

## Readings for St James

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**  
*Liturgy of the Palms*  
 Gospel: Mathew 21:1-11  
 Reading 2: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end  
*Liturgy of the Passion*  
 Reading 1: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Reading 2: Philippians 2:5-11  
 Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - end of 27

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>**  
 Psalm: 41  
 Reading 1: Lamentations 1:1-12a  
 Reading 2: Luke 22:1-23

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 Psalm: 27  
 Reading 1: Lamentations 3:1-18  
 Reading 2: Luke 22:39-53

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 Psalm: 102  
 Reading 1: Jeremiah 11:18-20  
 Reading 2: Luke 22:54-end

## Thu 9<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday

### Morning Prayer Readings

Psalm: 42  
 Reading 1: Leviticus 16:2-24  
 Reading 2: Luke 23:1-25

### Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14  
 Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
 Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

## Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

### Morning Prayer Readings

Psalm: 69  
 Reading 1: Genesis 22:1-18  
 Reading 2: Hebrews 10:1-10

### Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 52:13 - end of 53  
 Reading 2: Hebrews 10:16-25  
 Gospel: John 18:1 - end of 19

## Sat 11<sup>th</sup>

Psalm: 142  
 Reading 1: Hosea 6:1-6  
 Reading 2: John 2:18-22

## Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday

Reading 1: Acts 10:34-43  
 Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-4  
 Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

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*Liturgy of the Passion*  
 Reading 1: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Reading 2: Philippians 2:5-11  
 Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - end of 27

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Communion Service**  
 Reading 1: Acts 10:34-43  
 Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-4  
 Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

**Easter Evensong**  
 Reading 1: Song of Solomon 3:2-5, 8:6-7  
 Reading 2: John 20:11-18  
 Psalm: 105

## For our prayers this week

Visitors to our Churches

Our Welcomers

## For those in need or unwell

Evelyn Watson, Nicky Hardy, Phoebe Thomas, Paul Harding, Rupert & Diane Stant, David Bark, John Walton, Alan Coles, Norma Bass, Vi Rawlings

## For our friends no longer able to come to church, but not forgotten

Kathleen Allen, Maureen Hardy, Ruth Wright, Joan Barnett, Jessie Wainwright, Lynn Mason, Gwen Johnson, Madge Nutting, Pat English, Shelagh Key

## For those who have recently died

## For 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of death this week

## Prayer for Interregnum

Heavenly Father we ask that you help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers. Lord Jesus guard and grow this church as we serve you together in this period without a Rector. Guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry. That together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow. **Amen**



Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected, and free to be fully themselves.



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Palm Sunday

Welcome to you all



St James

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## CORONAVIRUS

Following on from an instruction from both our Archbishop's all public worship has been cancelled.

As a consequence no services will be held in either of our churches until further notice.

In line with Government advice this instruction is taken to include all meetings etc.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As a consequence neither church will be open for private prayer at any time.

## A prayer in lockdown

Ever present God,  
 be with us in our isolation,  
 be close to us in our distancing,  
 be healing in our sickness,  
 be joy in our sadness,  
 be light in our darkness,  
 be wisdom in our confusion,  
 be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
 that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world. For Jesus' sake.  
**Amen.**

Check out our Church Website: [www.Birstall.org](http://www.Birstall.org)

While our parish is in interregnum, please ring 07570 198810 to contact a churchwarden.

## Notices

We are still working out our best strategy for keeping in touch with you all. For starters we will ensure that a simple information sheet, updated weekly, will be on the web site ([www.birstall.org](http://www.birstall.org)) and, if we have an email address for you a copy of the information sheet will be sent to you electronically. We are still working out how to keep those of you who do not have access to modern technology up to date. Please feel free to contact any of the Churchwardens at anytime.

### **Contact Information**

If you know anyone who will not have received this email please contact them to share the contents; and to encourage them to let us have their contact details in case we do not have them. Your Churchwardens can be contacted as follows:

Tony Bloxam	17 Sandgate Avenue	2675381
John Borrajo	8 Hallam Avenue	2209289
John Ward	28 Walker Road	2677600
Debbie Shephard	41 Roman Road	2672630

### **A Churchwarden's Ramblings**

So, the second weekend with the church closed; what can I do to keep myself occupied? I'm being good, obeying all the rules about isolation. The dogs are getting fed up walking around the same bit of the lakes, and there's a limit to how many coats of paint I can put on the same bit of skirting board.

The church buildings may be closed but the Church is open for business as usual – God's Kingdom never shuts down. The enforced inactivity, quiet and isolation gives us a wonderful opportunity to listen out for God speaking to us; what a refreshing change for us to listen rather than us prattling on.

Let us continue keeping in touch with one another, offering help where we are able, and meeting together (remotely I fear for now) in prayer. During the week I came across this poem by John O'Donohue which I thought I would share with you, it looks forward to better times:

*“This is the time to be slow,  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.  
Try as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light  
If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on fresh pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning.”*

Keep safe. God bless you all. *John Ward*

### **A Coronavirus prayer for our hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(From the Church of England website)*

### **Information for all Authorised Key-holders**

The church locks, which are now nearly 60 years old, are being changed. This will take place over a period of time which means you will need both an old key and a new key to guarantee access to all sections of the church. Currently there are little or no visits to the church, however if you are a key-holder, and do need to gain access, please contact Tony Bloxam for a new key.

### **Palm Crosses**

The Church of England encourages you to make your own paper/card palm crosses and display them in your windows as they are advising against the distribution of palm crosses on public health grounds.

### **Private Prayer/Worship**

There are many resources available for private prayer/home worship. In the first instance we would suggest looking at the Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

### **A prayer for the world (to pray with children)**

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. **Amen.**

*(From the Church of England website)*

### **Prayer Chain**

If you have an urgent prayer request for the Prayer Chain please contact Doreen Wilson on 2674680 or Gill Pope on 2675086. This will be passed round the prayer chain as quickly as possible in strictest confidence.

### **Parish Holiday 2021 - Royal Esplanade Hotel, Ryde, Isle of Wight**

We would like to have some indication of how many people would be interested in next years holiday as they book very quickly. Please contact Leigh Reid or Rita Richards. You can also email me at [stjames.birstall@btconnect.com](mailto:stjames.birstall@btconnect.com) or [sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk) and I will pass your names on to Rita & Leigh.

### **Notices for the information sheet**

If you have a notice to go in the information sheet while there is no public worship happening, can you please email it to [stjames.birstall@btconnect.com](mailto:stjames.birstall@btconnect.com) or directly to me ([sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk)) or contact a churchwarden. I will be working from home until things return to normal, so please don't leave messages on the church phone or on my desk. Thanks. *Sheryl*