



St Mary  
Magdalen  
OXFORD

# **Parish Notes**

**April 2025**

## Services

### Sundays

Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm,  
Matins 10 am High Mass at 10.30 am

### Weekdays

Eucharist at 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm  
Morning Prayer 8.15 am, Evening Prayer  
5.40 pm

### Confessions

Daily after the 12.15 pm Mass, Wednesdays  
& Saturdays at 6.30 pm  
Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage by  
appointment with the Parish Priest

## Parish Clergy

The Reverend Canon Dr Peter Groves  
Telephone: 07931 310786  
peter.groves@theology.ox.ac.uk

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### Associate Priest

The Reverend Dr Mel Marshall  
Telephone: 01865 436243  
[mthrmelanie@gmail.com](mailto:mthrmelanie@gmail.com)

## Administration

### Parish office

[admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk)

Phone: 01865 246143

### Website

[www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk](http://www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk)

### Safeguarding

The PCC is committed to making St Mary Magdalen's a safe environment for everyone. If you have any questions about safeguarding matters or wish to report a concern, please talk to the Parish Safeguarding Officer **Peter Dockrill** or send an email to: [safeguardingsmmox@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingsmmox@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

For general enquiries or details of the ways in which donations can be made or Gift Aided: [marymagstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:marymagstreasurer@gmail.com)

## Events

### **Parochial Church Council**

**1<sup>st</sup> April**

The PCC meets next in church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### **Stations of the Cross**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April**

A service of Stations of the Cross and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Wednesday evenings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the Lady Chapel. This short meditative service lasts about half an hour and is an excellent Lenten devotion.

### **Church cleaning**

**5<sup>th</sup> April**

There will be a gathering in church to clean the building and prepare for Holy Week on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30am. Please come if you can, even for a short time. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do. Refreshments and good company guaranteed.

### **Scripture on Saturday**

**5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April**

Our online Bible study mornings continue each Saturday during Lent, at 5pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April and at 10am on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We gather online via Zoom. We are looking at John's Gospel. All are welcome, no previous experience or participation required. The link will be circulated via the parish email list.

### **Palm Sunday**

**13<sup>th</sup> April**

As usual, we begin our High Mass on Palm Sunday in Trinity College Chapel, at 10.15am, processing to St Mary Magdalen's to begin around 10.30am. Full details of Holy Week services follow.

### **Electoral roll revision**

In preparation for the APCM on 4<sup>th</sup> May, the Electoral Roll of the parish will be revised. If you are not on the roll please collect a form from the back of church by the north door or email the parish office to ask for one.

**Easter Lilies:** anyone who would like to buy an Easter lily in memory of a loved one should speak to Beatrice Groves after Mass. The lilies will be used for both the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday and the flowers for Easter Day. Lilies cost £4. The flower team are also grateful for any general donations towards the Easter flowers.

# **Holy Week Services**

## **Palm Sunday**

10.15am Blessing of Palms in Trinity College Chapel followed by procession to St Mary Magdalen's.

10.30am approx. High Mass with the singing of the Passion according to Luke

**Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday** Mass at 12.15pm and 6pm

**Holy Wednesday** Mass at 12.15pm Tenebrae 7.30pm

## **The Easter Triduum**

### **Maundy Thursday**

7.30 High Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of Feet and Procession to the Altar of Repose, followed by the Stripping of the Altars and a Watch before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

### **Good Friday**

12 noon Three Hours Devotion led by Fr Peter: "My Song is Love Unknown"

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

### **Holy Saturday**

8.00pm The Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday**

Mass 8am

High Mass with Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows 10.30

## Poem of the Month

### From "An Essay on Man" by Alexander Pope

What if the foot ordained the dust to tread,  
Or hand to toil, aspire to be the head?  
What if the head, the eye, or ear repined  
To serve mere engines to the ruling mind?  
Just as absurd for any part to claim  
To be another, in this general frame:  
Just as absurd, to mourn the tasks or pains,  
The great directing Mind of All ordains.

All are but parts of one stupendous whole,  
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul;  
That, changed through all, and yet in all the same,  
Great in the earth, as in the ethereal frame,  
Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,  
Glow in the stars, and blossoms in the trees,  
Lives through all life, extends through all extent,  
Spreads undivided, operates unspent,  
Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal part,  
As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart;  
As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,  
As the rapt seraph that adores and burns;  
To him no high, no low, no great, no small;  
He fills, he bounds, connects, and equals all.

