

The Ancient Mother Church of Brighton, St Nicholas of Myra



The Easter Vigil – 19th April 2025

Welcome. St Nicholas' is the original church of Brightelmston village, and the Ancient Mother Church of Brighton: a haven of peace and prayerfulness in the heart of our city. We celebrate diversity, and believe that God's unconditional love is for all. Children are very welcome here.

The Eucharist is celebrated on most days of the week in this church. *See notices inside.*

Instruction in the Christian Faith

Holy Baptism for children and adults

Sacrament of Penance (Confession)

Holy Matrimony and **Thanksgiving after Civil Marriage**

} *by
arrangement
with
the Vicar*

Vicar: Revd Dr Dominic Keech

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Day off: Monday

Lay Pastoral Minister

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07787 715883

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Parking is available at St Paul's School on St Nicholas' Road, for the 10.30am Parish Eucharist, from 8.45a.m. until 1.00pm.

If you would like to receive our **regular mailing**, please contact the Vicar.

Follow us online: www.stnicholasbrighton.org.uk / www.facebook.com/StNicsBrighton

Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID: 833 4639 2107 Passcode: 991506

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83346392107?pwd=T2lyRWtab1hHeVNHYjhCK3JLNzZsUT09>

THE EASTER VIGIL

The Service of Light

We gather in the churchyard, outside the south door, for the blessing of the New Fire.

*The celebrant blesses the fire and we respond: **Amen.***

*The paschal candle is marked with the sign of the cross, and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet: A and Ω. At the end of the prayer we respond: **Amen.***

*Incense grains are inserted into the candle and the celebrant lights it from the new fire.
We respond: **Amen.***

The paschal candle is carried in procession into the church. Please join the procession, and spread the Easter light to your neighbour as the acclamation is sung:

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The paschal candle is placed in the sanctuary and the Exsultet is sung.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!...

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

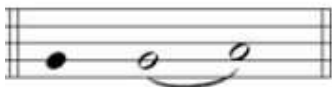
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

...is alive and reigns for ever and ever.



A - men.

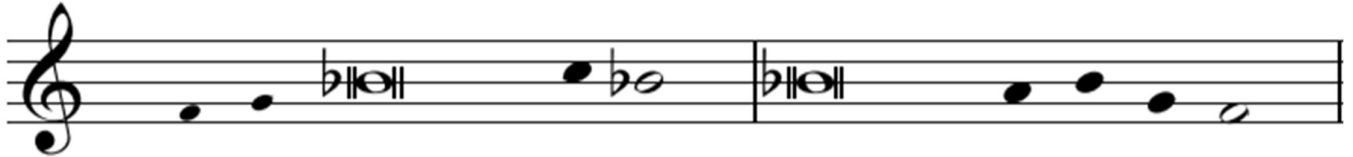
The Vigil of Readings

The celebrant introduces the Vigil of Readings. We sit.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1, 26-31a, read by Louise Roddon.

*At the end of the reading we respond: **Thanks be to God.***

We sing psalm 136, 1-9-23-6., led by the cantor.



1 (Cantor): Give thanks to the LORD, for • he • is good;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

2 (All): Give thanks to the • God • of gods;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

