

After Holy Communion, the mood of the celebration changes from one of gratitude to one of desolation and mourning. Then the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to the altar of repose (the Hall) and from 9.00pm WE WATCH AND PRAY with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. ('My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.') Adoration concludes with NIGHT PRAYER at 11 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY: 14 April

10.00am: St John's: CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS
...followed by walk along the Prom with a wooden Cross towards Portobello and Joppa Parish Church to join Christians the other churches and walk back to St John's

11.00am: St John's: ECUMENICAL SERVICE
... followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns in the Hall.

3.00pm: St Mary Magdalene's: SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION WITH
VENERATION OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION

7.30pm: St John's: STATIONS OF THE CROSS

With Ash Wednesday, Good Friday is one of only two days of fasting and abstinence in the year.

HOLY SATURDAY: 15 April

On Saturday, the Sabbath, the Church worldwide pauses at the Lord's tomb contemplating his passion, death and descent to the underworld; and in fasting (the annual 'paschal fast') awaiting his resurrection.

10.00am: St John's: A shortened version of Morning Prayer and the Office of Readings.

8.00pm: St John's: EASTER VIGIL MASS OF THE RESURRECTION

In the early years of the Church's celebration of the feast of Easter, it was the custom to keep vigil at night. Subsequently, the celebration for the solemn lighting of the candles was created. This rite developed into the liturgy of the new fire and the blessing of the Paschal candle. The hymn of praise sung at the lighting of the Easter Candle goes back to the 7th century at least. It is known as *the Exultet*. On this night we hear the whole story of our redemption as it culminated in Jesus. In the earliest days of the Church it was also the time when adults were baptised into the Church, something that has been revived in recent years. In our community, we will welcome our catechumen **Xiaojing Wang** and three candidates: **Maggie Tam, Lesley O' Donnell and George Young** into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please pray for them.

EASTER SUNDAY: 27 March

7am: Joppa Beach: Dawn Communion – celebrated by the Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Baptist Priest/Ministers – followed by breakfast.

9.30am: St John's: EASTER CHILDREN'S MASS (with four baptisms)

11.15am: St Mary Magdalene's: EASTER CHILDREN'S MASS