

# Parishes of St Mary the Virgin and St John the Baptist Bathwick

11 April 2020  
The Easter Vigil 8pm

*At our Vigil, we celebrate with joyful hearts the night of Christ's resurrection. This night is the 'solemnity of solemnities' when we join the whole Church in praising God for the gift of our redemption.*



## SERVICE OF LIGHT

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

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),  
on this most sacred night,  
in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life,  
the Church calls upon her sons and daughters,  
scattered throughout the world,  
to come together to watch and pray.  
If we keep the memorial  
of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way,  
listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries,  
then we shall have the sure hope  
of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

## Exsultet

*The priest proclaims the Exsultet*

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
O Universe, dance around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!  
Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your  
creation radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!  
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!  
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!  
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

The Lord be with you.

**All and with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,  
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin,  
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.  
This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,  
freeing Israel from her slavery  
and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke  
the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.  
This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from  
sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of  
Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost; beyond  
our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.  
Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight  
and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained,  
and mourning turned to joy. Night truly blessed when hatred  
is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is  
joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.  
Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy  
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.  
Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.  
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;  
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns  
within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!  
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

*We listen to a series of readings from the Old Testament, each  
followed by a prayer.*

### First reading

*Genesis 1:1,26-31*

*The story of creation*

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 let them be masters of the fish  
of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild  
beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.'

God created man in the image of himself,  
in the image of God he created him,  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful,  
multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the  
fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals  
on the earth.' God said, 'See, I give you all the seed-  
bearing plants that are upon the whole earth, and all the  
trees with seed-bearing fruit; this shall be your food. To  
all wild beasts, all birds of heaven and all living reptiles on  
the earth I give all the foliage of plants for food.' 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. He rested on the seventh day after all the  
work he had been doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created human nature  
and still more wonderfully redeemed it,  
grant us, we pray,  
to set our minds against the enticements of sin,  
that we may merit to attain eternal joys.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Second reading

*Exodus 14:1-15:2*

*The children of Israel go dry-shod through the waters of 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. I, for my part, will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win for myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.'

Then the angel of the Lord, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea back 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. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried, 'the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses, 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant.

It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

Sing unto the Lord for he hath triumphed gloriously,  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and song,  
he is my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, I extol him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

O God, whose ancient wonders  
remain undimmed in splendour even in our own day,  
for what you once bestowed on a single people,  
freeing them from Pharaoh's persecution by the power of  
your right hand  
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations  
through the waters of rebirth:  
grant, we pray, that the whole world  
may become the children of Abraham  
and inherit the dignity of Israel's birthright.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Third reading

*Isaiah 54:5-14*

*The eternal covenant of peace*

Thus says the Lord:

Now your creator will be your husband,  
his name the Lord of hosts;

your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel,  
he is called the God of the whole earth.

Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit,  
the Lord calls you back.

Does a man cast off the wife of his youth?  
says your God.

I did forsake you for a brief moment,  
but with great love will I take you back.

In excess of anger,

for a moment I hid my face from you.

But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you,  
says the Lord, your redeemer.

I am now as it was in the days of Noah  
when I swore that Noah's waters should never flood  
the world again.

So now I swear concerning my anger with you  
and the threats I made against you;

for the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken,  
but my love for you will never leave you,

and my covenant of peace will never be shaken,  
says the Lord who takes pity on you.

Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate,  
see, I will set your stones on carbuncles and your  
foundations on sapphires.

I will make rubies your battlements, your gates crystal,  
and your entire wall precious stones.

Your sons will all be taught by the Lord.

The prosperity of your sons will be great.

You will be founded on integrity;

remote from oppression, you will have nothing to fear;

remote from terror, it will not approach you.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
surpass, for the honour of your name,  
what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason  
of their faith,

and through sacred adoption increase the children  
of your promise,

so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come  
to pass

your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Gloria in excelsis

*After the last reading from the Old Testament with its psalm and prayer, we recite the 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 sin of 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.**

## The Collect

*the prayer of the night*

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant  
with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection:  
stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption,  
so that, renewed in body and mind,  
we may render you undivided service.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## New Testament reading

*Romans 6:3-11*

*In baptism, we die and rise with Christ*

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.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one:  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 28:1-10*

The Lord be with you.

**All And with thy spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

**All Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day  
of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to  
visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent  
earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from  
heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.  
His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow.  
The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that  
they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said  
to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid.  
I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.  
He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would.  
Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and  
tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he  
is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see  
him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy  
the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to  
tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus.  
'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and,  
falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said  
to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that  
they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## Reflection

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*The priest leads us in our renewal of baptismal promises:*

Dear friends, through the Paschal Mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,  
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.  
And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded,  
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism  
by which we once renounced Satan and his works  
and promised to serve God in his holy catholic church.

Therefore I ask.

Priest Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**All I reject them.**

Priest Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**All I renounce them.**

Priest Do you repent of the sins that separate us from  
God and neighbour?

**All I repent of them.**

Priest Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**All I turn to Christ.**

Priest Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**All I submit to Christ.**

Priest Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the  
life?

**All I come to Christ.**

Brothers and sisters, let us profess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the  
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to  
the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### The Peace

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 risen Christ be always with you.

**All and with thy spirit. Alleluia!**

### Prayer over the Gifts

Priest Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice 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 holy Church.**

Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity.

We make our prayer through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you

**All and with thy spirit.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is meet and right so to do.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts and we respond:*

**All 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.**

*The priest recalls Jesus' words at the Last Supper, and this acclamation may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died. Alleluia!**

**Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

**Christ will come again. Alleluia!**

*The prayer of consecration ends:*

...for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**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, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

**All For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread

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.**

**All O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.**

### Invitation to Communion

*The priest invites us to receive the communion of Jesus' body and blood*

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

**All Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*The priest consumes the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist.*

### Post-Communion Prayer

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this paschal sacrament one in mind and heart, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing and Dismissal

Priest May almighty God bless you through today's Easter solemnity and through his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast, come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!

**All Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**