



**ST. LAURENCE CHURCH
THE PARISH EUCHARIST
SERVICE CELEBRATED IN CELTIC
STYLE
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR**

**B
28.4.2024**



The Zoom details are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

The Sidesmen today are: Kate
Lagden and Diana Ringer

**Hymn (Please stand if you are
able)**

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures
grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,

and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of
days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy
praise
within thy house forever.

Welcome/The Gathering

Gather us in, the lost and the lonely,
the broken and breaking, the tired
and aching, who long for the
nourishment found at your feast.

Gather us in

The done and the doubting, the
wishing and wondering, the puzzled
and pondering, who long for your
company, found at your feast.

Gather us in

The proud and pretentious the sure
and superior the never inferior who
long for the levelling found at your
feast

Gather us in

The bright and the bustling, the
stirrers, the shakers, the kind
laughter makers who long for the
deeper joys found at your feast

Gather us in

From corner or limelight, from
mansion or campsite, from fears

and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes; to meet, to eat, to be given a seat; be joined to the vine; be offered new wine; become like the least; be found at the feast

Gather us in!

Confession

Create a clean heart within me, O God, so that it may become your chosen shelter and the resting place of the Holy Spirit. I take the cross upon me, over the tablet of my heart, and I beseech the living God of the universe, may the light of lights come to my dark hard heart so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading read by Sandra Dreyer

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the riches of His grace,
to enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring,
with Thy beloved Name.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Listen to the good news proclaimed in the gospel of St. John

Glory to Christ our Lord

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

There is no other God, there never was and there never will be, than God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, the Lord of the universe, as we have been taught.

And His son Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father in a way that baffles description. He was made man, defeated death and received into heaven by the Father and given power over all names, in heaven, on earth and under the earth.

We believe in Him and look for His coming soon as a judge of all, treating everyone according to their faith and deeds. He has poured out His Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and guarantee of eternal life. We acknowledge and adore Him as one God in the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church led by Peter Wyllie

Loving God, we bring our prayers to you today confident that you hear us when we pray in faith. Open our hearts to the leading of your Spirit as we bring our prayers to you.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for Your world and we long for the time when all the families of the nations will bow down before you and the poor will eat and be satisfied. We pray for world leaders who bear the heavy responsibility of providing for their populations, give them wisdom to know what is right and the courage to make right decisions.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, help us to use our influence to bring peace, joy and fun into people's lives, instead of stirring up strife. May our friends and families bring not only pleasure but restoration and healing into our lives.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we bring to you the sufferings of those we hold dear; the struggle of those trying to cope with difficult housing; the pains of the sick both at home, in hospital or care homes; the loneliness of the elderly and the frail. In your great mercy bring them comfort, relief and reassurance that you are always with them in all their troubles. We pray for Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jill Fitzpatrick, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Mr Storms.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, Your Son Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and pray for all those who are going through the darkness of loss and bereavement. We pray for those recently departed: Vernon Selan.

Father, we thank you for the promise of eternal life and the hope of glory and commend to your everlasting love and care those who have died. We pray for those whose years mind occur at this time: Thomas William Barker, Olive Fitzpatrick, Brenda Bladon, Jimmy Dunlop, Edwin Manser, Roger Smith, Richard Hunt, Eileen Sheldon, Lydia Harttrup, Dick Howarth, Elijah Towner, Sheila Radford, Rebecca Barker, Thomas Heady, Elsie Dodson, John Roberts, Anna Towner, Winifred French, Roy Anthony Melham.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

As we go out into the world to face another week help us as we seek to live out our lives according to your son Jesus Christ's example. Free us from the sins of the world that spoil our life so that our lives may be a living testament to your will for your world.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself in order to nourish others, we deepen our devotion by praying His words:

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

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise, let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be

ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, and earth and the space between them is thin. Distance may divide, but Christ's promise unites those bounded by time, those blessed by eternity.

Let heaven be glad;

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the Church above and below is one. Peter is here, and Paul, Martha and all the Mary's, the saints from far back and those who left us not long ago. And only sight prevents us from seeing them, one with us on the other side.

Let heaven be glad

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Heaven is here, and earth, and the God who made them is present. The lamb, glorious on the throne, sits beside us; the Spirit of God, the Dove makes her resting place among us.

God inhales the breath of our prayers and spreads a table for our satisfaction.

Let heaven be glad.

Let the whole earth cry GLORY!

Blessing and honour and glory and power be to our God for ever and ever. **Amen!**

The Invitation

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna. At the meal tables of the wealthy where

he pleaded the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people; welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who wish to follow Him, must first be fed by Him, those who would wash His feet, must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished. This is the time when God can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at His.