We are lucky that religious poetry in English has so many distinct flavours. So far in our series we have seen sonnets and stanzas often bursting at the seams under pressure from passion. Pope's "An Essay on Man" was written as four Epistles and published 1733-34 and this excerpt from Epistle One – a mini-essay on God – could hardly be more different. Pope worked at the centre of neo-classicism in the Age of Reason. Everything is exquisitely measured, including God, both as He is presented and as He is imagined in action.

All but one line of this is self-contained, with end-stopping and rhyme exerting more control through heroic couplets, creating precise balance and counter-balance around subtle shifts in the position and number of the mid-line pauses, or, as Pope would have called them, caesurae. While last month we saw Donne jam-packing his iambic pentameters with extra stresses in every sense, Pope calms everything down by reducing the beats in several lines to four. Discrete and never-jarring repetition adds to all the assonance and internal rhyme, so everything progresses smoothly. Paradox is presented calmly rather than detonated à la Donne:

“That, changed through all, and yet in all the same,”

The final, metrically regular “He fills, he bounds, connects and equals all” applies not just to God but to the poet as well. So God of course is not Donne's blacksmith but more of a Philosopher – “the great Directing Mind of all” – another phrase equally applicable to Pope himself. While Donne drags God down to earthiness, and clearly fears God as a moral arbiter, from whom punishment is deserved, Pope is happy leaving us to imagine God as metaphysical, as a “soul.” There is a reference to the sinfulness of “vile man” but in this excerpt, God is mostly Holy Spirit.

Because of all the delicately controlled pausing, you might not at first spot that technically the final 14 lines here are all one sentence and as such a beautiful and comprehensive delineation of the scope of God. Emphasis is there, but it is always handled subtly. Six successive lines open with stressed monosyllables – “Great-Warm-Glows-Lives-Spreads-Breathes”.

The last of those (“Breathes in our souls”) is cleverly ambiguous. God both inspires our souls and breathes life into them, but at the end of our lives he inhales our souls. With any luck...

If you do not already know it and have the time, do tuck into the whole wonderful poem which is of course freely available online.

## **Intercessions**

*Please pray for the long term sick and those in special need, among them:*

Jo Laity, Sr Mary Bernard, Sophie Brown, Pamela Rogers, Sophie, Adrian, Ann, Alison, Johanna Merz, Maggie, Michael, Gordon Scott, Michael Starford, Helen Bell, Jenny, Roy Dicker, John O'Leary, Jennifer Larcombe, Bob Guthrie, Eleanor Jamison, Anna, Phoenix, Elwyn Knight, Andrew Linzey, Sancha Maya-Rai, Vernon Porter, Helen Peramatzis

## **Sunday readings**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April: Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.8-14; John 8.1-11

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April: Isaiah 50.4-7; Philippians 2.6-11; Luke 22.14-23.56

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 10.34, 37-43; Colossians 3.1-4; John 21.1-9

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April: Acts 5.12-16; Revelation 1.9-13, 17-19; John 20.19-31

# April 2025

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
		<b>1 Feria</b>	<b>2 Feria</b>	<b>3 Feria</b>	<b>4 Feria</b>	<b>5 Feria</b>
		Steven our Bishop	The PCC	Vocations	Christ Church	Christian Aid
<b>6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>7 Feria</b>	<b>8 Feria</b>	<b>9 Feria Anointing at 6pm</b>	<b>10 Feria Anointing at 12.15</b>	<b>11 Feria</b>	<b>12 Feria</b>
Parish community	The Gatehouse	Oxford City Council	Healing Ministry	Oxford's hospitals	Monthly requiem	The homeless
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>14 Holy Week</b>	<b>15 Holy Week</b>	<b>16 Holy Week</b>	<b>16 Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>18 Good Friday</b>	<b>19 Holy Saturday</b>
Parish community	Preachers	Peace in the Holy Land	Pilgrims	Vigilance	Penitence	Hope
<b>20 Easter Day</b>	<b>21 Easter Octave</b>	<b>22 Easter Octave</b>	<b>23 Easter Octave</b>	<b>24 Easter Octave</b>	<b>25 Easter Octave</b>	<b>26 Easter Octave</b>
Parish community	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
<b>27 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>29 Catherine of Siena</b>	<b>30 Feria</b>				
Parish community	The religious life	Scholars				