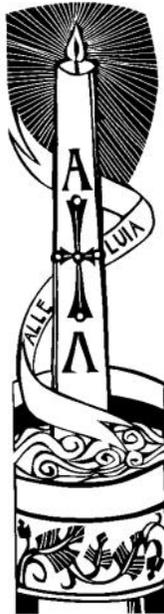


# The Liturgy for Easter Eve



Saturday 3 April 2021  
5.30 pm

Messe a Tre Voci *Antonio Lotti*

## **Welcome to Manchester Cathedral**

At the Easter Liturgy Christians pass with Christ from darkness to light, from death to resurrection. In its fullest form, the service begins at dusk on Easter Eve and ends at dawn on Easter Day. Tonight we move through four stages in our service in rather less time, reserving the joy of our first communion of Easter for the morning. This enables those being confirmed to take communion in their home churches, surrounded in prayer by the local church family. It is an Easter Liturgy: we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. For God's mighty act in raising Jesus belongs to the darkness of the night and symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness. It was only the news of the resurrection that waited until the dawn of Easter morning.

The first stage is the Service of Light. We begin in darkness with the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the sign of the Risen Christ, from the new fire. We then fill the church with light from it and proclaim the resurrection in the ancient Easter Song of Praise, Exsultet.

In the second stage of the service, The Vigil, we settle down, by the light of the Paschal Candle and by the light of the resurrection faith, and we retell the story of our redemption in some of the great biblical stories of the Old Testament.

The third stage of the service is the Liturgy of Initiation. We all reaffirm our baptism vows and bless the water of Baptism

In the fourth stage, we greet one another, conscious of our Lord's risen presence and recalling his own greeting to his disciples as he came and stood among them saying – 'Peace be with you'.

The Dean & Canons would like to wish you all a very blessed  
and holy Easter.

**Alleluia!**

## **Celebrating 600 years**

2021 is a special year for Manchester Cathedral as it marks the 600th anniversary of the granting of our first Royal charter establishing a collegiate church. Even in these uncertain times, an exciting programme of events for the whole family is planned and we hope to be able to share more details in due course.

### **Safeguarding**

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.



### **Hearing-loop**

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.  
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

### **Have you turned off your mobile phone?**

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

### **Photography**

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

### **Musicians**

The Lay Clerks are conducted by Christopher Stokes,  
Organist and Master of the Choristers.  
The organ is played by Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist.

### **President**

The Dean

**Large-print copies of this booklet are  
also available.**

## Music before the service

Mors et resurrectio

*Jean Langlais (1907-91)*

## The Service of Light

*The clergy enter in silence.*

*The congregation stands and faces the tower and the Great West Doors.*

*The President says*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness swept over the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “let there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 1.1-3

*The new fire is kindled*

President    Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever in God.

*The President acclaim the new fire, the sign of God’s creative power.*

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All            **Amen.**

## The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

*The President marks the Paschal Candle with the sign of the cross and with an alpha and omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), and says*

President Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages; to him be the glory and power through every age and for ever.

All **Amen.**

*The President inserts five nails into the Candle*

President By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All **Amen.**

*With light taken from the new fire, the President lights the Paschal Candle, saying:*

President May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*Processional candles are lit, and the Paschal Candle is carried through the Cathedral. Please keep your candles and take them home with you.*

*At each station the following is sung and the candles of the people are lit.*

Cantor Lumen Christi. *(The light of Christ.)*

Lay Clerks Deo gratias. *(Thanks be to God.)*

*The procession continues to the nave altar and stops once more. The Paschal Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the nave.*

## The Exsultet - *The Easter Song of Praise*

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!  
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!  
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Cantor

Lay Clerks

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff is for the Cantor and the second for the Lay Clerks. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you and al - so 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 music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The Cantor's part is a single melodic line, while the Lay Clerks' part is a more rhythmic accompaniment.

It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise, the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us by his death, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father.

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

Lay Clerks

Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when first you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Lay Clerks

Glory to you for ever.

Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night scripture says: "The night will be as clear as day: it will become my light, my joy."

Night truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth and man is reconciled with God! Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

Lay Clerks

Glory to you for ever.

Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honour of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Lay Clerks

A - - - men.

# The Vigil

## Hymn

sung by the Lay Clerks

*Please sit and refrain from singing*

*During which lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be read.*

The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung.  
Alleluya!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,  
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.  
Alleluya!

On the third morn he rose again  
Glorious in majesty to reign;  
O let us swell the joyful strain.  
Alleluya!

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;  
The bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell.  
Alleluya!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee  
From death's dread sting thy servants free,  
That we may live, and sing to thee.  
Alleluia!

