

Holy Week

Anglican Parishes of Sackville & Dorchester

This is the most solemn but also the most joyous week of the Church Year. Our attention is focused on the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus Christ. As we follow our Lord's journey to the Cross, we ourselves enter into the power and significance of his death and resurrection. We are not bystanders, but participants.

We invite you to join us.

Come and follow the procession on **Palm Sunday** as we remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday we gather to hear the Gospel story of the passion (Christ's suffering) and receive Holy Communion.

Wednesday, the day of Christ's betrayal, we experience the desolation of Christ's abandonment at Tenebrae.

On **Maundy Thursday** we recall the Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist, how Christ washed his disciples' feet, his new Commandment to love as He has loved us. The evening Eucharist at St Ann's concludes with the stripping of the altar and an all-night Prayer Vigil.

On **Good Friday** we gather at each of the three churches for the Good Friday liturgy. The churches are bare except for a wooden cross.

Easter Eve, we begin in darkness and end in the Divine Light. We enter the Mystery.



The Crucifixion, David Jones, 1926

Throughout: Frescoes from the Life of Christ by Giotto di Bondone the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, Italy, completed c. 1305

Easter Morning, the parish gathers to receive the risen Christ in the Sacrament and to know him in one another.

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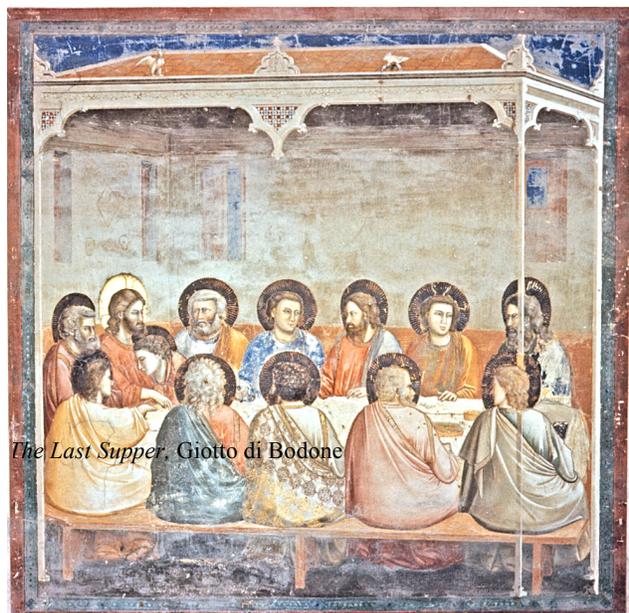
We believe that the Passion of the Lord and his bursting from the tomb have universal implications.

The whole created order, including humanity, in all times and in all places, has been brought into a new relationship with our Creator. The dying and rising of Jesus brought about a 'new creation' and is the source of our Christian hope. As we follow Jesus' journey to the Cross, we ourselves enter into the powerlessness of a life sacrificed for others. We come to know the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection, as he confronts the sin, disaster and death of our own times with the same self-giving love that Calvary proclaims.

Which services should I attend?

Read about these services and pray about your participation. While attending the entirety of Holy Week Services can truly be an opportunity for deep worship and conversion of our hearts, it will not be helpful unless we come prepared to enter fully and willingly into this worship. If you are unable or do not choose to attend all of the Holy Week Services, you might consider reading the Gospel set out in the Prayer Book for each day so that, for you, the narrative of these days may not be broken.

Some of our Holy Week Services are short, some are very long. We hope the descriptions in this booklet may help you decide which services



to attend. May God speak to your heart and make you his own in his own way.

Which services should children attend?

Holy Week, with its many dramatic events and rites, is a good time to acquaint children with the great mysteries of Jesus' death and resurrection. **There are some services which children are especially encouraged to attend.**

Palm Sunday begins with the blessing of palm. Children help distribute the palms, and lead the procession. The first of the Passion Gospels, Christ's Passion according to St Matthew, is read in parts.

Maundy Thursday starts with the Washing of Hands, recalling how Jesus washed his disciples feet on this night. It is followed by a joyous celebration of the institution of the Lord's Supper. As the tone of the service turns somber, the Altar and church are stripped and the church is left bare. We leave the church in silent darkness. You are welcome to come for even a few moments of silent prayer during the all night vigil.

On **Good Friday** we use very ancient devotions to the Cross. After the last Good Friday Liturgy of the day (at Trinity Church in Dorchester), everyone is welcome to the Hall for Hot Cross Buns to break the Good Friday fast together.

Easter Sunday Holy Communion – This is the end of our Holy Week journey and it is wonderful for the children to see and hear for themselves the joy of Jesus' resurrection and to know that he will be with us always.

