

Dear Friends,

This is a Holy Week like no other. It is as if the strange and lonely emptiness of Holy Saturday has been stretched out as we mark these great days in the isolation of our homes and in the absence of gatherings for worship.

But, as we know, nothing in all this world can undermine the life-transforming truth of the Resurrection. It is more critical than ever that, in ways appropriate to the context in which we minister and the traditions that have formed us, we are faithful as we mark the life-giving work of Jesus on Calvary and in the Garden.

Holy Week

Bishop Julian will be leading the worship on [the Diocesan YouTube Channel](#) at the following times and thereafter:

- Maundy Thursday Renewal of Ordination Promises, released at 11am.
- Good Friday Meditation, released at 2pm
- Worship for Easter Morning, with all three Bishops, released at 9am

The **Bishops' Easter Messages** are available now. [Click here](#) for Bishop Julian's; [click here](#) for Bishop Philip and [click here](#) for Bishop Jill.

Remember '**A Church Near You**' features churches across Lancashire using livestreaming, video or other technological solutions via the interactive map [here](#).

One of those churches is St Laurence in Chorley where, before the lockdown, **Bishop Philip** recorded some Holy Week and Easter Services as he had been due to lead Holy Week there. These can be viewed on the [St Laurence YouTube channel](#) at these times and thereafter:

- Maundy Thursday at 8.15pm: Eucharist of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday 3pm: The Liturgy of the Day
- Easter Day at 10am: Eucharist of Easter morning and renewal of baptismal promises

Our **Cathedral** has online content available too, including daily reflections during Holy Week on their own [YouTube channel](#) and on the Cathedral [Facebook page](#) while their YouTube channel will also feature the Bishops' videos mentioned above.

And don't forget, there is a fantastic [prayer and resources page](#) available on the Diocesan website including a guide to keeping Holy Week at home; home service sheets; meditations; some wonderful resources for children and young people from the Diocesan Board of Education; links to national church digital resources and more.

Community Ministry

It is amazingly inspiring to hear how many parishes are continuing to meet the needs of the vulnerable even in such challenging circumstances. Here are three ideas which may help in that work:

Age UK in Lancashire is offering [a wide range of support](#) to older people.

The **Rural Services Network** has [grants available](#) for COVID19 response:

Tomorrow at 11am, **The Cinnamon Network** is running a webinar 'Funding your Response to Coronavirus' for church-based social action projects and small charities. [More information and registration details](#)

YourNeighbour.org is seeking 1000 Church Leaders to sign a pledge to the nation this Easter that we are here to serve. You can find [more details here](#).

Any question or queries, please email: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org. **Please also email if you are unwell or self-isolating.**

***Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.***

Yours,

The Coronavirus Task Group