

St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter

Virtual Rogation Procession 2020 (rec. Friday 15 May for Sunday 17 May)

The Greeting and Welcome at the West Doors

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

A welcome is offered.

Welcome to this procession for Rogation Sunday.

The three days leading up to Ascension Day are traditionally kept as Rogation Days. Rogation comes from the Latin word 'rogare' meaning 'to ask'. In the rural world these days were an important occasion to ask for God's blessing on the crops which had been planted.

The Rogation procession developed as an opportunity for the priest and people to ask God's blessing on the fields, streams and livestock of the parish. This was sometimes linked to the ceremony of 'Beating the Bounds' which re-established the boundaries of fields, farms and parishes.

But we need God's blessing on our world no less today and an annual Rogation Procession is kept here at Mount Dinham on this Sunday before the Ascension.

So in our prayers we thank God for the glory, beauty and bounty of creation, we pray that the harvest of land, sea and of commerce and industry may be fruitful. But we also pray that these good gifts of God will be equitably shared so that none may go hungry. And increasingly such occasions are vital as we reflect on the urgent need to care better for this planet and to reduce pollution and waste.

And finally at the moment we must pray for healing for our land and our world afflicted by the Covid-19 virus. We believe that God's will is for our healing and so we ask his blessing not only for those who are ill, but also for those suffering through the lockdown a lack of company, of variety, of fellowship and of education. We pray for them, for those researching into cures and vaccines and for the carers and keyworkers who are serving with faithfulness and courage

I am grateful to Richard Barnes who is filming this procession and Richard Parker who will sing the antiphons, all at a proper distance!

The opening of the Litany is sung outside the west doors

The Litany

O God the Father of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Father of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.
O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

At the first Station – looking south over the city

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

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.**

At this station let us pray for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and on all who work on the farms of Devon and produce and deliver food for our communities.

V Our help is in the name of the Lord
R **Who hath made heaven and earth**

Antiphon 1

He watereth the hills from above: the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.
He bringeth forth grass for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men:
that he may bring food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and
oil to make him a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

A prayer follows

Creator God, you have made our world and all that is in it.
We give you thanks for the glories that you have presented to us as stewards of this earth.

We ask for your guidance as we enter a new season of growing, that we may work the land wisely and with reverence for your creation.

Bless the farms of Devon and the allotments and gardens of our parish that in due time they will bring forth a good harvest.

Bless those who distribute food and those who provide for the hungry and destitute. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice, and with us sing:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,

O praise him, Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:

O praise him, O praise him,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

At the second Station – by the fountain overlooking the river Exe

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

At this station let us pray for God's blessing on all members of our fishing fleet: all who serve in the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, and all who go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters.

V Lord, thou hast been our refuge

R From one generation to another.

Antiphon 2

Thou rulest the raging of the sea: Thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise.

Prayer

We thank you, Father, for your gift of water which brings life and growth to all things; for the rains which water the earth and enable the crops to grow; for the streams, rivers and wells which provide water for human communities and for the vast oceans with their teeming life.

Bless the river that flows through our city and the rains that fall. May we never to take your gift of water for granted but use it with care and treat the oceans and waterways with the respect your gifts deserve. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

At the third Station – in front of the old School Buildings

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

At this station let us pray for God's blessing on all who live and work in our City of Exeter in industry, commerce, business, in the arts and sports, in health care, and education.

V Thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands
R **Well is thee and happy shalt thou be.**

Antiphon 3

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Prayer

Father of all, we thank you for the skill and compassion which you have given so that this world may be a place of creativity and kindness. Bless all who work for the common good and set in the hearts of people everywhere a longing for justice and peace so that all people may flourish and grow into the image and likeness of your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn

All ye that are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In front of the West Doors

Prayer, Collect and Blessing

O God of healing and hope;
bring restoration to this land in this time of illness and isolation.
Give wisdom and skill to those seeking for treatments and vaccines;
give courage to those who are downhearted or lonely;
give patience and compassion to us all;
and strengthen our church and community with the sure knowledge of the love and saving
power which you have made know through the glorious resurrection of Son, our saviour,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O LORD, from whom all good things do come: Grant to us thy humble servants, that by
thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding
may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vicar: Fr Nigel Guthrie. Cantor: Dr Richard Parker.