Special Easter activities will be part of Sunday School time at all three churches – toddlers are welcome to join in.

Children are very welcome, as usual.

These services will be described in more detail in the pages that follow.

Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palms, Procession & Holy Eucharist with the Passion According to St Matthew

9 am at Trinity Church, Dorchester & St Ann's Westcock,

11 am at St Paul's Sackville

We begin our worship by hearing the account of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when palm branches (representing victory) were laid before his path. Branches of palm are blessed and distributed. As the Eucharist begins the mood shifts dramatically as we hear the Psalm, 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?' The Passion Gospel describes Jesus' sudden rejection by the same people who had earlier hailed him as king. The Holy Communion takes on the solemnity and severity of the Passion (suffering of our Lord). Our Holy Week has begun!

This is one of the longer services of our Holy Week observances.

Holy Monday, & Holy Tuesday

10 am Holy Communion with the Passion According to St Mark with brief meditation

These are simple and profound times of worship. There is no organ accompaniment. The Passion of our Lord according to St. Mark is read and a meditation is offered.

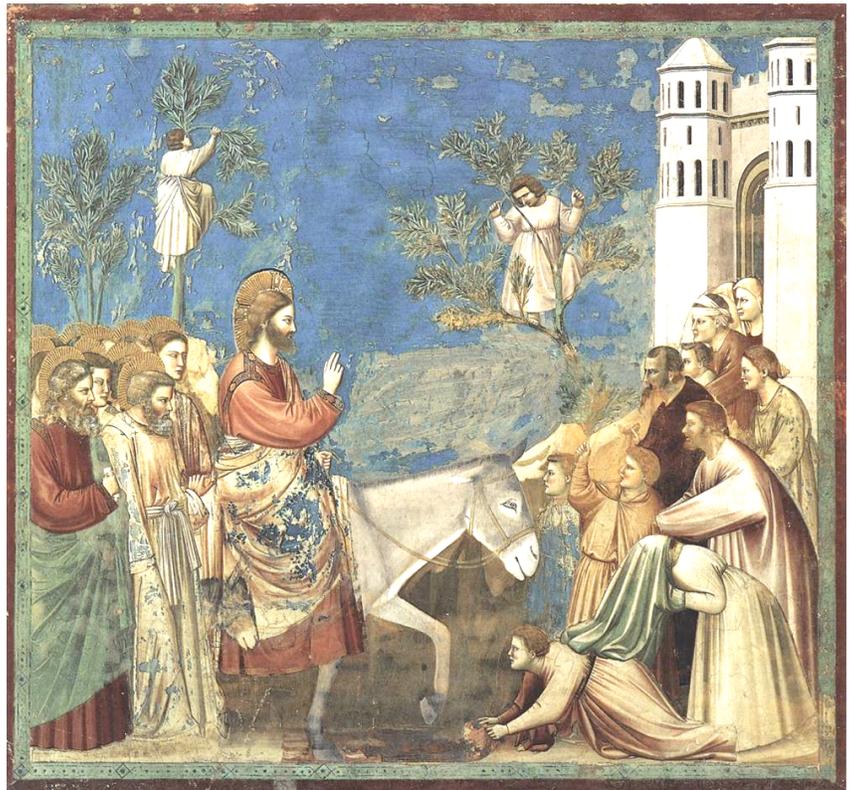
Monday at St Ann's, Westcock.

Tuesday at Trinity, Dorchester.

Holy Wednesday

7 pm Holy Communion with the Passion According to St Luke with brief meditation

In the early Church, at the heart of Holy Week was the solemn public reading of everything the four Gospels have to say about our Lord's Passion and death. It is still the centre of Holy Week for us.



Holy Wednesday

9:00 – 11:00 pm Tenebrae

Tenebrae (Latin for ‘darkness’) is based on the monastic office of Matins for the last three days of Holy Week. The series of psalms, lessons, and responses is intended to reflect the mind of Christ as his Passion unfolds.

Twenty-five candles are lighted at the beginning of the service, which correspond to the numbers of the twelve Prophets and the twelve Apostles, with one candle for Our Lord. Traditionally the candles are mounted in a triangular Tenebrae ‘hearse’, upon which the candles are placed. The word is derived from the Latin word for the large rake which is used as a harrow. We are reminded of Christ’s ‘harrowing of Hell’ - his reclaiming of souls for salvation.

During the singing of the Office of Tenebrae, the candles are extinguished one by one, until only one light remains. This one is not extinguished, but is hidden from our sight. The gradual extinguishing of light represents for us the darkness closing about Our Lord during his Passion, and the darkness that came over the world with his death.



