



Palm Sunday

24 March 2024

A TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO HOLY WEEK!

We enter Holy Week with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to a tumultuous welcome from the crowds which by the end of the week turns to betrayal and death. With prayer and vigil on Good Friday and Holy Saturday we await the joy and hope we find in Easter. To make this time prayerful and renewing I invite you to attend the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance (Confession, Reconciliation) on Tuesday evening at 7pm with several priests available for the celebration of this Sacrament.

Thursday evening, we celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper with a procession to the Altar of repose and the church will be open for prayer until midnight. Jesus said to his disciple "Could you not wait with me one hour?" On Good Friday we have Morning Prayer of the Church followed by Stations of the Cross which is great preparation for the afternoon Celebration of the Lords Passion which encompasses the Liturgy of the Word, Prayer, Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

On Holy Saturday, Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated with the blessing of Easter Foods and the preparation of the Church for Easter. The Easter Vigil begins with the fire outside, the Blessing and lighting of the new Easter Candle with a Procession into the darkened church and the proclamation of Easter followed by the Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of our Baptismal vows, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Easter Sunday Masses are celebrated in the morning with no evening Mass.

At the beginning of Holy Week, I invite you to take a 'word' or phrase from the scriptures or prayers and to pray with this throughout the week and at Easter to again choose a word or phrase from the scriptures or prayers to accompany you into Eastertide.

I pray this holy time will help you on your Christian journey and inspire you in your discipleship of the Lord.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ, Fr Michael, Parish Priest

BLESSING OF THE BRANCHES

Almighty ever-living God,
sanctify † these branches
with your blessing,
that we,
who follow Christ the King in exultation,
may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Prior to Easter the final opportunity for The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on

TUESDAY 26 March: 2nd Rite

The 2nd Rite combines a common preparation with individual confession and absolution.

7:00pm St Mark's Church

Several Priests will be available from surrounding Parishes.

"I invite you to join us as we commemorate the saving Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, celebrated in the sacred Liturgies of Holy Week."

HOLY THURSDAY: 28 March 2024

9:00am Morning Prayer (*Lauds*)

No Morning Mass

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with Adoration
Visitation of the Seven Churches devotion until 12am

GOOD FRIDAY: 29 March 2024

9:30am Morning Prayer (*Lauds*)

10:00am Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY: 30 March 2024

9:30am Morning Prayer (*Blessing of the Baskets*)

No Morning Mass

EASTER VIGIL: 30 March 2024

7:30pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 31 March 2024

8:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

10:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

6:00pm Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Jn 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

(All) Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50.4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord helped me, therefore I have not been disgraced.

The servant of the Lord said: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. "I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. "The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22.7-8,16-17,18-19,22-23, (R.1)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver; let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" **(R.)**

2. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shrivelled; I can count all my bones. **(R.)**

3. They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! **(R.)**

4. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! **(R.)**



Second Reading

Philippians 2.6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Jesus humbled himself. Therefore God highly exalted him.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

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.

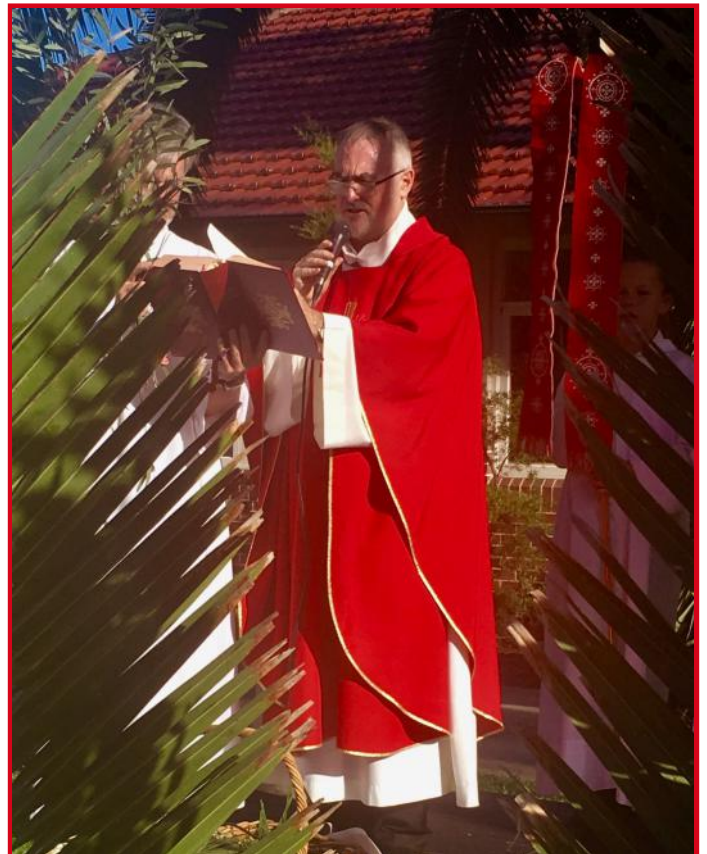
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Mark 14.1 - 15.47

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem.



WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

*United in Baptism, Nourished by the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,*

*We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,*

*Reaching Out to Those in Need,
Journeying Together, Growing in Faith.*

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Heavenly Father, hear us as we come before you to thank and praise you for Your goodness to us.

Reader: Let us pray that our calling to mind the suffering and death of our Lord will strengthen a spirit of repentance and forgiveness within us. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray that those who will receive the sacraments of initiation this Easter will know the blessedness and the joy of the Gospel of life. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for all who suffer from poverty and injustice, that our community will provide for them and give them justice. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for Christ's faithful around the world, that the celebration of the Paschal mystery will bring their faith to new life. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for all the faithful departed, that they may share in the glory of the Lord's resurrection. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, as your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself, grant that we may always follow the path that leads, through his cross, to the joy of his resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Mt 26:42

(All) Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

Lent is ending and we begin the great Paschal Triduum, one prayer over three days.

May we immerse ourselves in the richness of these days, so, as Pope Francis says, that we, as baptised Christians, may be renewed in "the meaning of their new condition."

"In Baptism," he said,

"we are raised with Jesus and we die to the things and logic of this world."

Holy Thursday Morning Prayer 9:00am

Good Friday Morning Prayer 9:30am

Holy Saturday Morning Prayer 9:30am



"Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross."

— Pope Francis

LENTEN



Thank you



Thank you to those who participated, prepared and attended any of our Lenten Gatherings.

We thank Fr Michael for his Lenten Conversations and Twilight Candlelight Adoration

We thank Sr Antonia for Stations of the Cross

We thank Lyn and Matthew for Repent and Believe Lenten Gatherings.

HOLY WEEK embraces the last days of Lent (until Thursday) and the Easter Triduum. The Sacrament of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. It is best celebrated *before* Holy Thursday evening so that, with heart and mind renewed, all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts. *SC110*



THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year. The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begins with evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, (Thursday) has its centre in the Easter Vigil, (Saturday) and closes on the Sunday of the Resurrection.

HOLY SATURDAY

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods and eggs are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday following Morning Prayer.

The tradition is said to date from the 7th century in its basic form, the more modern form containing bread and eggs (symbols of resurrection and Christ) are said to date from the 12th century.

Bring your basket to Holy Saturday Morning Prayer 9:30am for a blessing.



*Easter calls us to be Alleluia people!
This week give witness to Christ's resurrection by being a person full of:
awe, awareness, balance, peace,
possibility, presence, respect, vitality,
wonder and zest.*

We invite you to join us as we commemorate these Sacred Liturgies.



St Mark's Parish Community

Palm Sunday Egeria and the Palm Procession

The Church is enriched greatly by a description of a palm procession written by a 4th Century pilgrim named Egeria.

Egeria, who was probably from France or Spain, wrote a detailed account of her travels to the Holy Land. Only fragments of her letters or diary were recovered from transcriptions which were discovered many centuries later. Apart from being a valuable historic source, her great powers of observation make her 'travel diaries' a wonderful read.

The first English translation of the transcriptions was published late in the 19th Century.

Egeria describes the Great Week activities in Jerusalem. She highlights a procession that re-enacts Christ's triumphant entry in to Jerusalem and describes the reading of the Gospel, people singing hymns and antiphons and children being carried on shoulders waving palms and olive branches as they go on foot to the Mount of Olives. She notes that the procession covered some distance so the speed was deliberately slow to avoid anyone becoming weary.

The whole event concluded with a service of light in the evening.

While this account relates to a 4th Century Jerusalem custom, the palm procession was not actually incorporated into the liturgy of the Roman Rite until about the 11th and 12th Centuries.

