

Easter Vigil

ORDER OF SERVICE

Saturday 11th April 2020

8pm

Instagram Live Stream



Welcome to the BCYS Easter Vigil, streamed live from our Chapel at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, on Instagram @brentwoodcys

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the Rt Rev. Alan Williams, Bishop of Brentwood, for granting us permission to hold an Easter Vigil out of the usual Parish Church setting.

Before the Mass starts, find yourself a quiet, comfortable place where you can concentrate for the duration of the Mass. We encourage you, for this Mass which marks the highpoint of the Church's year, to find a candle and a crucifix to have with you as you pray with us; however big or small.

We recommend you follow the order of service to get involved in the Mass, by either printing it off or having it on a second screen. As you feel comfortable, join in with the prayers and responses, and standing, sitting or kneeling at the appropriate moments.

You are welcome to add any prayer intentions in the comments section on the Live Stream.

Given the extended nature of the Easter Vigil, we will be having a brief interlude. The first half of the Mass, beginning at 8pm, will be the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of the Paschal candle, the Exsultet and the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word. The second half, roughly from 9pm, will start with the Gospel and continue with the homily, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and conclude with the Easter blessing.

Our Mass begins with a blazing fire, representing the light and glory of Jesus' resurrection—the conquering of light over darkness. All other candles are unlit at this point.

Fr Dominic approaches the fire and begins by welcoming us all.

He then blesses the fire and the new Paschal candle, the candle which symbolises the light of Christ's resurrection in our Chapel. The Paschal Candle is then lit from the blessed fire.

At the door of the chapel Fr Dominic, standing and raising up the candle, sings:
Lumen Christi (The Light of Christ)

And all reply: ***Deo Gratias (Thanks be to God)***

In the Chapel, candles are lit from the flame of the Paschal Candle, symbolising the spreading of the light of Christ into our world with his resurrection.

We invite you now, if you are able, to light any candles of your own. Let the light of Christ's resurrection be present in our homes and our hearts!

Fr Dominic will now sing the Easter Exsultet: a song of profound joy, celebration and thanksgiving to God, for the life, death and resurrection of His Son and all that means for us.

Part way through the Exsultet, we respond to Fr Dominic:

Fr Dominic: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Fr Dominic: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

Fr Dominic: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right and just

At the end of the Exsultet we answer in one voice: **Amen!**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

At this, the Mother of all liturgies, we hear several readings of highlights of the story of God's relationship with humanity, which culminates in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

First Reading, from the book of Genesis (1:1-2:2)

Narrator In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said,

God Let there be light,

Narrator and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening, and there was morning— the first day. And God said,

God Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.

Narrator So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse sky. And there was evening, and there was morning— the second day. And God said,

God Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.

Narrator And it was so. God called the dry ground land, and the gathered waters he called seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said,

God Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.

Narrator And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning— the third day. And God said,

God Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.

Narrator And it was so. God made two great lights— the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them

in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning— the fourth day. And God said,

God Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.

Narrator So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said,

God Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.

Narrator And there was evening, and there was morning— the fifth day. And God said,

God Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.

Narrator And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said,

God Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.

Narrator So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them,

God Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground— everything that has the breath of life in it— I give every green plant for food.

Narrator And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning— the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

The Word of the Lord.

All reply: **Thanks be to God.**

The response to the Psalm is:

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Second reading, from the book of Genesis (22:1-2,9-13,15-18)

Narrator God put Abraham to the test
God Abraham! Abraham!
Abraham Here I am

God Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.

Narrator Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants,

Abraham Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.

Narrator Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up

Isaac Father?

Abraham Yes, my son?

Isaac The fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?

Abraham God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.

Narrator And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven,

Angel Abraham! Abraham!

Abraham Here I am

Angel Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.

Narrator Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time

Angel I swear by my own self, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

Narrator The Word of the Lord.
All reply: **Thanks be to God**

The response to the Psalm is:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you

Third reading, from the book of Exodus 14:15-15:1

Narrator Then the Lord said to Moses,

God Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.

Narrator Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.

Egyptian Narrator Then the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.

God

Narrator Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

The Word of the Lord

All reply: **Thanks be to God**

The response to the Psalm is:

I will sing to the Lord, glorious in his triumph!

As we continue through our vigil, journeying through God's relationship with humanity, we come into the New Testament. As we do so, the Chapel is illuminated with light, we ring out the bells and sing the song of the angels, which was first sung on Christmas Eve.

The Gloria

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

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

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.

Fourth Reading, from St Paul's letter to the Romans (6:3-11)

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 Christian 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.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: **Thanks be to God.**

At this point we will take a brief interlude. The Instagram live-stream will end, and the Vigil Mass will recommence in appropriately 15 minutes on a new live stream, still on our @BrentwoodCYS Instagram page.

We know this is a prolonged Mass, and rightly so given that it is the most important of our year! But we invite you to take a break at this time; stretch your legs and get a cup of tea!

As we return, we shall stand together to greet the Gospel. Lent is behind us, and for the first time in over six weeks we joyfully proclaim "Alleluia!"

All: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Cantor: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

All: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Cantor: The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

All: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Cantor: The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

All: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (28:1-10)

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.'
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Please be seated for the homily

The Blessing of Water

Fr Dominic now blesses fresh Holy Water, by symbolically dipping the newly-lit Paschal candle into the bowl. As the candle is lifted out of the water, the people acclaim:

**Springs of water, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all for ever.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

If you have a lit candle which you can safely hold for a few minutes, we invite you to stand and hold that candle now, as a symbol of your baptism and the promises we are about to renew together.

Dear sisters and brothers, 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 the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?

I do.

And all his works?

I do.

And all his empty show?

I do.

Then Fr Dominic continues:

Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

I do.


Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

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?

I do.

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.

The Prayers of the Faithful follow, at which time you are invited to share any particular intentions in the comments on the livestream

The Liturgy of the Eucharist proceeds as normally at Mass.

Communion Hymn:

*We holy the death of the Lord in our hearts
Living, now we remain with Jesus, the Christ*

Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.
Then by your cross we were saved.
Dead became living, life from your giving

He chose to give of himself, became our bread.
Broken that we might live, Love beyond love, pain for our pain.

Our Easter Vigil Mass concludes with the Solemn Blessing

Fr Dominic: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you
through today's Easter Solemnity
and, in 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, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth
He is the King of creation

Spread the good news o'ver all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen

We wish you every blessing for this most unusual Easter

You and your families are in our prayers. At times the weeks ahead will be full of Resurrection joy; at other times they may well still feel like Lent and Crucifixion. However things are for you and your family, we are here, to pray with you and for you, and to accompany you in any way that we can.

**You are welcome to join us for Live Stream Mass every day;
Monday – Sunday 10.30am.**

On Wednesdays, Mass is at 8pm for our Weekly Youth Mass. This Wednesday, 15th April, it will be a celebration in the style of HCPT- The Children's Pilgrimage Trust, who would normally be in Lourdes with thousands of children and helpers this week.

All welcome online!

To find out more about our work, and future Livestream Masses and other events, or to support us with a donation, please visit the website www.bcys.net. For homilies from the Easter Triduum, and other videos, please go to our Instagram or Facebook pages. For any questions, prayer requests, or any ways in which we can help you please message via social media, telephone 01277373959 or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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