3 Give thanks to the • Lord • of lords;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

4 Who only does great • won • ders;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

5 Who by wisdom made the • hea • vens;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

6 Who spread out the earth upon the • wa • ters;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

7 Who created • great • lights;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

8 The sun to • rule • the day;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

9 The moon and the stars to • govern • the night;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

23 Who remembered us in our • low • estate;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

24 And delivered us from our • ene • mies;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

**25 Who gives food to all • crea • tures;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.**

26 Give thanks to the • God • of heaven;
for his • mercy • en • dures for • ever.

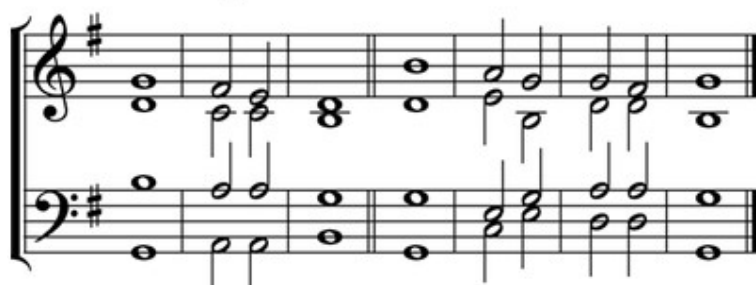
*We stand as the celebrant prays the Collect and we respond: **Amen.***

We sit for the second reading: Genesis 22.1-18, read by Trevor Loveday.

*At the end of the reading we respond: **Thanks be to God.***

We sing psalm 16, led by the choir.

William Croft



1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I • ta • ken • refuge;
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my • good • de • pends • on • you.'

**2 All my delight is upon the godly that are • in • the • land,
upon • those • who are • noble • in • heart.**

3 Though the idols are legion that • many • run • after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their •
names • up • on • my • lips.

**4 The Lord himself is my portion • and • my • cup;
in your hands a • lo-•ne • is • my • fortune.**

5 My share has fallen in a • fair • land;
indeed, I • have • a • good • ly • heritage.

**6 I will bless the Lord who has • given • me • counsel;
and in the night watches • he • in • structs • my • heart.**

7 I have set the Lord • always • be • fore me;
he is at my right • hand, • I • shall • not • fall.

8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my • spirit • re • joices;
my flesh • also • shall • rest • se • cure.

9 For you will not abandon my • soul • to • Death
nor suffer your • faithful • one to • see • the • Pit.

10 You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the • fullness • of •
joy;
and in your right hand are • pleasures • for • ev • er • more.

We stand as the celebrant prays the Collect and we respond: Amen.

We sit for the third reading, Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21, read by Veronica Thomason.

We sing the response to the Song of Miriam (Ex. 15) after the cantor, and again after each verse:

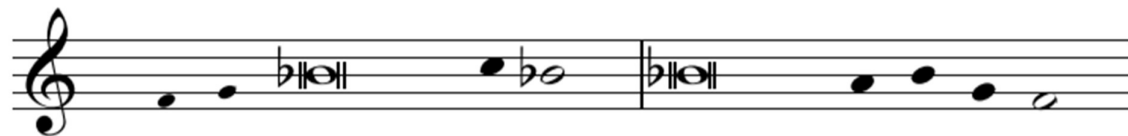


We stand as the celebrant prays the Collect and we respond: Amen.

We sit for the fourth reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14, read by Michael Le Garst.

At the end of the reading we respond: Thanks be to God.

We sing psalm 143, led by the cantor.



2 (All): Enter not into judgment with your • ser • vant;
for in your sight shall • no • one • living be • justified.

3 For my enemy has sought my life, he has crushed me • to • the ground;
he has made me live in dark places like • those • who • are long • dead.

4 My spirit faints with • in • me;
my • heart • with • in me is • desolate.

5 I remember the time past, I muse upon • all • your deeds;
I consider the • works • of • your • hands.

6 I spread out my • hands • to you;
my soul gasps to • you • like a • thirsty • land.

7 O LORD, make haste to answer me, my spirit • fails • me;
do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who • go • down • to the
• Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my • trust • in
you;
show me the road that I must walk, for I lift • up • my • soul to • you.

9 Deliver me from my • enemies, • O LORD;
for I • flee • to • you for • refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you • are • my God;
let your good Spirit • lead me • on • level • ground.

11 Revive me, O LORD, for your • Name's • sake;
for your righteousness' sake, • bring • me • out of • trouble.

12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies, and bring all my • foes • to naught;
for • truly • I • am your • servant.

We stand as the celebrant prays the Collect and we respond: Amen.

We remain standing. A joyful fanfare is played; bells are rung; we sing the Gloria, and the lights in church are lit.

