

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon 23 Mar	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Wed 25 Mar	19.30	Sing for Joy Choir
Thurs 26 Mar	09.30	Holy Communion
Thurs 26 Mar	12.00	<b>Lenten Soup Lunch (last one)</b>
Sunday 29 Mar	10.00	Palm Sunday service followed with a <b>Bring &amp; Share Brunch</b>

**Suggestions for your prayers & praise**

Please continue to pray for Gordon - may God restore his health, renew his strength, and fill him with healing and peace.

As we move closer to Holy week we uphold our Easter services and celebrations and for those who will come to receive a sense of the love of God. Let them feel welcomed, embraced, and drawn closer to You.

May thankfulness for all Jesus has done for us fill our hearts and lives.

Jesus, our Lord and our God,  
 you gave your cheek to those who struck you  
 and for our sake you endured much mockery.  
 Grant that following the example of your sufferings,  
 we may be courageous in bearing our own,  
 and learn from you, for you are meek and lowly in heart;  
 you now reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
 God for ever and ever. Amen.

**DON'T FORGET  
 NEXT WEEK-**



**Contact details:-**

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

SHIPHAY

*'A caring fellowship seeking to share the life and love of God'*

**Sunday 22 March 2026**

Welcome to our worship on Passion Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

As we gather today, we enter more deeply into this sacred season as we reflect on Christ's journey toward the cross.  
 May this time of worship draw us closer to God and prepare our hearts for the coming of Holy Week.

We really hope you will stay and join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after the service this morning.

**Next Sunday, for those who wish, we gather at Hing's Chinese Takeaway at 09.50 as we begin our procession together.**

**From there, we will walk with the cross to the church, remembering Jesus' journey into Jerusalem.**

**After the Palm Sunday service there will be a Bring & Share Brunch.**

**Music**

To God be the glory! **695**

Such love **620**

Goodness of God (first line 'I Love You Lord')

**Offertory** The Spirit lives to set us free **666**

**Communion** Do not be afraid **150**

Spirit of the living God **615**

Abba, Father **1**

These are the days of Elijah



### **The First Reading Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life<sup>[a]</sup> because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of<sup>[a]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

### **The Gospel Reading**

#### **John 11:1-45 The death of Lazarus**

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

<sup>8</sup> 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

#### **Jesus comforts the sisters of Lazarus**

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

<sup>27</sup> 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

<sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> 'Where have you laid him?' he asked.

'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

#### **Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead**

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.'

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

#### **The plot to kill Jesus**

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

#### **REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM VOWS**

There will be the opportunity for those who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows on Easter Sunday in the sea.

Please put your name and telephone number on the sign up sheet at the back of church if you are interested. Thank you.

#### **Electoral Roll Notice**

The Electoral Roll will open on **Sunday 5 April 2026**.

If you wish to be included on the Electoral Roll, please complete an Application Form and return it to **Sonia, Electoral Roll Officer**, no later than

**Friday 1 May 2026**. Thank you.