Palm Sunday - The History (first known as Pasha) originated in the Jerusalem Church around the late third or early fourth century. Ceremonies consisted of prayers, hymns, and sermons as people moved through the numerous holy sites within the city. At the last site, the place of Jesus' ascension into heaven, the clergy would read the biblical account of Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Then as evening approached, the people would return to the city reciting: "*Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord*" (Matthew 21:9). By the fifth century, the celebration had spread as far as Constantinople. It wasn't until the sixth and seventh centuries that the ritual blessing of the palms was added. A morning procession replaced the evening one and by the eighth century, the Western Church was celebrating "Dominica in Palmis" or "Palm Sunday."

Hosanna



Holy Thursday Visitation of the 7 Churches Pilgrimage: Parishioners are invited to prepare for the Jubilee Year in 2025 with prayer. One way of entering into prayer during Holy Week is to visit an altar of repose after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The devotion of visiting 7 Churches is a centuries old tradition in keeping with this liturgical practice. Families are invited to tailor their pilgrimage with a resource that will list Churches that will be open across the Archdiocese and provide reflections to meditate. Church listing and Prayer Resources can be found on the Parish Website <https://stmarksdrummoynes.org.au/>

What is the seven churches visitation?

The Seven Churches Visitation is a centuries old Roman Catholic tradition, in which the faithful visit seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday. This pilgrimage is thought to have originated in Rome, where pilgrims would visit the Holy Year Basilicas as an act of penance and prayer. Saint Philip Neri popularised this practice, gathering people together before dawn to make a visit to all seven of these Pilgrimage Churches in the same day, stopping at each for a period of prayer, song and reflection.

Over time, the tradition of the Seven Churches Visitation travelled beyond the walls of Rome and is now undertaken by Catholics all over the world. The pilgrimage can take place between any seven churches, beginning in the church in which we attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper. At all the churches along the way, we stop to pray with Our Lord, truly present to us at each Altar of Repose. By partaking in the Seven Churches Visitation, we keep vigil with Jesus, joining him in his prayers to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.

How do you do it?

The only requirement for the Seven Churches Visitation is to spend time in prayer at and between any seven churches. Many participants pray the Stations of the Cross as they walk between each church. Some recite the Rosary and sing hymns and sacred songs. The pilgrimage is "tailor-made" according to the time, distance, and capacities of the many diverse individuals, families or groups who take part in it.



Be a friend to Christ and walk alongside him on the night of His betrayal by visiting seven participating churches on Holy Thursday night.

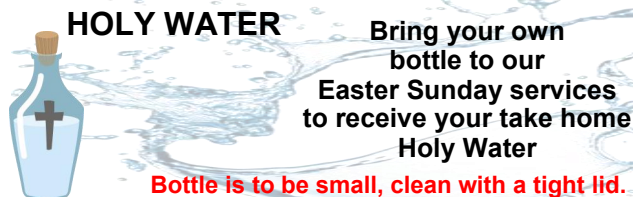
With each visit, trace His journey as He was taken from one location to another, and immerse yourself in the profound events of that sacred night.

St Mark's Parish Community

SUNSHINE CLUB

The CWL ladies invite you to the
Sunshine Club Lunch
When: Tuesday 2 April at 12 noon
Where: The Oxford Hotel
Victoria Rd Drummoyne

All welcome bring a friend and come together
for relaxed conversation and laughter.



HOLY WATER

Bring your own
bottle to our
Easter Sunday services
to receive your take home
Holy Water

Bottle is to be small, clean with a tight lid.

Eastertide for the Sick and Homebound



If you know of anyone in our Drummoyne Parish who is
sick or homebound and would like to receive Holy
Communion during this Eastertide Season,
please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

EASTER 2024

To assist in welcoming all to the celebration of the Death and
Resurrection of Christ, we are asking you to support us in the
welcoming of all to our Easter Celebrations:

Holy Thursday 7:00pm

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

Good Friday 10:00am Stations of the Cross

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

Good Friday 3:00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

Easter Vigil 7:30pm

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

Easter Sunday

8:00am and 10:00am and 6:00pm Masses

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

We invite you to be included in our celebrations and to offer
your assistance, speak with Fr Michael, Fr Denis,
or contact the Parish Office. Thank you.



† Thursday 28 March - Chrism Mass

10:30am Maundy Thursday Chrism Mass at
St Mary's Cathedral.