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
 for you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory, the glory, the glory of God the Father.
 Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

The celebrant prays the Collect and we respond: Amen.

We sit for the epistle, Romans 6.3-11, read by Meta Wells-Thorpe.

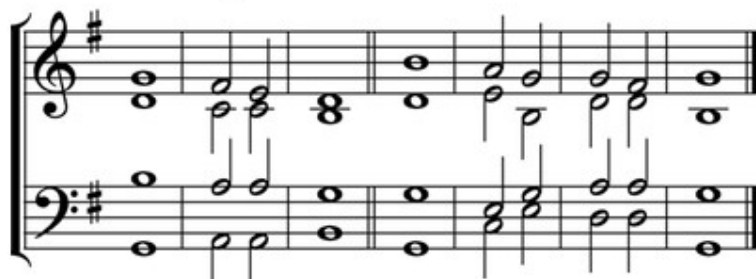
At the end of the reading we respond: Thanks be to God.

We stand to join in the three-fold Paschal Alleluia, repeating the chant after the celebrant.



We remain standing to sing psalm 114, led by the choir.

William Croft



1 When Israel came • out • of • Egypt;
 Jacob from a • people • of • for • eign • tongue,
 2 Judah be • came • God's • sanctuary;
 Is • ra • el • his • do • minion.

3 The sea • looked • and • fled;
the • Jor • dan • tur-• ned • back

**4 the mountains • leaped • like • rams,
the • hi-•lls • li-•ke • lambs.**

5 Why was it, sea, • that • you • fled?
Why, • Jordan, • did • you • turn • back?

**6 Why, mountains, did you • leap • like • rams,
you • hi-•lls, • li-•ke • lambs?**

7 Tremble, earth, at the presence • of • the • Lord;
at the presence • of • the • God • of • Jacob,

**8 who turned the rock in • to • a • pool,
the hard rock • in • to • springs • of • water.**

We join in the Alleluia to herald the gospel, Luke 24.1-12.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia... **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the homily.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The celebrant addresses the congregation.

Celebrant: As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that it is through the Paschal mystery that we have died and are buried with him in Baptism, so that we may rise with him to new life within the family of his Church. This day, all of us who are baptised renew the promises made at our Baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and rejecting all that is evil.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

The ministers and congregation process to the font. We sing:

**We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
We shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The celebrant prays over the water

... might, majesty and authority are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

All are sprinkled with holy water, as a reminder of the baptism we have received.

*The celebrant prays the Collects and we respond: **Amen.***

We return to our seats for the Prayers of Intercession, led by Michael Fisher, and respond:

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us. Or Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*At the end: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We stand for the Peace.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

A collection is taken for the work of St Nicholas'; contactless donations may also be made after the Eucharist at the door. As the Offerings are brought to the altar we stand to sing:

The strife is o'er, the battle done,

*We stand as the celebrant says the Prayer over the Offerings and we respond: **Amen.***

We remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The celebrant praises God and we sing:

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

The celebrant recalls the Last Supper.

**Let us proclaim the myst'ry of faith.
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The celebrant continues the prayer and we respond:

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

People: **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.**

As the bread is broken, we sing:

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace; grant us peace.**

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed 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.**

All who are baptised and normally receive Communion are welcome to do so here. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward with this service booklet in your hands. If you are unable to stand, please wave your service sheet and communion will be brought to you.

Communion anthem: Now the green blade riseth (J. Campbell Crum)

We remain seated to sing:

A brighter dawn is breaking,

*We stand for the Post-Communion Prayer and respond: **Amen***

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*The celebrant gives the blessing and we respond: **Amen. Amen. Amen. AMEN.***

Celebrant: Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

We remain standing to sing:

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;

Voluntary: Paul Fey – Prelude on 'Jesus Christ is risen today'

*All are warmly invited to stay after the Eucharist to share in fizz, refreshments
and conversation*