*Victory NEH 119*

*Adapted from the Gloria of Palestrina's  
Magnificat Tertii Toni with  
Alleluya by W H Monk (1823-89)*

*Latin 17th century*

*Tr Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

*The President introduces the Vigil*

President    As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

*The congregation sits, with candles still alight.*

**The First Reading**

Exodus 14: 10 - end; 15: 20-21

A reading from the book of the Exodus

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness. 'But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me?

Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

*Silence is kept after the reading and then the President says*

All                    The Lord is my strength and my might.  
                          **He has become my salvation**

Lord God our redeemer,  
who heard the cry of your people  
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:  
free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
and, by the leading of your Spirit,  
bring us to our promised land;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

**Amen.**

**Psalm 114**

sung by the Lay Clerks

When Israel came out of Egypt :  
    and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,  
Judah was his sanctuary :  
    and Israel his dominion.  
The sea saw that, and fled :  
    Jordan was driven back.  
The mountains skipped like rams :  
    and the little hills like young sheep.  
What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest :  
    and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?  
Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams :  
    and ye little hills, like young sheep?  
Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord :  
    at the presence of the God of Jacob;  
Who turned the hard rock into a standing water :  
    and the flint-stone into a springing well.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
    and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
    world without end. Amen.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not  
bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy  
on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.



And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his  
ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :  
for the remission of their sins;  
Through the tender mercy of our God :  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow  
of death : and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*Luke 1. 68-79*

*Silence*

*After the silence all stand with the President*

### **The Easter Acclamation**

President Alleluia, Christ is risen.

*All respond in whisper*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

President Alleluia, Christ is risen.

*All respond in a louder voice*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

President Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*All respond in a great shout*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The organ sounds and the 'Gloria in excelsis' is sung by the Choir; the Cathedral is flooded with light and the people's candles are extinguished.*

## Gloria in excelsis

sung by the Lay Clerks

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Et in terra pax hominibus  
bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te,  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite,  
Jesu Christe. Domine Deus,  
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
  
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,  
cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.

Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace,  
good will towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son  
Jesu Christ; O Lord God,  
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand  
of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory  
of God the Father.  
Amen.*

## The Collect

President Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

*Silence is kept*

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we,  
being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour,  
glory and might, now and in all eternity.

All **Amen.**

*Please sit*

### **New Testament Reading**

Romans 6. 3-11

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*At the end the reader says*

All This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gospel Reading

Luke 24.1-12

Reader Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death.

All **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

All **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again. 'Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Remain standing*

## The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

President 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:

Response Do you turn to Christ  
**I turn to Christ.**

Response Do you repent of your sins?  
**I repent of my sins.**

Response Do you renounce evil?  
**I renounce evil.**

### Prayer over the water

*Water is poured into the font and the President says*

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

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
was baptised in the river Jordan,  
we thank you for the gift of water  
to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea  
you led your people out of slavery  
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death  
you brought your Son,  
and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that all who are washed in it  
may be made one with Christ in his death  
and in his resurrection,  
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,  
bring them to new birth in the household of faith  
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;  
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,  
now and forever.

All **Amen.**

## **Profession of Faith**

*The President addresses all the people*

President Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

President This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Following current Covid guidelines, the congregation will not be sprinkled with water.*

*All remain standing*

President Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all those who have been baptised in your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

## The Peace

### *Coronavirus Information*

*Following advice issued by the Church of England, in order to minimise the spread of infection we ask that you do not shake hands during the Peace.*

President    The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples  
                  and said “Peace be with you”.  
                  Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.  
                  The peace of the Lord be always with you  
All             **and also with you.**

## The Sending Out

### The Blessing

President    God the Father,  
                  by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
                  open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.  
All             **Amen.**

                  God the Son,  
                  who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
                  give you joy as you share in the Easter faith.  
All             **Amen.**

                  God the Holy Spirit,  
                  who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
                  empower you and fill you with Christ’s peace.  
All             **Amen.**

                  And the blessing of God almighty,  
                  the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
                  be among you and remain with you always.  
All             **Amen.**

### Hymn

sung by the Lay Clerks

*Please sit and refrain from singing*

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict’ry thou o’er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meet us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

*Maccabeus* NEH 120  
G F Handel (1685-1759)

French, Edmond Budry (1854-1932)  
Tr Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)

*Please stand*

*The President says*

'Do not be afraid.  
I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.  
He has been raised from the dead and is going ahead of you.  
Come and see.'

All Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

All With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*The altar party depart.*

### **Music after the service**

Incantation pour un jour Saint

Jean Langlais

*Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the readings and prayers,  
and as a reminder of your visit this evening.*

## Easter Day Services

- 10.30am Eucharist (please book your free ticket on Eventbrite or join us online)  
3pm Choral Evensong (live on BBC Radio 3 only)

We aspire to open more services to the public from Monday 12 April\*, more information below.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer will be open to the public and livestreamed.

1.10pm Eucharist offered on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, open to the public, not livestreamed.

*\* Subject to COVID guidelines. We reserve the right to cancel services at short notice if necessary.*



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