



CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL

*A Guide to*

**Holy Week and Easter 2026**

## Welcome to Christ Church this Holy Week.

From Palm Sunday to Easter Day, Christians around the world keep Holy Week: a commemoration in worship of the final days of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection.

The services of Holy Week are among the most moving in the Christian Year. Through word, sacrament, music and use of sacred space, we enter afresh into the depths of the Paschal mystery.

You don't need to have taken part in Holy Week before (or any worship) to join us in our Holy Week programme – all are welcome. Together, we journey on a path that leads to the joyous message at the heart of the Christian faith: that God 'so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life'.



*The Easter Vigil, 2024*

# Holy Week 2026: At a Glance

## Palm Sunday, 29 March

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Palm Sunday Procession and Choral Eucharist <i>Meet in the Memorial Garden, St Aldates</i>	11.05 am
Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday <i>With Holy Week Sermon</i>	6.05 pm

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## Monday 30 March

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Evening Prayer of Holy Week <i>With Holy Week sermon</i>	6.05 pm
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## Tuesday 31 March

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James MacMillan's <i>Seven Last Words from the Cross</i> : Cathedral Choir, Frideswide Voices and Britten Sinfonia <i>Admission free and unticketed</i>	7.30 pm
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## Wednesday 1 April

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Philip Moore's <i>Via Crucis</i> : Holy Week Organ Devotion <i>Admission free and unticketed</i>	6.05 pm
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## Maundy Thursday, 2 April

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Chrism Eucharist for the Diocese of Oxford	11.00 am
The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday <i>With Holy Week Sermon</i>	7.35 pm
The Watch <i>Ask at the Lodge for admission.</i>	9.00 pm - 12.00 am

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## Good Friday, 3 April

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The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday	10.05 am
Journeying Through Holy Week: A Service for Families	3.05 pm
Choral Evensong on Good Friday <i>With Holy Week Sermon</i>	6.05 pm

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## Holy Saturday, 4 April

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The Easter Vigil, with Baptism and Confirmation and the First Eucharist of Easter	8.05 pm
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## Easter Day, 5 April

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Holy Communion (BCP)	8.05 am
Choral Matins	9.35 am
The Choral Eucharist of Easter Day	11.05 am
Festal Choral Evensong	6.05 pm

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## Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist

Sunday 29 March • 11.05 am - 12.15 pm  
*Meet at the Memorial Garden, St Aldates*

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with a triumphal procession to the Cathedral, singing hymns and led by a donkey, celebrating Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem a week before his death. The singing of the Passion Gospel changes the mood from joy to sadness, as we prepare to journey with Christ to the cross.

*Vaughan Williams Mass in G Minor*  
*Victoria Passion according to St Matthew*  
*Guerrero O Domine Jesu Christe*





## Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday

Sunday 29 March • 6.05 pm - 7.05 pm

*With Holy Week Sermon preached by  
The Revd Canon Peter Moger, Sub Dean*

Join us for Evensong on Palm Sunday, sung by the Cathedral Choir. The evening includes the first of this year's series of sermons to guide us through Holy Week, preached in 2026 by the Sub Dean, The Revd Canon Peter Moger.

*Byrd Responses*

*Leighton Second Service*

*Poulenc Vinea mea Electa*



## Evening Prayer in Holy Week

Monday 30 March • 6.05 pm - 6.45 pm

*With Holy Week Sermon preached by  
The Revd Canon Peter Moger, Sub Dean*

This special service of Said Evening Prayer, with a hymn and organ voluntaries, includes the second of our series of Holy Week sermons.



**James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words from the Cross*:  
Choral Meditation for Holy Week**

Tuesday 31 March • 7.30 pm - 9 pm

Christ Church Cathedral Choir

Frideswide Voices

Britten Sinfonia

Directed by Peter Holder

*With Reflections from The Revd Canon  
Peter Moger, Sub Dean*

Admission Free

Every year, as part of the Holy Week programme, we offer a free performance of a choral work. This year, the Cathedral Choir and Frideswide Voices join forces with acclaimed chamber orchestra Britten Sinfonia to perform Sir James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words from the Cross*. Commissioned by the BBC in 1994, this evocative work sets Christ's final words alongside texts from the Holy Week liturgies. The performance is an act of worship, and includes reflections from the Sub Dean, the Revd Canon Peter Moger. Admission is free and no booking is required.



