

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour  
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist  
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



A Salvadoran Cross by Christian Chavarria

# The Parish Eucharist for The Fifth Sunday of Lent *Passiontide begins* 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Online at zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

**Prayer Thoughts:** Salvadoran artist Christian Chavarria has created this vibrant cross - it's actually 2m-high cross - which, he says depicts God's creative, reconciling and sanctifying work. All the people of the world are represented and all are invited to the table of the Lord at which Christ offers himself as bread, as nourishment, which strengthens us to live together in a 'communion of reconciliation' which is ready to dismantle this world's walls of division. The message is that to achieve this 'communion' Christ takes upon himself the burden of the sin and selfishness which weighs us down and that we must be ready to do likewise for each other as we make sure that the poor and oppressed are cared for and refugees welcomed. And if we are to be faithful to God's goodness and serve our neighbours then we need to start by recognising our own need to be continually transformed by our own encounter with 'the other' and by our own sharing sacrificially with others in the communities of faith, hope and love.

**God calls us to become communities of reconciliation.** All the actions and symbols in this painting point to Christ - his life, death and resurrection. The arms of the people are raised in thanksgiving for what he is doing in their lives and in their world. The fish, too, point to Christ for in the Greek in which the New Testament is written ichthus (fish) is an acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. And, of course, Jesus also tells the story of Jonah and 'the whale' to describe his death and resurrection (Matthew 12:40). All the images on this cross, then, embody reconciliation and God's call to us to become communities of reconciliation.

**The Artist: Christian Chavarria Ayala** has endured torment at the hands of militia, the killings of his friends and relatives and spent prolonged periods as a refugee. Even today he lives in fear of drug barons and street gangs. Yet, still, the dove continues to be his sign of protest. He tells of how, during a house search as a child, soldiers questioned him about the white birds on his early paintings. 'I did not give the true reason, that the doves were my wish for peace in the country,' he says. It was forbidden to paint pictures of white doves in El Salvador: 'You were not allowed to say that.' Chavarria was a child when two of his siblings were killed in the Salvadorian civil war. He and his mother then fled to Honduras and lived in the woods and later like prisoners in a refugee camp for years. As a teenager he was targeted by death squads as being affiliated with freedom fighters, but his mother managed to send him to Sweden as a refugee. Despite the hardships of living in a foreign country he felt free for the first time in his life. Repatriation, when he came of age, was equally hard but he says today that he would not live anywhere else but El Salvador: 'I love my country,' he says. 'It's not worth leaving it in the hands of the bad people.' Chavarria has started to study theology and is on his way to ordination. He continues to paint crosses which tell of his hope for a different world than the one we live in now. He says 'The situation here is like a dark cross which we carry every day, but we ourselves have to transform it.' 'We make crosses with strong colours to show the beauty of God's creation' he says and 'the cross must not remind you that Jesus died on it, but that he died and has risen. It is a symbol of life.' He has made more than 130,000 crosses. They hang on the walls of schools like ours in Mortimer, in the homes of ordinary people like you and me, and in the offices of powerful politicians all over the world. God bless

# The Parish Eucharist

*Present rules and guidelines about attendance in churches will be followed and only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's church.*

## HYMN

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Your great Name we praise.**

**All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee,  
And so let Your glory, Almighty, impart,  
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.**

## THE GATHERING AND GREETING

*The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.*

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

*The Invitation to Confession*

Priest Let us call to mind our sins and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

*A pause for silent reflection follows.*

Your love gives us life. For the times when we have failed to live as your children,  
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You call us to do good. For the times when we have been self-centred and selfish,  
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help. For the times when we have ignored the cries of others,  
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

## THE NINE-FOLD KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*The Absolution*

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

All Amen.

## THE COLLECT

*The priest invites us to pray.*

Priest Let us pray.

*Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.*

Priest Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind. In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his word. We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern of his plan for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts'(The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).*

### THE FIRST READING - Hebrews 5: 7 – 9. Read by Elizabeth Porter

Reader A reading from The Letter to the Hebrews.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learn to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

*At the end of the reading:*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All **Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

If a person serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;

*John 12: 26*

Wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

All **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

### THE GOSPEL READING - JOHN 12: 20 - 33.

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. In all truth I tell you, unless a wheat grain falls into the earth and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me, must follow me, and my servant will be with me wherever I am. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will again glorify it.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

*At the end of the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### THE SERMON - Fr Derek

*We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.*

*After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.*

### THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

*We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding love and care.*

**All**            **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**  
**We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.**  
**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen**

**THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION**

*We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.*

*This Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercession is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our benefice - our parishes, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.*

**Priest**            Let us pray to our heavenly Father and give thanks for his goodness.

*The deacon or leader continues.*

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Church that it may be faithful to its mission to bear witness to Christ's love and proclaim his Gospel to the ends of the earth; for Justin our Archbishop; for Steven our bishop; for Olivia our area bishop; for our benefice and our schools of St Mary's and St John's...

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for Elizabeth our Queen, for our Government, for our District and Village Councils and all in authority, that they may direct us in the ways of justice and peace...

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace in all the world and that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among all peoples...

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those searching for their next step in faith, hope and love; for those preparing for baptism and confirmation and for their teachers...

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the poor, for the persecuted, for refugees, for all in danger, for the bereaved and all who mourn, for the sick and for all who suffer...

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who have died recently... May they know the joy of the resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for grace to repent and amend our lives that this season of Lent may be a Springtime for our life in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that, in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the saints, we may find grace and truth to live in the way of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Priest**            Merciful Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us through your Son to draw close to you in prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline and when we fall by our weakness raise us up by your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**                **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.*

## THE PEACE

*We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another and pray for peace and unity cf Luke 1.78,79.*

Priest *Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

*The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*The offerings of money is made and promised to support the ministry and work of the Church.*

*Taking the Gifts: The priest gives thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.*

Priest **BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

**WINE**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

**OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*We are all invited to draw near in prayer:*

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Lord, by the grace of Christ's sacrifice, may we who ask forgiveness be ready to forgive one another in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.*

Priest           The Lord be with you.

**All               And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:*

Father, all-powerful and ever living God,

we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

This season of grace is your gift to your family to renew us in spirit.

You give us strength to purify our hearts, to control our desires and to serve you in freedom.

You teach us to live in this passing world with our heart set on the world that will never end.

Now, with all the saints, we praise you for ever:

*The Acclamation*

**All               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 pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.*

Priest           We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, 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, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this to remember me.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more to be like Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

**All               Amen.**



## HOLY COMMUNION

*The communion rite of the Church lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by love. We are confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All **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 priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly:*

*May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.*

*'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

*Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.*

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

*The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.*

## PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ.*

*When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:*

+ Amen.

## HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION

**When I survey the wond'rous Cross  
on which the Prince of Glory dy'd,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of Nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.*

## **PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

Priest Let us pray

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us to God's kingdom. All pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Priest Merciful Lord, Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen.

## **THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

Priest The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

### **THE BLESSING**

Priest Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow  
him; + and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## **HYMN**

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever,  
His changeless name of Love.**