The Lamentation of the Angels, Giotto di Bondone



The kiss of Judas, Giotto di Bondone

At the end of the service, a noise is made, symbolizing the despair of the disciples at the betrayal of Christ, the confusion of Nature at his death, and the veil of the Temple being torn in two. After this noise, the hidden candle is brought back; although Christ seemed to have been separated from us in his death, his resurrection shows that only this death could heal the rift between God and his people. The bonds of death are loosed through Christ’s harrowing of Hell and rising in triumph.

Gregorio Allegri’s masterpiece, *Miserere Mei Deus* (Psalm 51) was written to be sung at Tenebrae services in the Sistine Chapel since the 17th century. You might want to listen to it online on this day.

The Paschal Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter

The three great days, together called the Paschal Triduum, begin at sunset on Maundy Thursday, which is really the beginning of Good Friday. It continues through Easter Eve, with its prolongation of joy through our Sunday worship celebrations.

Maundy Thursday

7pm Hand Washing, Sung Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

We meet to commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper Jesus held with his chosen disciples. The Holy Communion is preceded by the ceremony of Hand Washing, as members of the congregation come forward to have their hands washed recalling how Jesus washed his Apostles' feet on this day. 'Maundy' is an old English form of the Latin word '*mandatum*', which means 'commandment'. The name 'Maundy Thursday' recollects the words of Jesus just after he had washed the feet of his apostles: 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another.' Christian charity must first manifest itself within the community of the Church which is the Body of Christ, and as if that were not difficult enough, it must overflow in service to a world which 'God so loved'.

Maundy Thursday is dominated by the Lord's Supper, which is the most joyous and festive of the entire year, even in the midst of Holy Week and the beginning of the Triduum.

What happened that night in the upper room points back to what happened to the Chosen People and points forward to what will happen to Christ. Just as a people was 'taken' by God, 'blessed' as his Chosen People, 'broken' in exile, war and captivity, so was Jesus 'given' as Lord and Saviour to the world. The words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper – the taking, giving thanks (or blessing), breaking, and giving – also spell out what happens to all who believe in him, as we allow God's will to be worked out in our lives. This is the mystery of our faith.

After we receive Holy Communion, the celebrant takes the remaining consecrated bread and wine to the Altar of Repose that has been prepared at the back of the church. Following the final hymn, the Altar is stripped and the church laid bare. We remember the abandonment of Our Lord. A sharp noise reminds us of the moment of Christ's betrayal. After a few moments, the account of the Agony in the Garden is read from St. Matthew's Gospel. *The prayer vigil begins immediately.*



Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Giotto di Bondone



Christ before Caiaphas,
Giotto di Bondone

9 pm – 8:00 am All-Night Vigil on Maundy Thursday

Members of the congregation are encouraged to remain in the bare main body of the church and pray in silence before they leave. Others may wish to pray before the Altar of Repose, as an aid to loving contemplation of Our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The doors will remain open throughout the night and until the 9 am Good Friday Liturgy, so that you may come for prayer and devotion at any time on this holy night.

We pray, by God's special grace and favour, that we may know the joy of watching and praying with Our Lord Jesus Christ. He submitted his will entirely in obedience to his Father. As he came to know his freedom in giving his life for others, so may we come to the church this evening and pray for the salvation of all people, resolving to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice on their behalf. Our sacrifice can be nothing more (or less) than an offering of thanksgiving for the redeeming love he has shown for us in his passion and death. We can offer only the same love with which he embraces us. The Vigil concludes with Morning Prayer and the Litany at 8:00 am.

Good Friday

8:00 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am The Good Friday Liturgy: Veneration of the Cross & Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at St Ann's, Westcock

Consecrated Bread from last evening's worship has been on the Altar of Repose throughout the night vigil. This is the consecrated Bread which will be consumed at the service which has been known since ancient times as the 'Mass of the Pre-Sanctified' (there will be no consecration today).

11:00 am Good Friday Liturgy at St Paul's, Sackville

2:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy at Trinity, Dorchester

All are welcome to join the Rector at the Parish Hall behind Trinity Church to break the Good Friday fast with traditional Hot Cross Buns at 3:00 pm. A simple said service of Evening Prayer at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity concludes our public worship for Good Friday.



Holy Saturday

10:00 am Morning Prayer & Ante-Communion at St Paul's, Sackville

We do not receive Holy Communion during the day. This is the real Sabbath, or 'Day of Rest,' as Jesus lies in the tomb. This is an especially appropriate service for altar guild members, but all parishioners are encouraged to attend. In some places, not only altar guild members but all sorts of people (including children) gather as a parish to clean, wash, scrub and polish, to make ready for Easter celebrations.

