



# ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PH

18th April 2021 EASTER 3 Year B 21/16

Welcomer: Ken Thompson  
 Reader: Dionne Carter  
 Interceder: Lucy Haire  
 Hymns:  
 Entry: AM702 Lead us heavenly F.  
 Gradual: AM592 As the deer  
 Offertory: AM 748 O Jesus I have  
 Anthem: *How can I keep Robert Lowry*  
 Final: AM739 Now thank we all

**Collect: Give us, we pray, gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love, that we may learn to walk the harder road of sacrifice and peace. Grant this through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen**



**ORGAN PROJECT FACULTY GRANTED** It was late on Friday 9th April that we finally got word that the Organ scheme that has taken nearly four years to put together, had been approved. At today's AGM we look forward to the process of completing this exciting but complex task in a reasonable time-frame.

**KINGLEY LEWIS** It is with much appreciation that we mark the retirement of Kingsley Lewis from his liturgical roles in the sanctuary. After his arrival in Islington, he attended St Peter's, Devonian Road but photographs from the mid 1980s show Fr Jack Holden celebrating Mass at St James' (on a nave altar very much like the one we have today) and there to the right stands Kingsley. He also features in many of the pictures taken at the annual Vicarage garden parties and, more recently, at the Beating of the Parish Bounds which we show on the front of today's 10am pew sheet. A more loyal and generous person one cannot imagine, and without doubt one of the most self-effacing, a friend to so many over the years. We take the opportunity of his retirement to say a profound 'thank-you'!

**PACK-UP** The brilliant work of Damien Brown and his Foodbank team at the ARC doesn't lessen the importance of Pack-Up, serving meals - and so much more - to the street community in this area. Meeting some of the guests in the street they all ask 'when is Pack-Up starting up again?' The answer is: tomorrow. Sadly regulations don't allow groups to eat indoors together yet but there will be a full take-away service at the door from 12.15pm. Huge thanks to Toni Parker and to the team who have planned this return and we look forward to the word getting round that Pack-Up is very much open to allcomers.

**SJI-150** As I said in last Sunday's Community Notices, every organisation needs aims and goals - and churches are no different. After two five-year plans starting in 2011 we are about to embark on our third, leading up to the 150th anniversary of the opening of St James' by the Bishop of London, John Jackson, on 5th May 1875. And the big question is 'what kind of Church do we believe God is calling St James' to be by the time of that great celebration'? Today's AGM will start the process and we look forward to spending time teasing out what this challenge means.

**TIME WAITS FOR NO-ONE!** Now that the Organ Project ruling has been received we need to get more quotations for the work to rebuild the new organ chamber asap. Sadly that means I lose my mini-break from 26th but if anyone has some time over the next couple of weeks to help me to get all the paper - work in order I would be very grateful. We need to be able to give the green light to the organ builder by the beginning of May if we are to have the organ in place before the Christmas Carol Service!

### THIS WEEK

Sun	<i>EASTER 3</i> 8am Mass. 10am Streamed PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL. 11.15pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
Mon	12.15pm Pack-Up re-opens for Sandwich lunches, Church Hall. 1pm John Hill prepares for the funeral of Alan McCarthy (Popham Road).
Tues	8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass. 6.30pm Annabel and Dom prepare for their wedding on May 15th.
Wed	10am Mass. 2pm South Islington Clergy Cluster meeting.
Thurs	10am Deanery Chapter meeting. 6pm Evening Prayer. 6.15pm Basic Christianity course.
Fri	11-4pm <i>Pallisander</i> rehearsals.
Sun 25	<i>EASTER 4</i> 8am Mass. 10am Streamed PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL (Fr Stephen)

### Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

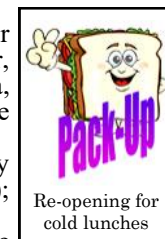
Sun 18 <i>EASTER 3</i>	Martin, Kerri, Rebecca and Joseph Allen
Mon 19 <i>DEL EASTER 3</i>	Beatrice Awoonor-Renner; Vicky Bellamy, Archie, Holly, Josh
Tues 20 <i>Feria</i>	Albert and Annie Bryan; Fr John, Maria and Sinead Burniston
Wed 21 <i>St Anselm</i>	Vivienne Carlton; Chris, Katja, Arnold and Egon Carter
Thurs 22 <i>Feria</i>	Dionne, Aly, Sophie, Emma and Jack Carter
Fri 23 <i>St George</i>	Thiago Chang; Shirley Chinery; Cyril Daley, Dennis Davis
Sat 24 <i>St Mellitus</i>	Carly Cunningham, James, Michael and Francis Russell
Sun 25 <i>EASTER 4</i>	Teresa Pereira, Richard, Mae and Ivy Dennison

### PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

**BIRTHDAYS** Many Happy Returns to Reggie Murphy, 11 on Tuesday.  
**SICK** Christopher Browne, Jennifer Franich, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Nieve Goodwin (operation on Tuesday), Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, Ed Pereira, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Lyn Thompson, and Melanie Toogood needing to transfer to the Mildmay Hospital.  
**ANNIVERSARIES** 20th: Abp Trevor Huddleston (1998), Freddie Doughty (2010); 21st: William Lambe, Patron and benefactor (1580); 23rd: Jim Baker (2018); 24th: Rose Baker (2020).

**INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS** In the US: Suzanne Smith, Rector of Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.

**PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE** Continuing to remember **Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe** who still awaits news of the verdict from her second trial in Tehran before Easter.





PARISH MASS  
for Easter 3  
Sunday April 18th 2021

as streamed from  
St James' Church  
Islington N1

PARISH MASS  
FOR EASTER 3 2021

Entry Hymn: **AM702 Lead us heavenly Father, lead us us** [t Mannheim]

*Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.*

*Spirit of our God descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
this provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.* (Words: J H Newman)

**The Greeting**

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen:  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said*

**Words of Preparation**

Hidden God, on this day of our Annual General Meeting  
we offer you our thanks and praise  
for all you have done through us and with us this year.

**By ourselves we could never have found you:  
no argument can lead us to you,  
no enterprise can reveal you  
and no amount of knowledge  
will give us the answers we need.**

But throughout this year  
you have searched for us;  
in the frailty of our common life  
you have entrusted yourself to us  
so that we could be your ambassadors in the world.

**We thank you that even in our weakness  
we can know you,  
and that when we trust you  
stumbling blocks become stepping stones  
and the foolishness of your Gospel  
leads us to the certainty of eternal life.**

**Collect**

*Collect:* **Give us, we pray, gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love, that we may learn to walk the harder road of sacrifice and peace. Grant this through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen**

**Confession**

*Sit*

**The Word of God**

*Easter* Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*1st Reading:* (Colossians 1: 24-29 CEV) Now is the time for us to rejoice in the difficulties we have endured together. For though they do not compare with the pains that Christ suffered on behalf of his body the Church, they have been the necessary means by which we have proclaimed the Word of God in all its fullness - the mystery which has remained hidden for ages past but which is now being disclosed to those who have faith. To us God has chosen to make known the glorious riches of this mystery: that he has made his home among us, leading and guiding us - so that the world may have hope. This we proclaim and to this end we struggle, thanking him for his energy which is so powerfully at work in us. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stay sitting for the Gradual Hymn:* **AM592 As the deer**

**Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins for the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.***

***I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver  
and the apple of my eye. You alone...***

***You're my friend and you're my brother,  
even though you are a king.  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything. You alone...*** (Words: Martin Nystrom)

*A short time of silence follows as we reflect on all we have heard.*

Let us stand and welcome the Gospel.

## Gospel Acclamation

We say together:

**Alleluia, alleluia Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

(St Luke 24: 36b-48) While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of grilled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON FOR EASTER 3 | 11.04.2021

Acts 3: 12-19; Colossians 1: 24-29; St Luke 24: 36b-48

I wonder – if you had the chance to watch it - what you made of Prince Philip's funeral yesterday afternoon? Blessed by bright sunshine, the precision and absolute split-second timing of the military in all their glory was in stark contrast to the simplicity of the old Defender Land Rover which carried his coffin to the gates of St George's Chapel. And in the middle of it all the small, lonely figure of the Queen. Whatever their status and their resources, this was still a Covid funeral with 30 guests, masks and 2 metre social distancing mandatory. Despite the long list of titles and other awards at the end, this had much the same atmosphere as many other funerals this year – and that was absolutely right and proper. And the occasion was what the Duke had wanted – to the letter.

He hadn't wanted a eulogy although there was a nod in that direction from David Conner the Dean at the very beginning. And he hadn't wanted a sermon despite the Archbishop of Canterbury taking part.

Both Hugh Edwards on BBC and Tom Bradby on ITV had remarked on this - and both thought it a good thing. Let the words of the readings, the music and the ambience do the talking they said in the ten minutes of fairly random 'celebrity' comments that often follow major events like this.

Am I too steeped in the Church not to have missed some kind of balanced religious reflection in the service? Wasn't at least one of the talking points of Harry and Meghan's wedding (in that same chapel) the sermon by Michael Curry the American Presiding bishop whose vitality and clarity showed the Gospel of Jesus at its very best?

Today is the day we set aside for our Annual General Meeting. Actually it is less than six months since our last AGM because of all the lockdowns in 2020 so no 'Review of the Year' photographs today and not a great deal of reflection backwards except to say a very real thank-you to God for having got us through this very difficult period in reasonably good order: well, at least we are still talking to each other which can't be said of every family or group of friends this year!

The passage from Colossians puts it like this: *now is the time for us to rejoice in the difficulties we have endured together. For though they do not compare with the pains that Christ suffered on behalf of his body the Church, they have been the necessary means by which we have proclaimed the Word of God in all its fullness...*

In the TV commentary yesterday, the life of Prince Philip was described as one of 'service and sacrifice'. Might that also apply to us?

This Gospel story of one of Jesus appearances has many elements that we are familiar with in other accounts: the fear in the disciples, their need to see his hands and his side - and the attempt by Jesus to allay their fears with the familiar calming words, *Peace be with you*.

But there is one new element which I want us to think about: *while in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, Jesus said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of grilled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.*

Having Jesus stand there and talk to them bad enough. Trying to work out if he was a ghost was their first concern but then he leaps ahead and tells them how they needed to fit this experience into the bigger biblical story about the Messiah. It's all too much. So Jesus changes the focus. He asks them for something to eat.

And they give him grilled fish: their grilled fish - the fish that they would have worked all night to catch as we hear about in other resurrection stories. So what is Jesus up to?

Quite simply he knows that whatever he has taught them, whatever he has shown them, however vital it was for him to die and to rise again: if this work of being witnesses was to 'work' it had to involve them – their lives, their time, their skills, their willingness to get stuck in and to make sacrifices.

*Give me some of your fish* is Jesus' way of saying: whatever miracles I have done, whatever great visions I have shared, whatever healings and transformations you have seen: the kingdom of God cannot be done for you. It can only be built with the tools that you bring.

It can't be built for you – only with you. *Give me some fish.*

And when he follows it up by saying, *you are to be witnesses to these things*, what he means is, it is only by your involvement in my work, by your investment in the Church, that my Kingdom can grow. *Give me some fish needs to be translated* – as the funeral perhaps failed to do – into *God's work only comes alive in service and sacrifice – by each and every one of us whom Jesus is calling to be his friends.*

As we start to ask the question: what does God want from us at St James' over the next five years up to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding by the Clothworkers Company in 1875, can we respond to his call to give him – despite all the difficulties - what he needs to build his Kingdom here on earth?

Among them, service and sacrifice. So that world may have hope.

*Stand*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God the Father; the almighty who is, and was, and is to come.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ; the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead, the King of Kings who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of many gifts, sent from the throne on high.  
We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Sit*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Stand*

### **The Peace**

Jesus came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the risen Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia, alleluia  
**And also with you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: **AM748 O Jesus I have promised** [t Wolvercote]

***O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.***

***O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.***

***O let me see thy footmarks and in them plant my own;  
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone;  
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my friend.***

(Words: Edward Plumptre)

*Remain standing*

### **At the Offertory**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become our spiritual drink.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, my friends, that our thanksgiving may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.  
**May the Lord accept this sacrifice from our hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Creator of all, you wash away our sins in water, you give us new birth by the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate the resurrection, renew your gift of life within us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

*Remain standing*

### **Eucharistic Prayer E**

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, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

Ever-renewing God, your Son invited his disciples to touch his risen body so that they might know the full power of his resurrection.

In each generation you have touched those who live in fear, those who know daily hunger and all those who carry a multitude of wounds and scars.

Touch all who are yet to see the salvation you bring through your Son, those who are disbelieving and those who are stumbling in their faith, so that your whole Church may join with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing for ever the hymn of your unending praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Sit/* How wonderful the works of your hands, O Lord!  
*Kneel* As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.  
Chris is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

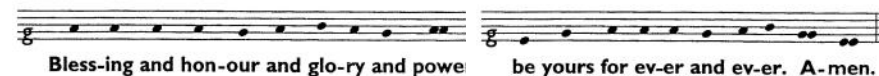
Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. [Remember Lord your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.....]

Bring us at the last with Mary, the Mother of God, St James and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

by him, with him, and in him, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:



### Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**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, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Fraction

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, 'Alleluia.'  
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.  
**Blessed are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

## Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,  
Grant us peace.**

## Invitation

Draw near with faith, receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was broken for you, and his blood which was shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving; for this 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.**

Sit

## After Communion

*Communion Anthem: How can I keep from singing* Robert Lowry arr Geoff Weaver

***My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***Through all the tumult and the strife I hear that music ringing.  
It sounds and echoes in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

(Words: Robert Lowry)

## Post Communion

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living he declared your love, gave us grace,  
and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Community Notices

## Blessing and Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia**

*Final Hymn: AM739 Now thank we all our God*

[t Nun Danket]

***Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom the world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.***

***O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.***

(Words: Martin Rinkart)