† Thursday 28 March - 7 Churches Pilgrimage

Parishioners are invited to prepare for the Jubilee Year in
2025 with prayer. One way of entering into prayer during
Holy Week is to visit an altar of repose after the Mass of the
Lord's Supper. The devotion of visiting 7 Churches is a
centuries old tradition in keeping with this liturgical
practice. Families are invited to tailor their pilgrimage with a
resource that will list Churches that will be open across the
Archdiocese and provide reflections to meditate.
St Mark's Church will be open until Midnight following,
Mass of the Lord's Supper.

† Friday 29 March - Holy Land Collection

The Good Friday Holy land Collection supporting the church
in the Holy Land is an historic mission. Since the time of
St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the
needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have
understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus
walked. Envelopes are available in the Church foyer.



† Friday 29 March & Monday 1 April - Parish Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed for the Easter Break and
reopen on Tuesday 2nd April.

† Monday 2 April - Easter to Pentecost

Via Lucis (Way of the Light) celebrate the 50 days of
Eastertide walk through a pilgrimage of faith with the
Stations of the Resurrection.
Collect your Easter to Pentecost booklet.

† Sunday 7 April - Daylight Saving Ends

Clocks will go back 1 hour at 2am this
Sunday morning.



† Sunday 7 April - Divine Mercy Sunday

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good his love is everlasting.

† Monday 8 April - The Annunciation of the Lord

Gabriel visits Mary with news of her conception. *Luke 1:26-38*

† Friday 19 April - First Holy Communion

Enrolments for First Holy Communion open and close on
Friday 3 May. Applications available from the Parish Porch.

† Sunday 21 April - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's
instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers
into his harvest" (*Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2*). As a climax to a prayer that
is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the
primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to
the priesthood and to the consecrated life.

† Thursday 25th April - Anzac Sunday

Anzac Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:30am.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:

Michelle Keatinge, Margaret Dawes-Smith, Alison Whitlock, Rosemary Brooker, Nawal Boulos, Pat Crowe, Joanna McGill, Margaret Smith, Pat Kenna, Dante Ferzoco, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Bocalatte, Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono, Bishop Peter Ingham, Patricia Ryan, Wendy Madden, Rocco Zoccali, Lina Giannandrea, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Immaculata Di Palma and Giuseppina Pinto.

God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. ~Amen~

Remembering those who have gone before us.

Antonino Iacona, Gamal Biady, Rocchina Ciampa, Shirley Hofman, Mary Hofman, Giuseppe Ziino, Rita Rota, Sr Chrysostom (Cox), Judy Moran, Kevin Fahy and Helen Jones.

Recently Deceased. Joseph Bonnici, Brian Gallagher, Paul Williams, Egidio Ettore and Don Fitzpatrick.

May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month April

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this monthly intention.

For the Role of Women.

"Let us pray that the dignity and richness of women be recognized in all cultures, and for an end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world." Amen.



St Mark's Drummoyne Masses

Monday & Friday 8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am
Wednesday 7:30am



Saturday 12 noon
Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.

COLLECTIONS: The passing around of the collection bowls has been reinstated after the pandemic to ensure the Parish continues to meet our financial obligations.

1st Collection (Priest of the Archdiocese) - follows the Homily
2nd Collection (St Mark's Parish) - follows Prayers of the Faithful

St Mark's Liturgical Ministers

You are invited to a retreat day for liturgical ministers serving in the Archdiocese.

The retreat will be run by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in Australia.

All liturgical ministers are invited, Ushers, Greeters, Collectors, Ministers of the Word (Readers), Acolytes, Adult Servers, Cantors and Music Ministry, Sacristans and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Save the Date and Register

Behold, I make all things new.
(Rev. 21:5)

A EUCHARISTIC RETREAT DAY
for those involved in Liturgical Ministries

11 May 2024, 10AM - 4PM

St Martha's, Leichhardt



LITURGY OFFICE
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF
Saint Cecilia
Founded in 1860 - Nashville

