



St Mary's  
*Iffley*

# The Eucharist

# INTRODUCTION

The Eucharist will continue to be celebrated at 10am each Sunday.

You will need:

- This Service booklet
- A Service leaflet where you will also find the words of the hymn

To get copies:

- Download from [www.iffleychurch.org.uk](http://www.iffleychurch.org.uk)
- Email [office@iffleychurch.org.uk](mailto:office@iffleychurch.org.uk) to have them emailed
- Ring 01865 777257 to have them delivered or posted
- Pick them up during the day from the carport at  
The Rectory, Mill Lane, Iffley Oxford OX4 4EJ

To participate:

- Go to [www.iffleychurch.org.uk](http://www.iffleychurch.org.uk) and follow the instructions
- Go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/iffley/>
- Ring 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196 or 0203 051 2874 and you will be asked for the meeting ID number which is 958436018 – you can listen to the service
- Please use the material if on your own – we are united in Christ

To worship:

- If possible at 10am each Sunday – the service is also available to be replayed on the website at your convenience
- Think beforehand what might help you worship – light a candle, use a holding cross or have an open bible in front of you
- Join in the parts in bold, including the hymn if that is helpful
- Use your body to sit or stand or kneel if that is helpful
- Use your hands to make the sign of the cross or perhaps place them palm upwards during the intercessions or the Lord's Prayer

To receive Holy Communion:

- Make your spiritual communion perhaps using bread and wine if that is helpful – for an understanding of this please see page 11

May God bless us as we worship our Lord together, bear one another's burdens and serve his suffering world.

# Gathering

*The service is introduced with some music.*

*The priest welcomes everybody and the notices are given.*

## THE GREETING

*Priest* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*And in the Easter season,  
these words are added:*

*Priest* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The priest adds words of introduction.*

*Silence is kept.*

## THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*Minister* We come to God  
as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

*You may like to bow your head for the confession.*

## THE CONFESSION

*Minister and people confess their sins,  
using these or other suitable words:*

*Minister* We have not always worshipped God, our creator.  
Lord have mercy.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

*Minister* We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.  
Christ have mercy.

*People* **Christ have mercy.**

*Minister* We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.  
Lord have mercy.

*People* **Lord have mercy.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

*Priest* May the God of love and power  
forgive and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The prayer is on the Service leaflet.*

# God's Word

*The readings are on the Service leaflet.*

## THE READING

*At the end the reader says:*

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

*Minister* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_.

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end the minister says:*

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

*A sermon may be preached.*

*Silence is kept.*

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Minister* Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*Minister* Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

*Minister* Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

## THE PRAYERS

*Priest* In the power of the Spirit  
and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*The prayers may include a repeated refrain such as:*  
*Leader* Lord, in your mercy,  
*People* **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with these words:*  
*Leader* Merciful Father,  
*People* **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Bread & Wine

### THE PEACE

*The priest may introduce the Peace,  
using these or other suitable words:*  
*Priest* God has called us to live in peace.

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We greet each other in whatever way is appropriate for our context.*

*The words of the hymn are on your Service leaflet.*

### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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

# THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*An extended preface may be said instead of the following paragraph.*

*Priest* | Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you and saying:

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

*Priest* We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:   or   Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
*All*   **Christ has died:                   Dying you destroyed our death,**  
          **Christ is risen:                    rising you restored our life:**  
          **Christ will come again.         Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*Priest*   Lord of all life,  
          help us to work together for that day  
          when your kingdom comes  
          and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*People*   **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All*   **Our Father in heaven,**  
          **hallowed be your name,**  
          **your kingdom come,**  
          **your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**  
          **Give us today our daily bread.**  
          **Forgive us our sins**  
          **as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
          **Lead us not into temptation**  
          **but deliver us from evil.**  
          **For the kingdom, the power,**  
          **and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**



## THE BREAKING OF BREAD

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

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

*Minister* Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
*All* **grant us peace.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Priest* Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessèd are those who are called to his supper.  
*People* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Or in the Easter season, this is said:*

*Priest* Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Make your spiritual communion,  
using bread and wine if that is helpful.*