The Story

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night when he was betrayed, as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it, he gave it to the disciples saying 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labour. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have, I offer now
to you.**

**Take and sanctify these gifts
for your honour, Lord.**

**Knowing that I love and serve you
is enough reward.**

**All that I am, all that I do,
all that I'll ever have I offer now to
you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise**

It is indeed right for you made us,
and before you made us you made
the world we inhabit, and before the
world you made the eternal home in
which, through Christ we have a
place.

All that is spectacular, all that is
plain have their origin in you; all that
is lovely, all who are loving point to
you as their fulfilment. And grateful
as we are for the world we know and
the universe beyond our ken, we
particularly praise you, whom eter-
nity cannot contain, for coming to

earth and entering time in Jesus.
For his life which informs our living,
for his compassion which changes
our hearts, for his clear speaking
which contradicts our harmless gen-
eralities, for his disturbing presence,
his innocent suffering, his fearless
dying, his rising to life breathing for-
giveness, we praise you and wor-
ship him. Here too our gratitude
rises for the promise of the Holy
Spirit, who even yet, even now, con-
fronts us with your claims and at-
tracts us to your goodness. There-
fore we gladly join our voices to the
song of the Church on earth and in
heaven:

Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

**And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:**

holy, holy, holy, holy.

**Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew,
Holy Spirit.**

**And we lift our voice before you
as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.**

And now, lest we believe that our
praise alone fulfils your purpose, we
fall silent and remember him who
came because words weren't
enough. Setting our wisdom, our
will, our words aside, emptying our
hearts and bringing nothing in our
hands, we yearn for the healing, the
holding, the accepting, the forgiving
which Christ alone can offer...

Merciful God, send now in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world, until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share. **Amen.**

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and broke it, and said, 'This is my body—broken for you'. Later he took a cup of wine and said 'This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.' He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

**Holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love:
holy, holy, holy, holy.**

We break bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

We sing
**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

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

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

WE SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed 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.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our

sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

A Prayer for those joining us on Zoom who are making their Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above `all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Distribution of Communion

The Chalice bearers today are:
Peggy Stone and Charles Vernede

Anthem: Ubi caritas

Communion Hymn

We hail thy presence glorious,
O Christ our great High Priest,
o'er sin and death victorious,
at thy thanksgiving feast:
as thou art interceding
for us in heaven above,
thy church on earth is pleading
thy perfect work of love.

Through thee in every nation
thine own their hearts upraise,

offering one pure oblation,
one sacrifice of praise:
with thee in blest communion
the living and the dead
are joined in closest union,
one Body and one Head.

O living bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
who thine own self hast given
to be our souls' true food;
for us thy body broken
hung on the cross of shame:
this bread its hallowed token,
we break in thy dear name.

May we thy word believing,
thee through thy gifts receive,
that, thou within us living,
we all to God may live;
draw us from earth to heaven
till sin and sorrow cease,
forgiving and forgiven,
in love and joy and peace.

Post Communion Collect

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Peace

Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young. He has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having

tasted His goodness, let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Peace is shared.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us and encourage many by us. So Lord may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

Benediction

On our heads and our homes

The blessing of God

In our coming and going

The Peace of God

In our life and believing

The Love of God

Be with us all

Today until the end of time.

Amen.

Notices and reading of the Banns of Marriage

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep,

make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Hymn (Please stand if you are able)

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,
Crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake the imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in His glory now
To Him all power is given;
To Him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and Heaven.

While we, His soldiers, praise our king,
His mercy we implore,
Within His palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
While endless ages run.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

And with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Please sit for the Organ Voluntary: Elevation – Dubois

NOTICES

Parish Breakfast - Our next Parish Breakfast will take place on Saturday 25th May at 9am.

Title: 'Sing unto the Lord - why we sing the hymns we do'

Dr. Charlotte O'Neill, our organist will be the speaker.

Sacristy Team - If you are interested in joining and feel called to become part of the Sacristy Team, here in the parish, please meet after the 10am Service on **Sunday 12th May**, for a brief meeting, with your coffee, so that we can decide together on a date to meet on a Saturday

day to discuss all that this entails. Sacristan duties include setting up church on a Saturday evening for Sunday services, locking the church, and also clearing up on Sunday after the service, as well as the care and laundering of the church linen. Speak to Sandra for more details. 754459

Date for your diary Saturday 8th June - Hawkhurst Village Summer Fête. We will once again run the Tea Stall at the fête and we will need volunteers to run the stall as well as contributions of cake. A sign up sheet will be available from Sunday 5th May.

Bowles Lodge – every Wednesday at 10am.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar:

The Revd. Canon Rodney Dreyer - 01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Mr Julian van Kan – 01580 752594
Miss Claire Roberts – 01580 754374

Organist:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill - 01580 753817

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper - 07825044877