Register using **Trybooking.com**

Questions: sydney@op-tn.org

OREMUS

LIVING THE 2024 YEAR OF PRAYER

Strengthening our Parishes in Hope

FOR THE 2025 JUBILEE AND BEYOND



REGISTER NOW

**STREAMS OF LIVING WATER:
INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

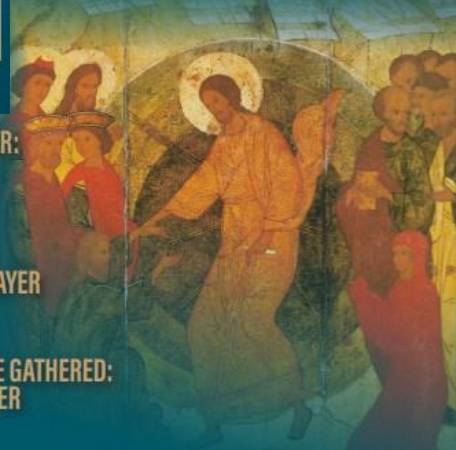
THURSDAY 4 APRIL

**LORD TEACH US TO PRAY:
LEARNING THE ART OF PRAYER**

THURSDAY 18 APRIL

**WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED:
LEADING OTHERS IN PRAYER**

THURSDAY 2 MAY



PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion

boxes and envelopes are to be returned TODAY. Thank you for your generosity.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047

Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



St Mark's Church Hearing Loop installed

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McLean PP

Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP

Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR

School Principal: Mrs Melissa Lentini

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



The Living Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year B

24 March 2024

Gospel Reflection: By the time the gospel accounts came to be written, it was more than 35 years after the death of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark is now very widely held to have been the first of the four gospels, written in about the year 70 CE. One of the reasons for the writing of the gospels was the fact that those who had walked and talked with Jesus were becoming old and dying. There was a sense of capturing the story before the last eye witnesses were gone. This is very evident in the Passion narrative from the gospel of Mark. One can almost hear an elderly voice dictating the events: 'then this happened ...; then he said ...; then we all thought ...' Like so much of this particular gospel, there is very little embellishment. It's like an old time detective show, 'Just give us the facts!' The gospel of Mark presents the story of the Passion as a sequence of events with little commentary or theological reflection. (That is partly why it lends itself so well to being read by several voices.)

One of the best examples that the gospel is a straightforward recollection of events is the inclusion of the scene in Gethsemane when the young man ran away naked. No storyteller would create such a bizarre, unexplained event. There is no explanation of who the young man is, why he was wearing only a loincloth, nor why the armed men tried to seize hold of him. It is reported in exactly the same style as the rest of the story, very matter-of-fact. The presence of the young man, both in Gethsemane and in the gospel, has puzzled scholars for many years, yet if nothing else, it provides evidence of the way in which this Passion narrative was transmitted from lived experience, to memory, to oral account, to written gospel.

Gospel Focus - This man was a son of God: By the time we have stood and listened to this lengthy Passion narrative, the listener may have started to wilt by the time we get to the death of Jesus. Yet the gospel writer keeps one of the most important messages for this moment. As Jesus dies, a centurion standing by utters the inspired words, 'In truth, this man was a son of God.' Famously played by John Wayne in the movie, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, the centurion is the voice of the gentile, the non-Jew, representing all those throughout the world who will recognise the truth of Jesus' life and purpose.

Have you thought? Passion of the Passion: The Passion narrative is very aptly named. The emotion and power of this story is nothing short of passionate. The gospel writer's style of fast paced, unadorned factual narrative is a very effective way of helping the reader/listener to engage in the story. It is, after all, the first half of the most important Christian story, finished off by the resurrection that is celebrated on Easter Sunday. It is easy to see why this stark, narrative style was embellished and expanded upon by the later gospel writers and yet it is perhaps the more passionate for the lack of explanation and theologising.

Living the Gospel - Before the cock crows: Peter is an interesting character in the gospels. He is one of the first of the disciples to be called; Jesus changes his name and places great trust in him; he is witness to the most significant moments of Jesus' life; he is able to profess his faith in Jesus as the Christ and yet it is he who denies even knowing Jesus. We might have thought that Peter was Jesus' most loyal and faithful follower, yet it is he who can't stand up and claim that he was a follower of Jesus. Is it any wonder that it is difficult for us today sometimes?

Questions?

- Q. Why is it important that we continue to 'tell the story' of the Passion?
- Q. Which elements of this Passion narrative are challenging / confronting / surprising?
- Q. Which films or artworks depicting the Passion have you found to be inspiring?
- Q. How does Christ's Passion story reflect the reality of human existence?

Learning moments: Examine different depictions of the Stations of the Cross from diverse artists and cultures. What elements of the story are emphasised or highlighted by the different artists? Which styles of Stations of the Cross are appealing? Why? Which ones are confronting? Are there any styles of Stations of the Cross that are not as effective in conveying the emotion and story of the Passion? © Greg Sunter



**Palm Sunday
23 & 24 March**



This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

Ronita from the Philippines has now graduated high school and secured a job at a call centre. This job was only possible because of a certificate she gained from completing her studies.