*Some music will be played.*

### A PRAYER FOR USE DURING COMMUNION

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.  
You wait for me and only I can let you in.  
I believe and trust in you  
and ask you now to fill me with your presence.  
Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,  
that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Priest* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.  
*People* **And his mercy endures for ever.**

*Priest* Lord, we have broken your bread  
and received your life.  
By the power of your Spirit  
keep us always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## Sending

### THE BLESSING

*The priest blesses the people  
using these or other suitable words:*

*Priest* The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Or in the Easter season, this is said:*

*Minister* Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*The service concludes with some music.*

# SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Thoughts from a Cloistered House: Spiritual Communion for Anglicans.  
By Canon Dr Grant Bayliss, Precentor, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.  
*Used with permission*

I don't know about you but I'm shut in – cloistered in the Cloisters since Tuesday, doing a not very good impression of a human shield for my lovely wife, Chris. Never in our wildest dreams did we think four months battling cancer wouldn't be the scariest part of getting up each day.

All my life I've found hope in the darkness by going to Church. I've been to evangelical ones and Anglo-Catholic ones, Quaker meeting houses rich in silence, Orthodox churches bright with icons, vast cavernous Cathedrals (not Christ Church obviously!) and chapels with barely room for two or three. And everywhere I've met people and met God. At the heart of that has been the Eucharist – a reliable moment of grace, a tangible encounter that I can touch, taste, smell, as God's presence is made known through the very matter of creation. Many of my old students will remember me going on (and on, and on) in Sacraments classes that 'matter matters', and, to misquote Thomas Aquinas, that 'we can't hope to understand anything with our minds that we haven't grasped with our physical senses first'. So what do I do when the matter has been taken away? When I can't touch the blessed bread or taste the wine?

Well, this Sunday, I'll be making a 'spiritual communion'. It's an old idea that was important in the medieval church and has often got a little lost or confused. But even when the Reformers rewrote our service books to bring back all the tasting and the touching, restoring the breaking of real bread and the sharing of a common cup to the people, it found a home in the new Anglican theology of Cranmer's 1549 Prayer Book. At the end of his service for 'the Order for Visitation of the Sick and the Communion of the Same', he wrote:

*¶ But yf any man eyther by reason of extremitie of sicknesse, or for lacke of warnyng geven in due tyme, to the curate, or by any other just impedimente, doe not receyne the sacramente of Christes bodye and bloud then the curate shall instruct hym, that yf he doe truely repent hym of his sinnes and stedfastly beleve that Jesus Christ hath suffered death upon the crosse for hym, and shed his bloud for his redempcion, earnestly remembering the benefites he hath*

*therby, and geving hym hertie thanks therefore; he doeth eate and drynke spiritually the bodye and bloud of our savioure Christe, profitably to his soules helth, although he doe not receyve the sacrament with his mouth.*

And there it has stayed through all the editions ever since. A little disclaimer – or small print, if you like – that, even as the main Communion service put a renewed and powerful emphasis on eating and drinking, on God coming close through the chosen things of his creation, he was never limited. God chooses sacraments like the Eucharist to meet us but he never said he would *only* meet us there, *only* love us *if* we ate, *only* bless us *if* we drank.

Cloistered up in Cloister House as a precautionary measure to protect my wife, I can't claim 'extremitie of sicknesse' but there is another 'just impedimente' that means not just I but almost all of us cannot receive the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. So on Sunday at 10am I'll be watching Facebook to see Bishop Steven celebrate the Eucharist I know so well – he'll only be a hundred metres away, yet it may as well be miles for all I can't be with him. But I will watch and I will pray. I will repent me of my sins and steadfastly believe that Jesus Christ has suffered death upon the cross for me, for you, for the whole world. I will remember Christ's benefits to me and give hearty thanks. And as Bishop Steven lifts up the bread and holds the cup, I will cross myself and pray like St Thomas, 'My Lord and my God!'. And be reassured by the Prayer Book and the testimony of Christians throughout the ages that I am eating and drinking spiritually the body and blood of our Saviour Christ, profitably to my soul's health, although I do not receive the sacrament with my mouth.

Wherever you are this Sunday and whatever you do, while our churches are shut and so many self-isolating, may you know God's love, his presence and his peace.

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*for the Church of St Mary the Virgin Iffley*

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