8:00 pm The Easter Vigil at St Paul's, Sackville

The Easter Vigil is a very ancient and moving celebration of the Christian Church. At the beginning of the service, a homily will help us to focus our thought and prayers. The lights are then extinguished, and the Vigil continues. We begin in darkness and move into light, just as the long night of sin and death is brought to an end by the Resurrection – the rising of the True Sun, Jesus Christ. The service begins with the lighting and blessing of the 'New Fire': 'Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with a new hope; in this paschal feast may we so burn with heavenly desires, that we may attain to the feast of eternal light.' The priest then takes the great Paschal Candle, traces the cross in its wax, adorns it with Alpha and Omega, adds the current year, and five grains of incense for the five wounds suffered by Our Lord. The Paschal Candle is lit from the New Fire and becomes the focal point of our praise – an eloquent symbol of the risen Saviour. In procession, the Deacon carries the great candle up the aisle through the darkened church. Our hand candles are lit. The light spreads. At the front of the church, the Exsultet, an ancient and beautiful chant, is sung. Its theme is the overcoming of the darkness of this world by the light of Christ. It summons all creation to rejoice.

Next, four readings from the Old Testament help us to recall God's mighty acts in ancient times and these prophecies foster our own sense of hope and anticipation of the coming Messiah. We listen to the Creation story, and the story of the People of Israel escaping from Egypt through the Red Sea on their way to the Promised Land. Following the Old Testament readings, we renew our Baptismal vows, thinking of St. Paul's words describing Baptism as 'a burial with Christ and a rising with him to new life.' (Often a Baptism takes place at this point.)

Finally, the church and the Altar are dressed gloriously for this Queen of Seasons. In some parishes the First Eucharist of Easter is celebrated in the early hours of the morning with great joy. In our Parishes we will gather in each of the three churches in the morning to celebrate the holy and life-giving Mysteries of the Risen Christ.



Christ is risen!

He is risen

indeed!

Alleluia!

Christ resurrected, Giotto di Bondone

Easter Sunday

'Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.'
'Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,
but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

8 am Holy Eucharist of the Resurrection at Trinity Church, Dorchester

This simple said service with hymns reflects the joyous Easter spirit, with its moving Scripture readings in the midst of the gloriously dressed Altar and beautifully decorated Church.

9:30 am Sung Holy Eucharist of the Resurrection at St Ann's, Westcock

11:00 am Sung Holy Eucharist of the Resurrection at St Paul's, Sackville

On Easter morning, we gather in joyous celebration of the Christian 'Feast of Feasts'. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has brought us out of the darkness and sorrow of sin into the glorious light of his redeeming love.

In Sunday School the children will take part in Easter activities. All children are welcome.

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Easter Monday & Tuesday

Easter Monday 10:00 am at Trinity

Said Holy Eucharist at Trinity Church, Dorchester. Morning Prayer at 9:30 am. Evening Prayer at 5 pm at Trinity.

Easter Tuesday 5:30 pm

Said Holy Eucharist at St Ann's, Westcock. Morning Prayer at 9:30 am. Evening Prayer at 5 pm at St Ann's.

Everyday Prayer & Scripture: Daily Offices and Bible readings for Holy Week

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer will be said each day. See the detailed schedule on the website (Sackville-dorchester-anglican.org) for times. These services are especially powerful as the Old Testament lessons are read which point to the passion and death of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament readings, St. John focuses on the events leading up to the Gospel for Good Friday. We recite the psalms and find ourselves giving expression to our deepest emotions, a quiet and meditative opportunity. If you cannot attend, you are encouraged to read the Scripture lessons and Psalms each morning and evening, at home or at your workplace.

Morning Prayer			
Monday	Hosea 13: 1-14	John 14: 1-14	Psalm 94
Tuesday	Isaiah 42: 1-9	John 15: 1-16	Psalm 71
Wednesday	Numbers 21: 4-9	John 16: 1-15	Psalm 109
Thursday	Lam. 1: 1-14	John 17	Psalms 40, 41
Friday	Genesis 22: 1-18	John 18: 1-32	Psalm 22
Saturday	Zech. 9: 9-12	1 Peter 2: 11-end	Psalms 16, 30
Evening Prayer			
Monday	Hosea 14	John 14:15-end	Psalm 69
Tuesday	Wisd. 2.1, 12-end	John 15: 17-end	Psalm 79
Wednesday	Lev. 16: 2-24	John 16: 16-end	Psalms 120,140
Thursday	Lam. 3: 1-33	John 13: 1-35	Psalms 116, 117
Friday	Isaiah 50: 4-10	John 19: 38-end	Psalm 88
Saturday	Job 19: 21-27	John 2: 13-22	Psalm 27