

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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## PALM SUNDAY

### OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Fr Millett*)

with Solemn Entrance (*Pro Populo*)

9am (Cor) Procession & Sung Mass

(*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

with Solemn Entrance (*Pro Populo*)

*No children's liturgy today.*

30<sup>th</sup> March Monday of Holy Week No Mass

31<sup>st</sup> March Tuesday of Holy Week

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Lil and Hughie Rooney*)

1<sup>st</sup> April Wednesday of Holy Week

11am Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral

6pm Mass (Cor) (*Pat Croaky*)

## THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL (Ch)

7.30pm SOLEMN MASS

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

followed by Solemn Watch until

10pm Night Prayer (*Compline*)

GOOD FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

(Day of Fasting & Abstinence)

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF

THE PASSION OF THE LORD

3pm (Cor) & 3pm (Ch)

HOLY SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

(*There are NO confessions or 5pm Mass today*)

8.00pm THE SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL (Ch)

with Baptism/Receptions

and First Mass of Easter (*Pro Populo*)

EASTER SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

9am Solemn Mass of the Day (Cor)

(*Pro Populo*)

(*No children's liturgy today*)

11am Solemn Mass of the Day (Ch)

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)

**TODAY** we commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery. We proclaim Christ as a Victor... Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. He is the Messiah, the Son of David and the Son of God. He is the sign of contradiction, acclaimed by some and reviled by others. Sent into this world to wrest us from sin and the power of Satan, he underwent His Passion, the punishment for our sins, but issues forth triumphant from the tomb, the victor over death, making our peace with God and taking us with him into the kingdom of His Father in heaven. This celebration begins the great Holy Week of Christians.

**THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM** The period between the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday is the most solemn part of our liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*. The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). The Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. This is at the very heart of our faith as Catholics. We should do our utmost to maintain the unity of the triduum and participate in the celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Yes, it is a commitment, but this is literally about life and death, our life and death in Christ. This is no mere remembrance of something that happened over two thousand years ago, but the effectual making present of those mysteries TODAY. Please do come and support those being baptized and those being received into full communion that night and rejoice in the Resurrection.

**RCIA JOURNEY IN FAITH** our candidates for the Sacraments have now concluded their preparations for Easter. We thank our catechists who have devoted their time and care to them. Please pray for George who is to be baptised, and Carly, Patricia and Thandeka who will be received into the full communion of the Church.

**SERVER REHEARSAL AT ST PATRICKS** for the Good Friday Liturgy at 2.15pm on Good Friday. All servers please attend. Thank you.

**SERVER & RCIA REHEARSALS AT ST MARY'S** for all servers for the Triduum as follows: 6.30pm Thursday (before the Mass of the Lord's Supper); 2pm Good Friday (before the Good Friday liturgy) and

12noon on Holy Saturday for the Easter Vigil. Those being baptized and received are also asked to attend the rehearsal on Holy Saturday at 12 noon. Thank you.

**CALLING ALL READERS, EMHC AND STEWARDS** There are sign-up sheets for all the Holy Week/Easter liturgies. Please offer your help over this most sacred time.

**HOLY THURSDAY WATCH** please sign the Watch List to ensure that all slots are covered. Do stay and pray before the Blessed Sacrament after the Mass (St Mary's) Compline (Night Prayer) will be prayed at 10pm. Jesus said to his disciples, "Will you not watch with me for one hour?"

**EASTER LILLIES** Remember a loved one this Easter, donate £5 for an Easter Lily that will form part of our beautiful floral display in our churches. Please give your contribution to Teresa in the Office or Fr Michael, stating which Church this is for and the person remembered.

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** for the Holy Places of the Holy Land at the Good Friday liturgies.

**EASTER COLLECTION** This is our traditional collection made for the support of our Parish Priest. Envelopes are available in the Churches. Giving may also be done via the Dona machine or online. Thank you.

**BLESSING OF EASTER EGGS** There will be Easter Eggs for the children at Masses on Easter Sunday.

**GREENERY FOR ST PATRICKS** Please put these into the garage at St Patrick's on Good Friday as the florists are decorating the church for Easter on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Many thanks.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY** There will be an Easter Party on Sunday 11th April at 3pm with games, an Easter egg hunt and craft etc. Please bring food to share.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN** The next session is Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm. Parents, please ensure that the Mass children's participation cards are signed each week as attendance at Mass and the Catechetical sessions are naturally a prerequisite of completing the course and receiving the Holy Eucharist.

**PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT ST PATRICKS** The expected parking restrictions (double yellow lines) have been installed along Park Lane covering the area where our congregation usually park. There are unrestricted slots either side of the church gate and further up the road towards the A4 but the number of available slots has reduced. We need to maximise our on-site parking so please park as tight as you can, even if it means you may be blocked in. Please do not park on the lawns in the church garden.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS** are heard at St Mary's on Saturday between 4.15 pm and 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after the weekday masses or by prior arrangement with the clergy. Please note confessions are not heard on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**The Sick:** Corsham: Kath McDonald, Linda Scott, Nick King, Mo Brinn, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price, Robert Wilkins. Chippenham: Pauline Fitzgerald, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Victoria Kiss, Pamela Naylor, Anne Martin, Agnes Tegner, Michael Millard, Frank Hill, Nigel Tolley. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**Recently Departed:** Mary McIver.

**RIP Anniversaries:** Tony Campbell, Rex Jones, Frances Jones, Nell Donegan. Maria Alvattar. Neil Charnley. Nick Ferris.

**For Peace:** in the Middle East, Ukraine, Gaza and all the places of warfare throughout the world.

**Candidates for the Easter Sacraments**

**The Holy Father's March Intention:** Let us pray that nations move to an effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Benet, Kemerton. St Joseph, Tewkesbury. St Nicholas, Winchcombe.

*In compliance with the requirements of GDPR permission must be sought from an individual (or next of kin) before their name can be added to a list of those who are sick. Do please advise us of any changes to be made to this list.*

## April – The Month of the Blessed Sacrament & the Holy Spirit



The month of April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, and when it does fall in March, the Easter season continues on through all of April. In essence, April is a month of Easter, and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. This month we might commit ourselves to a period of Eucharistic adoration and pray a Holy Spirit prayer every day. There are periods of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish. The goal is to be able to gaze lovingly and in awe at the Consecrated Host and share that love with others with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament," J.R.R. Tolkien

### Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

My Lord Jesus Christ, Your Eucharistic presence teaches me how to love as you have loved me. In your great love for me you continue to give yourself, body, blood, soul, and divinity in this sacrament of your love. As I pray in your Eucharistic presence, enkindle in me the fire of your gospel. Nourish me with your love and compassion, so that I may be sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be your living presence to all I meet. Amen.



## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD** (Year A)

### **Gospel of the Lord's Entrance**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks 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 were shouting, '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, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The readings of the Mass:

**First reading**

**Isaiah 50:4-7**

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah*

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backwards.  
I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.  
But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 22(21)**

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

All who see me deride me;  
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:  
'He trusted in the LORD, let him save him;  
let him release him, for in him he delights.'

For dogs have surrounded me;  
a band of the wicked besets me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;  
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them,  
they cast lots for my robe.  
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;  
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my kin,  
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;  
'You who fear the LORD, give him praise;  
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

**Second reading**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
Therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.  
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

At that time: Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You have said so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' And he said, 'Why? What evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' And all the people answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, "I am the Son of God."' And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, 'This man is calling Elijah.' And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

*All kneel for a period of silence.*

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'

The Gospel of the Lord.