

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY



We Are the Reason

What are we thinking when we pick up a palm and process into church on Passion Sunday? Perhaps we are wondering how those very clever people weave their palm into a cross. Or perhaps we imagine we are commemorating an historic event.

When Jesus rode his donkey into Jerusalem all those centuries ago, he was the centre of attention. Some thought he would be a powerful leader who would lead the people in an uprising against the occupying Romans. Others were just swept along in a sense of pageant. Few had grasped the true significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus had not come merely to overturn the Romans. Jesus' picture was a much more universal one. Jesus' mission was the salvation of the whole world for future generations.

How many of us would remember Jesus today if his mission had been simply to lead an uprising against a Roman occupation? Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to meet his destiny. He could have heeded the warnings of his disciples and bypassed Jerusalem altogether. He could have continued his ministry of teaching and healing into old age; but whatever else Jesus was about, he certainly wasn't about compromise. In riding into Jerusalem, Jesus was telling us that his mission to save each and every one of us was more important than life itself.

We can all walk into church waving our palms. We can all commemorate an historical event, but the more discerning of us know that this day is about 'walking the walk'. We are the reason Jesus rode into Jerusalem. That's a powerful thought. Knowing that we are the reason Jesus rode into Jerusalem, then we must honour him not with palms but with the quality of our lives.

Bitesize – "Let God's promises shine on your problems." ~ *Corrie Ten Boom*



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.

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

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28TH MARCH 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – Year B

[Holy Week, Weekday Year I, Psalter Week 2]

Mass Times for Holy Week			Intentions
Sat. 27 Mar.	6.00 pm	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Jeremiah Ryan
Sun. 28 Mar.	9.00 am 11.00 am		Monica Juby (Baker) The People of the Parish
Mon. 29 Mar.	10.00 am	Monday of Holy Week	Roberto Santa Maria
Tues. 30 Mar.	- 12 noon	Tuesday of Holy Week	No Mass today <i>Chrism Mass live-streamed from the Cathedral</i>
Weds. 31 Mar.	10.00 am	Wednesday of Holy Week	Patsy Gray (2/2 Bussey)
MAUNDY THURS. 1 Apr.	7.30 pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	
GOOD FRIDAY 2 Apr.	10.00 am 3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross Solemn Liturgy of the Passion	
HOLY SATURDAY 3 Apr.	8.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL	
Sun. 4 Apr.	9.00 am 11.00 am	EASTER SUNDAY	Private Int. The People of the Parish

*All Celebrations of Mass are live-streamed on YouTube
The Church is open daily until 4:00pm*

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

MASS LIVE STREAM – Search for **Dereham Catholic Church** on YouTube,
Or use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-qWs-B40VTvbezZ83MxQ/videos?view=2&flow=grid>

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

Anniversaries this week: Sidney Carter, Antonio Pereira, Patrick Malone, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway, Iain Walton, Ricci (Frederica) White, Maria Madalena Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Francis Breen. *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.

Sick & Housebound [with GDPR Permissions] – Please pray for: Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Shirley Liebenhals, Frances Saville King, Derek Williams, Greta Cummings, Patsy Gray, Brenda Winandy, Allan Michael Howard.

Money Matters: The collection at the **Easter Masses** is the Easter Offering to the parish priest.

For those who would like to make their regular offerings by Standing Order, the information you need is: Account name: **Catholic Church of Dereham**. The Sort Code is: **40-20-08** and the Account number is: **11311115**. If you are a tax payer, please also consider **Gift Aid**. This is a great way for the parish to get additional funds from the tax reclaim benefits scheme; with this scheme you do not need to commit to a fixed amount as it will just be based on your total annual contribution. Let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to sign up to Gift Aid.

Gift Aid - The boxes of Gift Aid envelopes for Tax Year 2021/2022 are now available at the back of Church for collection. Obviously in the last year I have noticed that several of you who usually contribute using GA envelopes have moved over to Standing Orders and Internet Banking. Therefore, I have made the assumption that you will continue to contribute in this manner and will not require offertory envelopes in the future. However, I will leave you envelopes to collect at the back of Church for use in respect of Easter and Christmas offerings. I hope this makes sense but if you have any issues please either call or email me. Telephone 01362 694801 e-mail rexbaker27@btinternet.com. Many thanks for your continued support. Last year's Gift Aid claim amounted to £5006 being returned to us which is substantial part of the parish income.



Newsletter by Email - Please let Fr. Brendan know if you would like to receive the parish's weekly bulletin by email. We have a GDPR compliant list of names for this purpose.

Holy Week Liturgy – Please note the times of services for Holy Week and Easter. As Good Friday is likely to be the most attended, tickets must be booked through Eventbrite (<http://www.sacredheartdereham.org.uk/easter>). Please do not book a ticket if you are

uncertain about attending. Places/tickets are limited. Good Friday is a day of **Fast and Abstinence**. **There will be a collection for Holy Land Shrines.**

Because of the Pandemic and the restrictions that we must observe, all of the Holy Week Ceremonies will be in a reduced form. There will be no procession of Palms. No Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday. No Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. The Passion will be in the short form on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. There will be no procession of candles on Holy Saturday. Everything will be in the reduced form. Last year I did it all solo; at least there will be a congregation this year. Everything will be livestreamed and next year I hope that we can celebrate Holy Week and Easter in the usual way.

Holy Thursday - "Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper." - The Easter Triduum begins with Mass on Holy Thursday evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. His command to serve others is dramatically recalled this night in the washing of the feet, which he performed in the supper room for his disciples.

Good Friday - The Good Friday rites centre around the reading of the Passion of Jesus. With simple dignity that story is retold, followed by prayers for the entire world, for this powerful mystery brings blessings to the world. It is a day of fasting and quiet mourning.

Holy Saturday - The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Easter triduum celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. The vigil opens with a service of light. The lighting of the fire and the Easter candle is a sign that Christ is "the light of the world," and celebrates the victory of light over darkness that humanity has ever longed for.



Holy Places Collection - In most Catholic parishes around the world, a Good Friday Collection will be taken up to aid Christian parishes and their outreaches in the Holy Land. This initiative has been an annual tradition in the Church since its institution by Blessed Pope Paul VI. According to Paul VI, the collection was created "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities." The unforgettable faces of thousands of children and teens, fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and Iraq, continue to challenge us. The small Christian presence in the Middle East has great need of the support and attention of the entire Church.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.