

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour  
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist  
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



The Risen Christ

## The Easter Vigil of The Resurrection

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 at 8.00 p.m.

Online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

**Prayer Thoughts:** The Great Vigil of Easter is the primary and richest of the Easter celebrations and the first Eucharist of Easter is always celebrated with great joy. In accord with the Church's ancient tradition, this night is one of vigil for the Lord (*Exodus 12:42*). Since Good Friday the church has been silent. We have been waiting in prayerful expectation, reflecting on the love of God, confident of the triumph of his love over death.

Tonight, we join online to celebrate the Resurrection and share in a special way in the glory of the risen Christ.

Of course, this year it is not possible for us all to gather in our church buildings and so the Easter Vigil for 2021 must be shortened. In this year's Easter Vigil we shall celebrate, first, a simple Service of Light; second, a shortened Liturgy of the Word; third, a simple Renewal of Baptismal Promises; fourth, the Easter Eucharist of the Resurrection in which we celebrate our unity with the risen Christ and in which we are nurtured in Word and Sacrament for our own journey until we are at last one with him in our own resurrection.

When it is safe to open our churches fully again there will be the opportunity for a special celebratory Parish Eucharist with the Renewal of Promises at the Font. God bless,

# THE EASTER VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

### THE BLESSING OF THE EASTER/PASCHAL CANDLE

**We are not able to gather in the church garden this year for the blessing of the new fire and Paschal Candle and so the Paschal Candle will be blessed before this service begins.**

### THE INTRODUCTION

Priest Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night,  
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
the Church invites people throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.  
This is the passover of the Lord: if we honour the memory of his death and resurrection  
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share  
his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Priest Let us pray.  
Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world.  
May this new fire inflame us with new hope.  
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration,  
and bring us one day to the feast of the Eternal Light,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

*The priest stands before the light of the Paschal Candle.*

Priest May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

All **Amen.**

All Christ our light.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE EASTER PROCLAMATION - THE EXSULTET

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Priest Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the word  
of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent  
his own Son to be our Redeemer. Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection  
the saving work he has begun in us.

**GENESIS 1: 1. 26 - 31** - Read by Louis Goff-Beardsley

*God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the  
likeness of ourselves.'

And so it was. God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good. Evening came and morning came: the  
sixth day.

Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work he had  
been doing.

All This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Priest Let us pray.  
Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to  
perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation by which in the fullness of time you  
redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our passover, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

## GENESIS 22:1-2.9-13.15-18

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test, Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am,' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he said. 'I am here,' he replied. 'Do not harm him, for I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.'

'All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

Priest Let us pray.

God and Father of all who believe in you, you promised Abraham that he would become the father of nations, and through the death and resurrection of Christ you fulfil that promise: everywhere throughout the world you increase your chosen people. May we respond to your call by joyfully accepting your invitation to the new life of grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## EXODUS 14:15-15:1

*The sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground...' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea; all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen... That day, the Lord rescued Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

Priest Let us pray.

Father, even today we see the wonders of the miracles you worked long ago. You once saved a single nation from slavery, and now you offer that salvation to all through baptism. May the people of the world become true sons of Abraham and prove worthy of the heritage of Israel. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*After the last reading from the Old Testament with its prayer, the Altar candles and all the other lights in the church are lit.*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Cantor Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**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.**

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

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

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

**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.**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*  
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

Priest Let us pray.  
Lord God, you have brightened this night with the radiance of the risen Christ.  
Quicken the spirit of sonship and daughtership in your Church; renew us in mind and body  
to give you whole-hearted service.

All **Amen.**

*All sit.*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING: ROMANS 6: 3-11** - read by Gwen Adshead

*Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Cantor Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!

All **Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Cantor The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

*Psalm 117*

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### **THE GOSPEL READING - MARK 16: 1 - 7**

*The Gospel reading changes each year according to the Church's three year lectionary.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome, brought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Cantor        Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
                    Omnes gentes, alleluia!  
All                **Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,**  
                    **Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

### **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

*All stand with lighted candles and renew their baptismal profession of faith.*

*The priest speaks to the people in these or similar words.*

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in baptism,  
so that we may rise with him to a new life.  
Now that we have completed our Lenten observance,  
let us renew the promises we made in baptism  
when we rejected Satan and his works,  
and promised to serve God faithfully  
in his holy Catholic Church. And so:

Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?  
All                **I do.**

Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?  
All                **I do.**

Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?  
All                **I do.**

*Then the priest continues:*

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?  
All                **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried,  
rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?  
All                **I do.**

Priest            Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
                    the holy Catholic Church,  
                    the communion of saints,  
                    the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
                    and life everlasting?  
All                **I do.**

*The Priest concludes:*

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a  
new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins.  
May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever..  
All                **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

Priest            The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
                    and said, 'Peace be with you.'  
                    Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.  
                    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
All                **And also with you.**

Priest            Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented at the Altar.*

#### BREAD

Priest 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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### WINE

Priest Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Lord, accept the prayers and offerings of your people.  
With your help may this Easter mystery of our redemption  
bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us.

All **Amen.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise you with greater joy than ever on this Easter night,  
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice. He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the  
world. By dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life. And so, with all the choirs  
of angels in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Cantor **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the + body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.



So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and the cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Cantor**

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

**Priest**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us into your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint John the Baptist and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**All**

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Priest**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All**

**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.**

**Priest**

*Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day.  
In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety  
as we wait in joyful hope  
for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**All**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Priest**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All**

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Priest**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All**

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*If you normally receive Holy Communion in your own church, then you are welcome to do so at this Eucharist.*

*If you would prefer a blessing, then please carry this service book in your hands when you come to the priest.*

*When receiving Holy Communion, the people respond by saying:*

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Priest**

Let us pray.  
Lord, you have nourished us with your Easter sacraments.  
Fill us with your Spirit and make us all one in peace and love.

**All**

**Amen.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

**Priest**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

**All**

**He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.**

**Priest**

The Lord be with you.

**All**

**And also with you.**

## THE BLESSING

Priest God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

Priest God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

Priest God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

Priest + And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

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

## HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;*

**Alleluia, Christ is Risen.  
He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.**

***Happy and Blessed Easter***