Leaia and her family now have a water tank at their home in Samoa. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

Memory completed her vocational training course in carpentry and joinery. After completing a work contract at one of the largest electrical companies in Malawi, Memory now plans to return to her village and provide carpentry services to people in her community.

It's through the generosity of people like you that we can continue to support people like Ronita, Leaia and Memory. There is still time to donate, for all future generations.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are to be returned TODAY Palm Sunday

THE Catholic Weekly



- * Biggest-ever women's retreat
- * Papal awards for public service

* DISCIPLE DIARIES: Mullet champion returns to Christ

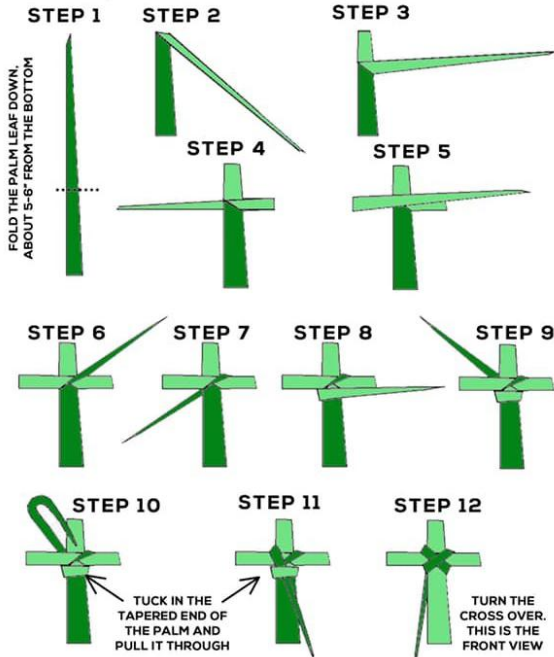
\$2

Available in the Church foyer

Hosanna! Hosanna!

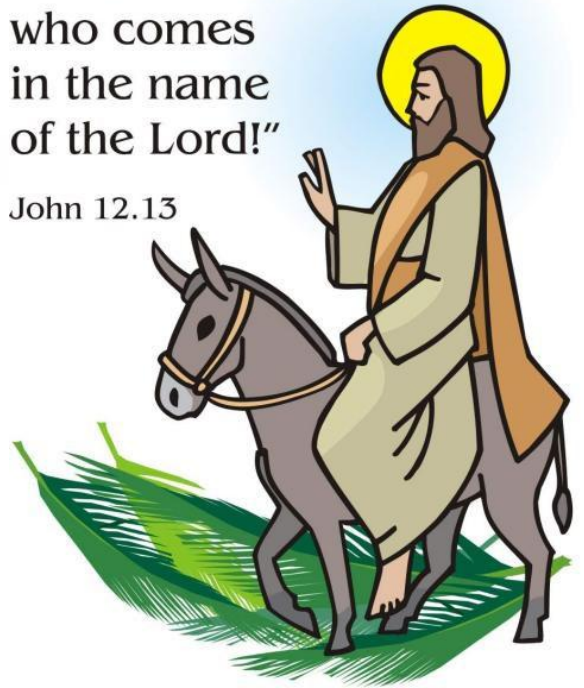
Passion Sunday, Year B

PALM CROSS INSTRUCTIONS



So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12.13



Hosanna to the Son of David!



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

U C S F U V F W X C R P A O I F L
 O G C K T D N N X O S W D G O O R
 T V T P O L D X Z X E Z Y E J P Q
 U E G A L L I V F V H R N E E T Y
 Y D L P K Q D V W S T O L T R C W
 X E Q G X P S I A E O A U W U B I
 P T K T C V R G S H L D Z H S Z V
 C U E Q E B A H P C C M E C A V X
 R O P N P X M O B N I G P A L F O
 Q H E V K Q C N D A K P L O E T A
 H S T W F W Q I U R H Y L E M N D
 C Q Q Y N K I Z T B B E M E N N W
 Q B O H M G W A G E N K O A S P O
 L Y V F O L L O W E D N S R Q P R
 S Y M B J B D K M A N O Q W C K C
 O V U M F B S C H E H D J P E E O
 H V J H G G L N T K B U D E V S X

branches
 clothes
 crowd
 disciples
 donkey
 excited
 followed
 Hosanna
 Jerusalem
 road
 shouted
 village



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A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection