



Welcome to Saint Paul's Church

for this very special occasion.

As we gather today we begin by mourning the loss of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. But we will end by baptising people, pushing them down.... to death. Then rising up again into new life with Christ. At Easter 2020 during the Pandemic Lockdown our late Queen addressed the nation.

As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on from the first Easter by every generation until now. This year, Easter will be different for many of us.... but Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever.

The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this.

Today we welcome The Rt Revd Dr. Toby Howarth, Area Bishop of Bradford.

Welcome



**Act of
Commemoration as
we mourn the death
of HM Queen
Elizabeth II**

God of love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may we find comfort and hope in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

National Anthem

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the King!

Collect

Hear, O Lord, the prayers of your people, as we remember before you our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH: and grant that we who confess your name on earth may with her be made perfect in the kingdom of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading:

John 11:17-27

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary. They had come to comfort them because their brother was dead. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. ²⁶ And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied. “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to come into the world.”

Talk

The Right Reverend Dr Toby Howarth

Presentation of the Candidates

The congregation remains seated.

The candidates stand at the front of the church.

Baptised and Confirmed

Abas

Sara

Confirmed

Sharon

Rex

Baptised

Ariela

Vihan

Destiny

Godsfavour

Bishop Toby asks those who are candidates for baptism:

Bishop: Do you wish to be baptised?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop Toby asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptised:

Bishop: Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates: I have.

Bishop Toby addresses the whole congregation:

We thank God for these people who have come to be baptised today. Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

Will you support them on their journey of faith?

All: We will.

The Decision

Bishop Toby addresses all the candidates:

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.
Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin? **I do.**

Do you reject evil? **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I do.**

Signing with the Cross

Bishop Toby makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying:

Bishop: Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

*When all the candidates for baptism have been signed,
Bishop Toby says to them:*

Bishop: Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his forever.

**All: Stand bravely with him
against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Gather

The congregation and candidates gather around the place of baptism.

Meet the Candidates

Abas - Sara – Ariela - Vihan

Prayer over the Water

Bishop: We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever.

All: Amen.

Profession of Faith

Bishop Toby addresses the congregation:

Bishop: Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

All: I believe and trust in him.

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

All: I believe and trust in him.

Bishop: 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: I believe and trust in him.

Bishop: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Baptism

Bishop: N is this your faith?

Candidate: **This is my faith.**

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All: Amen.

As each candidate comes up from the water we sing ...

He is Lord, He is Lord

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord

Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord

Song

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

(Repeat last 2 lines)

**'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?**

**In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!**

**'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.**

**'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.**

**He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:**

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

[Chorus]

**Bless the Lord, Oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship your holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes**

[Chorus]

**You're rich in love and you're slow to anger
Your name is great and your heart is kind
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find**

[Chorus]

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore**

[Chorus]

Confirmation

The candidates gather at the front

The congregation remains seated as the Bishop Toby stands before those who are to be confirmed:

Bishop Toby extends his hands towards those to be confirmed:

Bishop: Almighty and ever-living God, you have given these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All: Amen.

Each candidate comes forward individually and stands before Bishop Toby.

Bishop: N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

Bishop: Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

Candidate: Amen.

Bishop Toby invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid:

**All: Defend, O Lord,
these your servants with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom.
Amen.**

The Peace

Bishop: God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Giving of a lighted candle

The candidates gather at the front of the church. They are each given a lighted candle.

Bishop: God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All: Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Blessing

Bishop: The Christ who died for you, live in you.

The Christ who loves you, shine through you

The Christ who welcomes you, go with you,
now and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Closing and Offertory Hymn

**In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The arms of Love were opened wide;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please join us for brunch afterwards.

A prayer for the new King

Lord God,
you provide for your people by your power,
and rule over them in love:
Grant to your servant our King
the Spirit of wisdom and discernment,
that being devoted to you with his whole heart,
he may so wisely govern,
that in his time we may live in safety and in peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**