

NEWSLETTER

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.



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 10am 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.

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

2nd APRIL 2023 PASSION SUNDAY (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 1st April	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 2nd April	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 3rd April		No Mass
Tuesday 4th April	1:00pm	Funeral Service for Ann Bannon RIP
Wednesday 5th April	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 7th April Good Friday	3:00pm	Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Saturday 8th April Holy Saturday	7:00pm	The Great Vigil
Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday	10:00am	Mass

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 – Mrs Bernadette
Eastwood

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your
unwanted spectacles and cases.

Offertory Envelopes. The new Boxes of Envelopes are in the Porch for you to collect. Please look for your name on the Boxes. If you can't find a Box for you – or if you would like to start using Envelopes – please take one of the spare Boxes and complete the slip in the Box and hand it in the next time you are at Mass. Alternatively, if you would prefer to make your Offertory Donations on a monthly basis by Bank Standing Order there are forms available in the porch. Similarly, if you are an Income Tax Payer you can join the Gift Aid Scheme by taking a form from the porch. Please hand in any Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms to the Parish. Please don't send them to your Bank or the Diocese.

Coffee morning. The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 18th April, everyone is welcome to come along for coffee, tea and cake. The emergency lights at the church have been replaced with new lights (costing £200) from the money raised at the coffee mornings.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

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

Parking notice. A contractor came to St Joseph's School last weekend and couldn't enter as there was a car parked on the drive blocking the main school gates. The school have contractors etc that require out of hours access. If there were a fire and emergency services needed to attend, they sadly wouldn't gain the access required and ultimately would have to damage any vehicle in the way. Please allow access to the school by not parking across the main school gates.