

Gospel Reflection

We now come to the Sunday with a split personality. It starts with an upbeat gospel recounting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is a festive affair, complete with a parade route strewn with palm branches instead of ticker tape.



But we quickly progress to the stark reading of Jesus' passion, bearable only because we already know its happy ending. Mel Gibson's film did us a favor in reminding us how shockingly brutal the whole business really was.

Two names for the same day: Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. Perhaps we should call it Fickle Sunday. For the same crowd that was cheering during the parade were jeering a few days later. They'd been wowed by his sermons, fed with loaves and fishes, healed of their diseases, delivered of their demons. But as soon as the tide began to turn, so did they. Their cries of "Hosanna" turned to shouts of a very different kind: "Crucify him!"

Of course, he was not surprised in the least. The gospels tell us that he knew the human mind heart all too well. He was not fooled by all the acclamations and fanfare. Flattery could not swell his head. He had no illusions of grandeur or ambition for worldly glory. In fact, our second reading tells us that he had willingly emptied himself of heavenly glory in pursuit of his true passion - His Father's will and our salvation.

Collection for Holy Places. On Good Friday all churches are asked to take a collection to help support Christians in the Holy Land.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning..

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm.that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

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"United in conviction and united
 in love, with a common purpose
 and a common mind"
 Philippians 2:2

9th APRIL 2017 PASSION SUNDAY (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 8th April	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Isobel & Stan Lyle RIP
Sunday 9nd April	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Dr Michael Hollinrake 10 th Anniversary
Monday 10th April	9:30am	Mass - Sabina McCormack RIP
Tuesday 11th April	9:30am 7:00pm	Mass – James Hollinrake RIP Anniversary Service of Reconciliation
Wednesday 12th April	Noon	Mass – Una Jennings RIP Anniversary
Thursday 13th April	11:00am	Funeral Service – Caroline Burns
HOLY THURSDAY	7:30pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Intention - Alicia De Pappa RIP Followed by watching till midnight
GOOD FRIDAY	12 Noon 3:00pm 7:00pm	Stations of the Cross for Children Celebration of the Lord's Passion Service of Tenebrae
HOLY SATURDAY		
THE EASTER VIGIL	8:00pm	Noel Stewart RIP
EASTER SUNDAY	9.30am 11.00am	People of the Parish David Goodall RIP
Monday 17th April		No Service

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr & Mrs Garner

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

We are still collecting unwanted spectacles/cases to be sent to the Missions. If you have any that you no longer need please bring them in

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 7:30PM

If you have anything that you would like to be discussed/considered, please let Fr Simon or Derek know.

COFFEE MORNING: Thanks to all who came to the coffee morning
We raised £110. The next one will be Tuesday 25th April at 10:30am.

OUR LENTEN CHARITY

Our Lenten Charity donations are going to support the Disaster Appeal for those starving in East Africa.

(We were intending to give the money to SPA, but in view of the situation in Africa we felt we should support this Appeal.
We will be making a donation to SPA from Parish funds.)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - SUNDAY 23RD APRIL

Mass at 3.00pm preceded by confessions and chaplet from 2.00pm With Fr Jim McGrath at St Mary's Middlewich. All are most welcome.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers for the Easter Weekend there is a box in the inside porch where you can place it.

ATTENTION ALL KEY HOLDERS: From now on can you please set the Alarm as you leave church and lock up. If you have forgotten the Code please ask either Fr Simon or Derek. Thanks.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Derek on- 01606 889048

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Matthew 21

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions:

“Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.” This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet: Tell Zion’s daughter, “Look, your king’s on his way, poised and ready, mounted On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal.”

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, “Hosanna to David’s son!” “Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!” “Hosanna in highest heaven!”

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What’s going on here? Who is this?” The parade crowd answered, “This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”



“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi

ST GEORGE’S DAY FISH & CHIPS SUPPER

Friday 21st April 7:30pm

We will be celebrating St George’s Day in the most appropriate English way—with a Fish & Chip Supper. More details to follow, but please add your names to the clipboard in the porch if you will be coming.

Helpers for the night would be welcome. We are looking for help in handing out food and cleaning up afterwards.