of mystical experience. An icon is a door to heaven.

Orthodox Christians pray generally standing before the icon with their eyes open, waiting to be drawn towards the person or scene represented. Standing before an icon the believer stands in the presence of God. Like lectio divina and imaginative contemplation icons are an aid to mental prayer, icons draw us into the life of the Trinity. The internal dynamic of the Trinity is love and it is into that love we are drawn. What matters is love, love of God, love of others, even love of our enemies.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

21 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins) – John 12.20-33 – who serves me must follow me – for grace to follow Christ on the Royal Road of the Holy Cross

22 March – Monday – John 8.1-11 – Jesus forgives the woman taken in adultery – for the forgiveness of sins.

23 March – Tuesday – day of reflection on the first anniversary of the first coronavirus lockdown - John 11.45-end – the raising of Lazarus – that we may be raised to new life in the Spirit

24 March – Wednesday – Daniel 3. 14-28 – the burning, fiery furnace – for God's protection

25 March – The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary – Luke 1.26-38 -“Here am I the servant of the Lord” – that through our lives Christ may come again into our world

26 March – Friday – John.8.51-end - before Abraham was, I am-thanksgiving for Christ the eternal high priest.

27 March – Saturday – John 11.45-end.

**Singing hymns and spiritual
songs...**
**A weekly roundup from Ian
Brentnall**



The vernal Equinox is upon us. We are marking the transition from winter to spring and can now look forward to daylight hours exceeding those of the night. As if with a great sigh of relieve and renewed vigour, our gardens and woodlands are showing signs of abundant new life bursting into view. Even my Rhubarb is looking great!

Today is Passion Sunday marking the start of that period in the Church's year known as Passiontide. After the brief, moment of relief from our Lenten disciplines in the form of a day of refreshment last Sunday, our observance of Lent now takes on a different pace. During the next two weeks, we are invited to focus upon the journey to the cross and to look afresh at the familiar events of Holy Week. In our Gospel reading this morning, our Lord speaks of the time when He will be lifted up to heaven, drawing all mankind to himself. A much-loved hymn that speaks to us of that most awful road to the cross is "My song is love unknown", written by Samuel Crossman (1624 – 1683). Crossman was born in Suffolk and educated at Cambridge. He was an Anglican priest with heavy puritanical leanings. After the 1662 Act of Uniformity he, along with thousands of others, suffered expulsion from the Church of England because of their Puritan beliefs. Shortly afterwards he renounced Puritanism and was ordained back into the Church. He went on to become a Royal Chaplain and Dean of Bristol Cathedral.

The much-loved tune set for this hymn is John Ireland's "Love Unknown". Ireland taught at the Royal College of Music and for many years was organist at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. He is probably best known for his orchestral works as well as his many song settings for voice and piano. Apart from the hymn tune "Love Unknown", John Ireland's best-known piece of church music is the anthem "Greater Love".

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh, and die?
- 2 He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.
- 4 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes,
That He His foes
From thence might free.
- 5 In life, no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.
- 6 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.



Diary Dates

Sunday 28th March 2021

Palm Sunday

The service will also be shown live on our face book page and placed on our website for you to watch in your own leisure during the week.

You need to book a place for this service
Please either call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email
bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

Keep the date free

**Sunday 25th April
for our APCM
To be held in the church**

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St John's Church, Selsdon, Upper Selsdon Road,
South Croydon, CR2 8DD

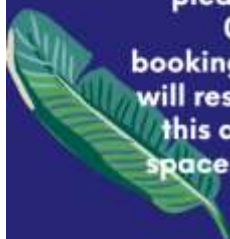


PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 28th March
10 am

At this Eucharistic service we are given our own palm crosses as we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem while the crowd cheered and sang and waved palm branches. We also hear the dramatic words of Our Lord's Passion – his trial and crucifixion.

If you wish to attend this service please either call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com and we will reserve a place. We need to do this as only a certain amount of spaces are available due to covid restrictions.



St Johns Church Selsdon, Upper Selsdon Road,
South Croydon,

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 1st April 7.30pm

This evening we commemorate the day when Jesus gave his followers the commandment to love one another. We recall tonight The Last Supper, where Jesus showed his love for his friends in the institution of the Eucharist- the celebration which is at the centre of our worshipping community



If you would wish to attend this service please can you call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com to reserve a place

JOIN US ONLINE THIS GOOD FRIDAY

A quiet meditative service where we remember the trial and crucifixion of Our Lord.

This year our service will be online and led by the Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon, reflecting on the words from the prophet Isaiah on "The Suffering Servant".



Friday 2nd April

This service will be shown on our facebook page and our website

**St John's Church
Selsdon**



St John's Church, Selsdon, Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, CR2 8DD

Easter Day

Sunday 4th April at 10 am

The great day in our Church's calendar, where we give thanks and praise for Jesus' resurrection, his rising from the tomb—the act of love and generosity that has given us the promise of eternal life.



If you would like to attend this service please call Amanda on 07958 682103 or email bookingsstjohn@gmail.com to reserve your place as numbers will be limited due to covid restrictions.