**Philip Moore's *Via Crucis*:  
Organ Devotion for Holy Week**  
Wednesday 1 April • 6.05 pm - 7.05 pm  
Richard Moore, organist

The Via Crucis, or Way of the Cross, is a devotional practice based on the path Jesus walked on his journey from condemnation to crucifixion. This inspired Eric Milner-White's 'A Procession of Passion Prayers' (1950), which are realised in music in the devotional work which forms the basis of tonight's service.



**Chrism Eucharist for the  
Diocese of Oxford**  
Thursday 2 April • 11.00 am - 12.15 pm  
*With Sermon preached by The Rt Revd  
Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford*

We welcome friends from across the Diocese to this special service on Maundy Thursday. At the Chrism Eucharist, oils for use in baptism, confirmation and anointing for healing will be blessed and distributed for use over the coming year. Our bishops, clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers will also renew their ordination and licensing vows and re-affirm their commitment to ministry.

## The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2 April • 7.35 pm - 9.00 pm

*With Holy Week Sermon preached by  
The Revd Canon Peter Moger, Sub Dean*

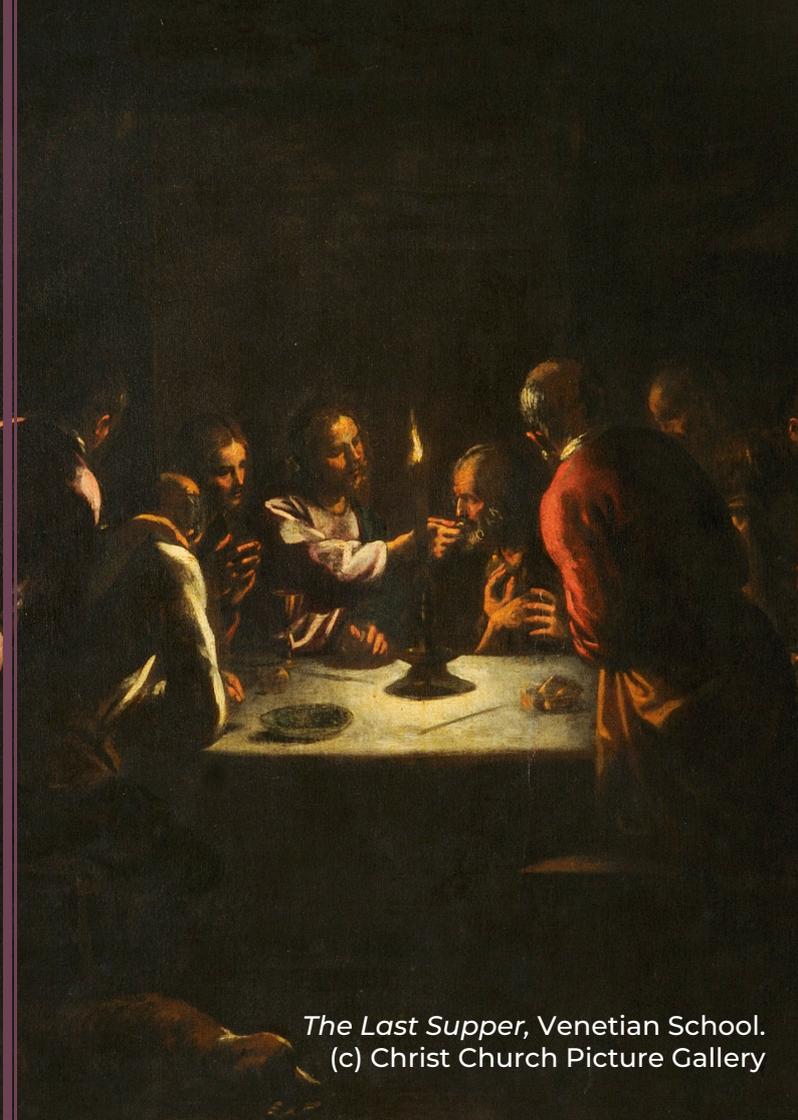
On Maundy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, Jesus' institution of the Holy Communion, and begin the Sacred Triduum, the three-day cycle of worship which leads to Easter. Following Jesus' example during the meal, the Dean washes the feet of some members of the congregation. After communion, the altars and sanctuary are stripped of their hangings and the choir and clergy leave in disorder, reflecting the scattering of the disciples and Judas' betrayal. The service ends in darkness, and we leave in silence - or remain for The Watch.

