

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY



Sing Hosanna

Jesus' humble parade into Jerusalem sparked the patriotic fervour of the crowds. They spread palms for his donkey and sang 'Hosanna'. The trouble is they were getting excited for all the wrong reasons. Here was a man, they thought, who could challenge the Roman Empire a great new political leader. Their interest in Jesus quickly dissolves by the end of the week. After all, what good is a dead messiah to them? Of course, Jesus might have been able to give them what they wanted, but what point would there have been in overthrowing an oppressive regime? It might have made him very

popular in his day, but two thousand years down the line it would have made very little impression on the rest of us. Instead Jesus offers the bigger picture, a picture that would mean something to every man woman and child of every era from then on. Sadly, the crowds are not ready to fathom this.

If we were able to be in church on this day we would be singing 'Hosanna' and waving our palms. However, today we do it for the right reasons. We do not follow Jesus because we think he is some kind of magician who can rescue us from an oppressive world. We understand that accepting our crosses in life, and impacting our world with courage, self-giving, humility, and love is what Holy Week is all about.

Fasting and Abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food or drink or form of amusement.

Recommended Listening: Good Friday: At the Foot of The Cross: BBC Radio 2 at 7pm - On BBC radio, Dan Walker brings an assortment of spiritual and traditional music to Radio 2 on Good Friday with At the Foot Of The Cross, recorded at Maida Vale Studios, which also features a dramatic retelling of the crucifixion by author Frank Cottrell-Boyce



PARISH PRAYER – Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word and a new consecration to your service, that your love might grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>
 Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>
 Daily Liturgy Website – www.universalis.com

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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5TH APRIL 2020 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – Year A

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all churches have now been closed until further notice. However, while there is no public Mass, each day I will celebrate Mass without a congregation present. I strongly recommend *Universalis* for access to the Mass Readings and the Prayer of the Church: <http://www.universalis.com>. We can still be a prayerful community during this crisis.

Mass Times for the coming week

Holy Week, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 2

<i>Although celebrated without a congregation, the times of Mass are as follows:</i>		
Sun. 5 th Apr	11:00 am	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mon. 6 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Monday of Holy Week
Tues. 7 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Tuesday of Holy Week
Weds. 8 th Apr	12:00 Noon	Wednesday of Holy Week
Maundy Thursday, 9 th Apr	7:30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday, 10 th Apr	3:00 pm	Solemn Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday, 11 th Apr	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday, 12 th Apr	11:00 am	Mass during the Day

The intentions at Mass will be for the country, our parish, our NHS, Police, Ambulance Service, Fire Service and Prison Service. All of the Holy Week and Easter Masses will be in private but if you have a Sunday/Weekday Missal, you can participate by reading the prayers and Scripture at the same times as I celebrate Mass at the altar of our parish church.

Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm, or by request/appointment

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Anniversaries this week: Harold Chapman, Gordon William Lloyd, Harry Knight, James Juby, Patrick Joseph Mullally, Consuelo Murphy, Ted Clark and Tom Brady. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits: If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Recently Deceased – Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Eileen Brocklesby who died during the week.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams, Teresa Kendall, Greta Cummings.

Money Matters: I was able to bank £375 into the parish account because of donations by cheque. If you would like to give your offering by direct debit or standing order, the information you need is. HSBC Bank, Sort Code: 40-20-08; Account number: 11311115; Account name: Catholic Church of Dereham.

Diary Dates for this week – All parish group meetings are currently suspended due to the Coronavirus situation.

Keeping up to date - Please check the parish website for updated information throughout the current difficulty. I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well.

Masses Online – The Diocese Director of Communications writes that with the recent closure of our churches and the encouragement of Cardinal Nichols to get Masses and other services online and live streaming, he is delighted to report that from just two churches that were known to be live streaming Masses ten days ago, we now have a dozen that are listed in our [online guide to live streaming/online church](#). The Bishops' Conference is also producing a national guide to such Masses. Parishioners can also sign up for the weekly enews bulletin update from the diocese website - <https://us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f63f0a3229b3ebf4ec5526b13&id=0f3efb4842>

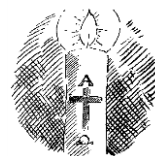
Changes to Holy Week Rites - The Holy Father has indicated that he will not be celebrating the Chrism Mass in Holy Week and so the Bishops of England and Wales, in solidarity with him, have decided that the Chrism Mass will not be celebrated in our country either. It will be celebrated instead at a later date in the year (possibly around September 14th, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross). The Holy Father has also decided that the Collection for the Holy Places that normally takes place on Good Friday will now be taken up on September 13th instead.

Easter Triduum - The term triduum means 'three days.' The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are in normal circumstances called to church to gather and remember together. The Triduum tells an ongoing story, and we would normally try to make all the services. This year of course, because we are in lockdown, we cannot make these services, but we can remember on each of the three days the different parts of the story.



Maundy Thursday - "I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you," says the Lord. Jesus ties a towel around his waist and washes the disciples' feet. This is the Christian message we are to take on board. We must learn to sacrifice our own needs and put each other first regardless of status. Jesus is asking us to love each other as he loves us.

Good Friday - On this day we remember the events of Jesus' suffering and death. This is a solemn day but it's a momentous day too. In hindsight we know that this is not the end. We look forward to Easter when Jesus raises from the dead and invites us to share the same destiny. Non-Christians around the world might see the Cross as an instrument of torture. We celebrate it as a symbol of victory over death.



Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) - This is the night when Jesus passes from death to life. This is the night when we celebrate light, salvation, and renewal of baptismal promises. On this night we are challenged to bring light to a world still darkened by disbelief. Holy Saturday, or the 'Easter Vigil', is the close of the season of Lent and penance and the beginning of paschal time, which is one of rejoicing.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2020: Overcoming Addiction - *People succeed in overcoming an addiction when they recognise that the addiction interferes with something they value—and when they develop the confidence that they can change.* Quitting may take several tries, and people may not stop smoking, drinking or using drugs altogether. But eventually sufferers can succeed in shaking dependence, and so it is not good for any of us to develop a fatalistic attitude towards someone else's, or our own addiction. The more encouragement and support we receive, the more likely we are to quit damaging patterns of behaviour. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention that "...those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied."



Bitesize – "Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live."

~ Morrie Schwartz, *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom