

## Gospel Reflection Passion Sunday.

George VI famously in his Christmas speech in December 1939, just after the outbreak of the Second World war, quoted words written in 1908 by Minnie Louise Haskins, the American poet and social scientist:

*"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!' So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night."*

We are exactly a year on from the first COVID lockdown; a year of uncertainty and for many a year of fear and hardship. In our gospel today we see Jesus in anguish over his future destiny. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say- "Father save me from this hour?" He was going forward into a time of great uncertainty. We fortunately are not heading to the future that Jesus knew was set for him, but there is uncertainty ahead of us. But there is hope as well! Do Minnie's words say anything to you as we prepare to step forward from our current lockdown to a new future of hope?

*Philip Baker*

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.

John 12:24

### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day, *including Holy Week*

**Meeting ID:** 881 6251 3403

**Passcode:** 337962

**Telephone numbers** (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

### NEXT SUNDAY 28.03.2021 Palm Sunday

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

#### READINGS:



OT	Isaiah 50: 4-9a
NT	Philippians 2: 5-11
Gospel	Mark 15: 1-39, 40 to end

### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 21st March 2021**

## Passion Sunday

**10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)**

**12 noon Mass in Church**

Here's advance notice about some Holy Week services, with full details also available on our Easter card, and online.

**Palm Sunday:** regular Sunday pattern with dramatized reading of St Mark's Passion on Zoom.

**Mon, Tues, Wed of Holy Week:** 7pm Evening worship on Zoom with Andrew Beane, AD of Exeter.

**Maundy Thursday:** 7pm Mass in Church, with short watch; 9pm Compline at home by Zoom

**Good Friday:** 9.30am Stations by Zoom, 2pm Liturgy in Church

**Holy Saturday:** 6pm Service of Light and Vigil by Zoom

If you would like to make a donation for **flowers on Easter Day** in memory of someone who has died, please contact Pat Metford or the clergy.



## Collect

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**

## Jeremiah 31: 31-34

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.

## Hebrews 5: 5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eter-

nal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## John 12: 20-33

Now 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.

## Post Communion

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**

## NOTICES

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **homemade chutneys and marmalade for sale** The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

## Knit and Natter *Update for March 2021*

Parkland House is very happy to accept our blankets again, so we shall try to have them all ready as Easter gifts. More news next week about a possible display of these lovely, colourful pieces of work. Many thanks again to all who have contributed. Once the 'Rule of Six' is in operation, we shall hope to meet in the park as last year. This looks like being after Easter when we hope the weather will be warm and dry! Meanwhile, we continue our Zoom meetings on Thursdays 11.15am to 11.55am thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**House Group.** Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

**Electoral Roll revision** Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

**Annual Meeting** Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

**Census.** Do not forget to complete your Census form today 21 March.

**Bingo** Is anyone interested in running Bingo sessions when the Hall is re-opened? Nothing is needed to start up, all the equipment and cards etc are available. Please contact Pat Mounce before the beginning of April.