*Byrd Mass for Five Voices  
Duruflé Ubi Caritas  
Palestrina Dextera Domini*

## The Watch

Thursday 2 April • 9.00 pm - Midnight

Recalling Jesus' pleas that the disciples watch with him through the night, we keep a silent vigil in the Lady Chapel following the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday until midnight.



*The Last Supper, Venetian School.  
(c) Christ Church Picture Gallery*



## The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

Friday 3 April • 10.05 am - 11.05 am

On Good Friday, the second day of the Triduum, we focus on the Cross. The service begins in the same silence that was kept through the night; the Passion Gospel is sung, and a great cross is brought in for contemplation and veneration before communion is administered. Good Friday reveals the paradox of Christian faith: that, through the suffering and death of Christ, God brings healing, life and hope to all.

*Victoria Passion according to St John*  
*Mawby The Reproaches*  
*Martin Agnus Dei from Mass for Double Choir*



## Journeying Through Holy Week: A Service for Families

Friday 3 April • 3.05 pm - 3.45 pm

*Followed by hot cross buns and cocoa*

Come with us on a journey around the Cathedral as we explore the story of Holy Week and Easter together in this interactive, musical and family-friendly service. Followed by hot cross buns and cocoa.



## Choral Evensong on Good Friday

Friday 3 April • 6.05 pm - 7.05 pm

*With Holy Week Sermon preached by  
The Revd Canon Peter Moger, Sub Dean*

Join us for a reflective Good Friday service of Choral Evensong sung by the Clerks (the adult lower-voice singers) of the Cathedral Choir. This service includes the final of our sermon series for Holy Week this year from the Sub Dean, The Revd Canon Peter Moger.

*Tallis The Lamentations of Jeremiah*



## The Easter Vigil, with Baptisms and Confirmations and the First Eucharist of Easter

Saturday 4 April • 8.05 pm - 9.45 pm

At the climax of Holy Week and the culmination of the Triduum, we complete our journey together. The Paschal Candle is lit and we hear Scripture passages which tell of God's saving work. Baptism and Confirmation follows, with all invited to renew their own baptismal promises. The service ends with the celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter. Join us as we celebrate Christ risen - Alleluia!

*Kodaly Missa Brevis*

*Rossini O Salutaris Hostia*



## **Easter Day**

### **Sunday 5 April**

Holy Week at Christ Church concludes with four Easter Day services of celebration. Thank you for visiting and worshipping with us!



## **Holy Communion (BCP)**

8.05 am - 8.30 am

## **Choral Matins of Easter Day**

9.35 am - 10.25 am

*With Sermon preached by The Very Revd Professor Sarah Foot, Dean*

*Byrd Responses*

*Ireland Te Deum in F*

*Taverner Dum transisset Sabbatum I*

## **The Choral Eucharist of Easter Day**

11.05 am - 12.05 pm

*With Sermon preached by The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford*

*Mozart Spatzenmesse (K.220)*

*Taverner Dum transisset Sabbatum I*

## **Festal Evensong of Easter Day**

Sunday 5 April • 6.05 pm - 7.05 pm

*Byrd Responses*

*Stanford In A*

*Stanford Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem*

*Coleridge-Taylor Te Deum in F*

# 2026 Holy Week Charity

Throughout Holy Week this year, we will be inviting you to give in support of **Elmore Community Services**.



Elmore works across Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley with adults with

complex and interconnected needs who can fall through the cracks of mainstream services. The issues the charity helps people to tackle include mental health difficulties, substance use, homelessness, trauma, social isolation, domestic abuse, and involvement with the criminal justice system. Elmore works flexibly and compassionately to empower people to build safety, stability and independence. Thank you for your support!

## Regular Service Times

### Weekdays

7.15 am	Morning Prayer
7.35 am	Holy Communion
1.05 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) - Wed only
6.05 pm	Choral Evensong (Tue-Fri) Said Evening Prayer (Mon)

### Saturdays

8.15 am	Morning Prayer
8.35 am	Holy Communion
6.05 pm	Choral Evensong

### Sundays

7.35 am	Said Matins (BCP)
8.05 am	Said Holy Communion (BCP)
11.05 am	Choral Eucharist
6.05 pm	Choral Evensong

Registered charity number: 1143423

Contact us: [cathedral.comms@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cathedral.comms@chch.ox.ac.uk)



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