*Opening Sequence East Windows of St Peter’s, St Nicholas’, St Paul’s Heynestown, St Mary’s Castlebellingham*

*HYMN 247 v1 When I survey Drogheda Group*

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection. Today, though physically separate, we come together in faith to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

**Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Behold, your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass. Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever; and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre. You have loved righteousness and hated evil. Therefore God, you God has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

**Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

HYMN 238 v1 *Drogheda group*

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty,

Hark, all the tribes ‘Hosanna’ cry!

O Saviour meek, pursue thy road

With palms and scattered garments strowed.

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Rita Arthur, PARISH READER, ORDINAND*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

*David Murphy, PARISH READER, ORDINAND*

In the wilderness we find your grace: you love us with an everlasting love. Lord, have mercy

There is none but you to uphold our cause. Christ, have mercy

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed.

Restore us and we shall know your joy. Lord, have mercy

Prayer over Palms

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let these palm be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our king, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life: who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Palm Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St Matthew, in the 21st chapter, beginning at the first verse.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Matthew 21: 1-11**

*Pat McKenna BALLYMASCANLAN*

21When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, just say this, “The Lord needs them.” And he will send them immediately.\*’ 4This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,    humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey

*Ruth Higgins, ARDEE/COLLON*

.’ 6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 8A very large crowd\* spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!  Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ 10When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, ‘Who is this?’ 11The crowds were saying, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HYMN 238 v2 *Drogheda group*

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty,

In lowly pomp, ride on to die;

O Christ thy triumphs now begin

O’er captive death and conquered sin.

Collect

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. **Amen.**

### *Eileen McClean ARDEE/COLLON*

### The Lesson of the Liturgy of the Passion from Isaiah chapter 50, beginning at verse 4.

### The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me,and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

### *Alan Bothwell BUSH*

### The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

 Psalm 118 *Lord Bellew, DIOCESAN READER*

1  O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦︎  his mercy endures for ever.
2  Let Israel now proclaim, ♦︎  ‘His mercy endures for ever.’
19  Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦︎ that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
20  This is the gate of the Lord; ♦︎ the righteous shall enter through it.
21  I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦︎ and have become my salvation.
22  The stone which the builders rejected ♦︎ has become the chief cornerstone.
23  This is the Lord’s doing, ♦︎ and it is marvellous in our eyes.
24  This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦︎ we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25  Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. ♦︎ Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.
26  Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; ♦︎  we bless you from the house of the Lord.
27  The Lord is God; he has given us light; ♦︎ link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.
28  You are my God and I will thank you; ♦︎ you are my God and I will exalt you.
29  O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦︎ his mercy endures for ever.

### Passion Reading The Gospel: Liturgy of the Passion - Mark 15: 1-39

*Joyce* Hear the Passion of our Saviour Christ, according to St Mark

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

N1 Narrator *= Hazel Spearman, DROGHEDA*

Jesus taught openly in the Temple. He spent time preparing his disciples for his approaching death.

**J1 Jesus** = *Victor Whyte, PARISH READER*

I am the way, the truth and the life. Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid.

N2 Narrator*= Hazel Spearman, DROGHEDA*

He shared the Passover meal with them. He took the bread, blessed it and said

J2 **Jesus**= *Victor Whyte, PARISH READER*

This is my Body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

N3 Narrator*= Hazel Spearman, DROGHEDA*

He took the cup, gave thanks and said

J3 Jesus= *Victor Whyte, PARISH READER*

This is my blood of the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me

N4 Narrator*= Hazel Spearman, DROGHEDA*

After Supper, he washed the disciples' feet and commanded them to love one another.

HYMN 416 v4 *Sandra Byrne, Drogheda Group*

Then take the towel and break the bread

And humble us and call us friends

Suffer and serve till all are fed

And show how grandly love intends

To work till all creation sings

To fill all worlds, to crown all things.

N5 Narrator*=Anne Wilson CREGGAN*

The disciples sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. There, Judas betrayed him, the soldiers captured him and hauled him off to the custody of the leaders of the synagogue.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

P1 Pilate  *= Charlie Treadwell CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

Are you the King of the Jews?'

J4 Jesus *= VictorWhyte, PARISH READER*

You say so.

N6 Narrator *=Anne Wilson CREGGAN*

Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

P2 Pilate *= Charlie Treadwell CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.'

N7 Narrator*=Anne Wilson CREGGAN*

But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

P3 Pilate *= Charlie Treadwell CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?'

N8 Narrator*=Anne Wilson CREGGAN*

For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

P4 Pilate *= Charlie Treadwell CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?'

Crowd = *Ian and Jen*

'Crucify him!'

P5 Pilate *= Charlie Treadwell CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

'Why, what evil has he done?'

Crowd= *Ian and Jen*

'Crucify him!'

N9 Narrator *=Julie McArdle HEYNESTOWN*

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldier *= Pat McKenna*

 'Hail, King of the Jews!'

