

Holy Week 2024: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford



Pascal Triduum

"Triduum" comes from two Latin words (*tres* and *dies*) that mean "a space of three days". The Paschal Triduum begins at sundown on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and concludes with sundown on Easter Sunday; its high point is the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Liturgies of the historic Triduum are more than the commemoration of a series of past events. They are the celebration of one event, unique and unrepeatable, that is eternally present in and to the community of faith and the lives of believers - namely, the paschal mystery (the Passover of Jesus from death to life). Because the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus are not three separate events but one event, integral and indivisible, the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Day are not three separate liturgies but one liturgy, integral and indivisible, celebrated over three days.

Maundy Thursday: 28th March

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

8.00pm followed by "Watching with the Lord" until 11pm in the Front Hall



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord

This evening Lent ends and the Church enters the Paschal Triduum, gathering to pray, building toward the prolonged vigil of Saturday night. This evening's celebrating the Mass of Lord's Supper, is a threshold liturgy of the Triduum. It commemorates the institution of Eucharist and the priesthood, as well as Jesus' command of love and service. At the Last Supper, the God-man Jesus models for us exactly how much God loves us: he, the "master and teacher," stoops to wash the feet of those he has led and taught - those very disciples who will betray and deny him in his hour of need. To "love to the end" means that even the deepest hurt ought not to prevent us from giving ourselves to one another. Jesus' giving of his Body and Blood and his self-giving service both model his unsurpassed love. Only by doing as Jesus did - loving and serving others - can we truly love one another.

Good Friday: 29th March - Day of fasting and abstinence

Wickford Walk of Witness: We gather in our Church at **9.40 am** for a brief prayer service with our brothers and sisters from other churches and begin the walk of witness at **10am**.

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord: 3pm



On this day, our parish community gathers to prayerfully recall the death of Jesus "in the sure hope of the resurrection". Because his resurrection is inseparable from his death, the Lords' passion is truly celebrated. The afternoon celebration of the Lord's Passion is the centre of Good Friday's worship. The Roman Missal recommends that today's celebration begins at 3.00pm, as it places the Liturgy closer to the traditional hour of Jesus' death.

The cross is not the end but the necessary entry to the fullness of life. The cross (painful, yes) is not bitter but sweet. Perhaps the bitterness we experience, captured in the disciples' ("bitter") standing at the foot of the cross, indicates the human limitation we bring to this mystery. Jesus, in giving himself over to the arms of his Father, explores out limitations. "It is [not] finished"! New life has begun.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 7.30pm

**The Resurrection of the Lord
Easter Vigil: 30th March 8.30 pm**

The Easter Vigil is a most beautiful Liturgy. Ranking highest among the celebration of Liturgical year, it should rank highest in the spiritual life of the Parish Community. Shattering the darkness, the vigil begins with the great Paschal candle being lit with the Easter fire. The Paschal Mystery, already celebrated in various ways since the Evening Mass of the Lords Supper, is clearly and joyfully announced from the very beginning of the Vigil Liturgy. It is a light of the Paschal candle that the Liturgy continues to unfold.

The four parts of the Easter Vigil moves us through gradual unfolding of the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The **Great Fire** immediately dispels the gathering gloom. The **Liturgy of the Word** reveals the path of God's plan throughout salvation history. The **Liturgy of Baptism** draws us through the baptismal waters into the promise of eternal life and renews the baptismal belief of the faithful. The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** brings the celebration to the climax of the banquet of the Lamb, as we experience the presence of the risen Christ in our midst.

Easter Sunday Masses: 31st March- 9 am and 11 am (As British Summer Time begins, Clocks go forward)

"Hence you must have one prayer, one petition, one mind, one hope, dominated by love and unsullied joy – that means you must have Jesus Christ.

You cannot have anything better than that! "

(Ignatius to Magnesians, 7:1)

