

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Year A, 5th April 2020

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Word of the Lord

First Reading: Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: See Jn 11:25. 26

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

Gospel: [The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 26:12-27:66](#)

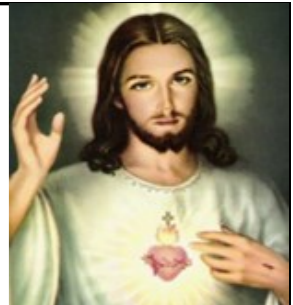
Today we enter into Holy Week. The week is made holy by its celebration of Jesus' gift of himself to us and for us. Wednesday, we remember his betrayal. Thursday is a celebration of the gift of the Eucharist and a reflection on the example of service Jesus gives to us. Friday is "Good" because we truly remember how much he loved us - even with his death on the cross. Saturday we are without a liturgy and are awaiting the nighttime celebration of the Resurrection, which is his and is now ours. And, so, we begin this week with the reading of the whole Passion story - this year, it is Matthew's version.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD 5th April 2020

**“In our families we learn to recognise
the dignity of all.” Pope Francis**

The Holy Week story highlights the struggle for communion and solidarity in the midst of great challenges, injustice and suffering. Today's gospel readings offer us great contrast. We can see ourselves in the crowds amongst those who were jubilant, crying 'Hosanna' as Jesus enters Jerusalem to then find the crowd shouting 'Crucify him' just a few days later. Like Peter, Judas and the other disciples, we too can be fickle followers of Jesus. In the Passion we see the suffering of Jesus as he is beaten, scourged and ridiculed. He is treated unjustly as a notorious thief is chosen for release over Jesus. Jesus is deserted by his closest friends and it is only a Gentile centurion, Mary and a group of faithful women who remain at the foot of the cross. At the end, Jesus even feels deserted by his Father asking 'why have you abandoned me?'

In the Project Compassion story this week Dominic shares how he was liberated from his pattern of domestic violence. Just as Mary and the faithful women remained at the foot of the cross with Jesus, Dominic's wife and family chose to remain with him on his journey to wholeness. His participation in the Caritas Australia supported program at the Centre of Hope in Papua New Guinea bought light back to his family.

By opening himself up to the process of counselling with Christophylda, his wife, he was able to learn new ways to manage his behaviour and attitudes, bringing new life to his family where there was once fear and darkness. Dominic is also bringing change to his community as he now works as an advocate, challenging gender-based violence and sharing his testimony of change. Having people speak from their own experience leads others to challenge their own behaviour through its authenticity. We can identify with much of Jesus' suffering, in our own lives and the lives of people close to us. We can take comfort and consolation in that Jesus identifies with the suffering of the human race. We now know that the story doesn't end there, that there is the resurrection yet to come. Sadness and death give way to new life. As we journey through Holy Week, will we keep in mind our sisters and brothers who suffer?

Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope who runs safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.



Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-

mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Live Streaming at:

[https://
melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass](https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass)

Monday-Friday: 1pm

Saturday: 8am

Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be
viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 10: Mass for you at
home, Sunday mornings at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vati-
can, Sunday mornings at 8:30am

YouTube:

[The Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

GENERAL GUIDELINES COVID-19

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Wednesday 25 March 2020, 12.00 pm

The following Guidelines are approved by Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holy Week and Easter Triduum

A decree was issued from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments concerning the liturgical celebrations during Holy Week.

Liturgies may be celebrated by Clergy and streamed if applicable to their communities

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be rescheduled to a later date following the end of the present crisis.

If possible, the Mass of the Oils might be the first expression of our whole Church when we can physically gather once again as a People.

Palm Sunday

There is to be no distribution of blessed palms. However, a Priest may bless palms privately on Palm Sunday to be reserved for distribution at a later date after the crisis has abated.

Holy Thursday

Where possible, the Priest can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – without the faithful.

Good Friday

Public celebration of the Stations of the Cross is not permitted. The Priest is to celebrate the afternoon Celebration of the Passion of the Lord – without the faithful.

Easter Vigil

The Priest is to celebrate the Easter Vigil– without the faithful. The preparation and lighting of the fire is to be omitted. The Paschal Candle is lit and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows.

Easter Sunday

Easter Masses can be celebrated without the faithful.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



Holy Week at Home

Please click on each link below to find daily Family Prayers for Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday.

[Palm Sunday](#)

[The End of Lent](#)

[Holy Thursday](#)

[Good Friday](#)

[Easter Sunday](#)

Time of Crisis – Time of Grace

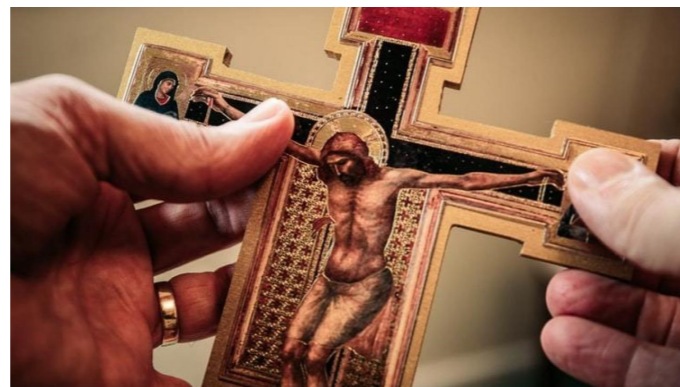
We begin the Holy Week leading to the greatest feasts in our liturgical calendar commemorating and reliving the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year we are not able to celebrate them as a community gathered in our church. But we celebrate them in our homes united and gathered in spirit with our Archbishop and with one another. I feel this year we have a real opportunity to live our faith in our family setting; a real opportunity, to strengthen our family life. This present crisis gives us a wonderful opportunity to slow down in this busy, often hectic and fast moving world; a time to reflect and rejuvenate our connection with God.

Shall we then begin to talk with our children and family members about our own faith? Share with them, what does it mean to believe? As Masses will be live-streamed over the internet and through the television network, shall we join in as a family and teach our family the value of the Sacrament?

Shall I spend some more time in the living room and observe our children grow, pray for them and with them? Shall I get in touch with my God, who is always with me and looks after me?

I feel, it is a wonderful, but testing time for us to really mean what we believe and put it into practice. May God protect you and bless you. I join you all through celebrating daily Mass for you and in my prayers.

Fr Jan



Pray a Novena

There is an open invitation from Ophelia Swai to join her on Facebook in praying a novena in this time of COVID-19 pandemic. You may contact her on 0431311976

Enjoy this weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:

<https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/journey-radio/>

'Like us' at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartChurchPreston/>



Tell us what you would like to see on our Parish Page!



What is an Act of Spiritual Communion and how do I make one?

Catholics have long been encouraged to partake in the practice of "spiritual communion" if they are unable to receive the Eucharist for a particular reason (for instance – being homebound). Simply put, it is coming before the Lord in prayer – expressing our deep desire to be united to Him despite the fact that we are unable to be united to Him in receiving the Eucharist. In making an Act of Spiritual Communion we ask the Lord to give us the graces that would come to us if we were able to receive Him sacramentally (Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity). Reciting the prayer written by St. Alphonsus Liguori below is simple and common way of making an Act of Spiritual Communion.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Project Compassion 2020



Caritas AUSTRALIA

You may wish to deposit your Project Compassion 2020 donation to the Parish bank account (*description: Project Compassion*), or you may wish to keep your Project Compassion boxes/envelopes until

Parish Masses resume. You could also make your gift online at lent.caritas.org.au/donate/.

Your gift for the poor is a sign of your commitment to reconciliation, justice and love.

Thank you for your generosity.

Supporting your Parish

For many of you it may be a time of financial restraint. But if anyone wishes to continue to financially support our Sacred Heart Parish you can continue your contribution by direct deposit as follows:

Bank: NAB

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Preston

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 658787823

(For those who contribute through Thanksgiving envelopes please use your envelope number or name as the description). Thank you

Collections

Direct Debit for March: \$835.00

Donations: \$40.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles



A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



Please click below for

[A Coronavirus Prayer...by Karen Weber](#)

Stations of the Cross

can be viewed online by searching

['Stations of the Cross YouTube'](#)

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.