N10 Narrator*=Julie McArdle HEYNESTOWN*

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN 109 CH4 O sacred head *Sop Sharon Eveson, organist Rita Arthur*

N11 Narrator*=Julie McArdle HEYNESTOWN*

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

B1 Bystanders = *Ian and Jen*

'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!'

N12 Narrator*=Julie McArdle HEYNESTOWN*

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Chief **priest** =*Arlo Buchanan*

'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.'

N13 Narrator *=Mike Buchanan, DUNLEER*

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

J5 Jesus *= Victor Whyte, PARISH READER*

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

B2 Bystanders

'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.'

N14 Narrator: *=Mike Buchanan, DUNLEER*

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Man with sponge =*Alan Bothwell BUSH*

 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.'

N15 Narrator*=Mike Buchanan, DUNLEER*

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

Centurion *= Pat McKenna*

'Truly this man was God's Son!'

HYMN 237 *Wendy Strahan, organist Drogheda group*

O my Saviour lifted

From the earth for me

Draw me, in they mercy,

Nearer unto thee.

*Silence*

CREED

**Christ Jesus was in the | form of | God ▪ but he did not | cling • to e|quality • with God.**

**He emptied himself, taking the| form • of a | servant ▪ and was | born • in our |human |likeness.**

**And being found in human form he| humbled • him |self ▪ and became obedient unto death, | even death • on a |cross.**

**Therefore God has | highly • exalted him ▪ and bestowed on him the | name a • bove every| name.**

**That at the name of Jesus every| knee should| bow, in heaven and on| earth and |under • the | earth;**

**and every tongue confess that Jesus | Christ is | Lord ▪ to the glory of God the |Father.| A|men.**

HYMN 231 v1

My song is love unknown *Soloist Sharon Eveson, organist Rita Arthur*

Prayers of intercession

*Joyce and Richard* Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.

Give us grace to always to be ready to share the burdens of those we meet.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.

Transform the hearts of those who make themselves rich by using and abusing other people.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

The thief, who was crucified with Jesus, was promised a place in your kingdom.

Give pardon and hope, healing and peace to all are near to death.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other’s care.

Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified Messiah.

Open the eyes of those who do not know you to see in your Son the true meaning of life and death.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Joseph of Arimathaea came to take your Son’s body away.

Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved, and gentleness to those who minister to them.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Neither Pilate nor Herod could find fault with Jesus.

Help each of us to behave with such integrity that not even our enemies can find fault.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John became part of your Church in Jerusalem.

Bring into your Church today a varied company of people, to walk with Christ in the way of his passion and to find their salvation in the victory of his cross.

*Joyce and Richard*Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

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.**

*The Rev’d Iain Jamieson*

PEACE

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near, through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

**THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

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.**

*Rebecca Eveson*

WHY DO WE GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE?

*Sarah Eveson*

GOD IS LOVE *AND* DOES WONDERFUL THINGS.

*The Rev’d Iain Jamieson*

Lord of all life, you created the universe where all things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth to discover and to cherish.

You give us love that lasts for ever in your Son Jesus Christ, and in him you bring us close to you.

You made us all to love and to serve you; and so we join with the angels to sing your praise:

*Sung St Nicholas’ Choir, organist Stephen Macnamara, conductor Sharon Eveson, director Evelyn McCullins*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**  **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**. **Hosanna in the highest!**

We thank you, loving Father, because you sent Jesus, your Son, to be born and to live among us. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

*Nathan Delahoyde*

WHY DO WE SHARE THIS BREAD AND WINE?

*Helen Delahoyde*

THEY SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS FOR US.

*The Rev’d Iain Jamieson*

On the night before he died Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples. This is my body, he said, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples. This is my blood, he said, poured out for you and for all people to save them from their sins. Do this to remember me.

Father, send your Holy Spirit, that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and change us more and more to be like him.

Make us joyful as we celebrate his death for us on the cross and his rising from the dead; and share these gifts which strengthen us to follow him.

*Rebecca Eveson*

HOW DO WE FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST?

*Sarah Eveson*

BY LOVING GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR.

*The Rev’d Iain Jamieson*

 Help us to love all people and to work together for that day when all the needs of the world are met, suffering is ended, and the whole of creation is gathered into your loving arms.

With all your saints we give you glory through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

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.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

**AGNUS DEI**

*David Murphy, PARISH READER, ORDINAND*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

**THE COMMUNION**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

 HYMN DURING COMMUNION 403 v1 Bread of the world *Drogheda Group*

**THE GREAT SILENCE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Rita Arthur, PARISH READER, ORDINAND*

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation; give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and king, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

**THE BLESSING**

Christ draw you to himself and grant that you find in his cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

**HYMN** 247 v4 *Soloist Sharon Eveson, organist Rita Arthur*

**DISMISSAL**

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**