

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY



What's the Point?

Today we recall the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and we hear again the story of the Passion. But as we stand in church waving our palms and reading our Mass books, we have to be aware that we are doing more than just re-reading a two thousand year old story. What point is there in simply remembering a sequence of events? There is only a point in remembering Jesus' Passion if it truly impacts on our twenty first century lives.

We don't need to have been around at the time to imagine how it must have felt to be a part of the crowd that greeted Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. We know what it's like to be swept along with a crowd. We know how we can be brave as part of a crowd... infallible even. We remember the crowd that supported Jesus so enthusiastically at the beginning of the week and how it mysteriously melted away by the end, to be replaced by a different crowd shouting for his crucifixion. Are we any better than those original supporters? Can we stand up for Jesus as individuals when the going gets tough?

We remember Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. We remember that it's a journey he made with no hint of compromise. How easy it would have been for Jesus to have bypassed Jerusalem altogether, but what would have been the point of that for us two thousand years on. There is no room in Christianity for compromise.

We remember the death of Jesus as a supreme act of love. Jesus taught that we were worth all that pain and suffering. Do we leave the church today simply to catch up with our Facebook accounts and enjoy our Sunday lunch, or do we consider how we should live our lives from this day on knowing that Jesus considered us worth his ultimate sacrifice?

Bitesize

"Moderation? It's mediocrity, fear, and confusion in disguise. It's the devil's dilemma. It's neither doing nor not doing. It's the wobbling compromise that makes no one happy. Moderation is for the bland, the apologetic, for the fence-sitters of the world afraid to take a stand. It's for those afraid to laugh or cry, for those afraid to live or die. Moderation...is lukewarm tea, the devil's own brew. "

~ Dan Millman, *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*

PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Useful links: Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

**PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY
 [Reg. Charity 278742]**

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9 APRIL 2017 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Sunday Masses – Page 176 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	Special Int.
Sunday	9.00 am	Int. Desmond Nolan
	11.00 am	Int. People of the Parish

Music for Sunday Masses - Setting: Dom Gregory Murray

Entry 6.00pm – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 230 – Ride on! Ride on in majesty ...

Offertory Hymn 229 – All glory, laud and honour ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11.00am – *Angelus (said)*; Hymn 237 – O sacred head ill-used ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: Saturday at 5.30pm, or on request / by appointment

Weekday Mass Times for HOLY WEEK

[Psalter Week 2]

Monday	10.00 am	Int. Paul Jacob
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Chrim Mass at the Cathedral, Norwich – Departing Dereham at 5.30pm
Wednesday	10.00 am	Donor's Int.
Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight.
Good Friday	10.30 am	Children's Stations of the Cross
	3.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord
Holy Saturday	11.00 am	Blessing of Polish Easter Baskets of food
	8.00 pm	EASTER VIGIL
Easter Sunday	9.00 am	Mass during the day
	11.00 am	Mass – Int. People of the Parish

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Anniversaries this week: Ted Clark, Tom Brady, Cyril Byrne, Brigid Mary Murphy, Daniel Creamer, Colin Nicholson, Eileen Wells and Christina Duffield. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King’s Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John’s Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Robert Nicol, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd, Ellen Flood, Margaret Leggett, Peter Brown, James Maxwell, and Pamela & Catherine Evans and Robert Anderson.

Money Matters – The collection for the maintenance of the parish last weekend amounted to £461.29. The collection during the Easter Masses is the traditional Easter Offering to the parish priest. Thank you. On Maundy Thursday, there is the annual collection for SVP and on Good Friday, there will be a collection for the maintenance of the Holy Places.

Alive in Faith. Thank you for your contributions to The Alive in Faith Programme. Thanks to your generosity the parish can now reclaim £4,851 for parish projects.

Diary Dates for this week –	
Mon. 10 Apr	AA Group meeting – 7.30pm-9.00pm in Emmaus Room
Tues. 11 Apr	Please note there is no Queen of Peace Prayer Group this week
Tues. 11 Apr	Coach departs from Sacred Heart at 5.30pm sharp for travel to Chrism Mass – 7.00pm at St John’s Cathedral, Norwich. .
Fri. 14 Apr	Good Friday – 10.30am Children’s Stations of the Cross
Fri. 14 Apr	Good Friday – Churches Together Walk of Witness – Assemble 12 noon in Queen Mother’s Garden
Sat. 15 Apr	Saturday Club is on Easter Holiday

Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence from meat.

Open Parish Meeting. Thank you to all who attended the meeting and to the ladies who provided us with lunch. This formula seems to work well for us. I sent a copy of the reports to Bishop Alan and in his reply to me he said: 'It is very good to see how vibrant the Dereham community is.'

Inviting ALL young people in Year 9 upwards to the Ignite Festival – April 29th to May 1st. Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. Held in **Swaffham**, the weekend will include live music, powerful talks, passionate prayer, interactive workshops and lots of time for sports and fun, including sumo suit wrestling! Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for

more information.

Diocese of East Anglia Pilgrimage – Monday 1st May 2017 – The Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic National Shrine, Walsingham – 12 noon Angelus in Friday Market; 3.00pm Pontifical Mass of Our Lady. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

East Africa Crisis Appeal - In the space of one week CAFOD supporters have raised an incredible £1 million for the East Africa Crisis Appeal, meaning that vital aid can reach the most vulnerable families. But the message still is that 16 million people across South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are in urgent need of food, following months of drought, in what is described as the worst humanitarian disaster since 1945. If you haven't already donated to this crisis appeal you can donate online at CAFOD, SCIAF, TROCAIRE, or Christian Aid.

News from our Rome Correspondent: “On 15th March myself and two other East Anglia students, along with eight other members of the Beda community, were instituted as acolytes by Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham; the archbishop had arrived at the college earlier that day in company with Bishop Terence Drainey of Middlesbrough and Bishop Michael Campbell of Lancaster for the annual visitation of the Beda by the episcopal conference of England and Wales. The occasion was made particularly special for us by the attendance of vicar general Fr David Bagstaff of East Anglia, representing Bishop Alan. The festive meal that followed, which event is always an opportunity for the kitchen staff to excel, was both memorable and a great testament to the generosity of the staff and student community, who work hard to emphasise to the new acolytes that they have indeed reached another important milestone in their formation for priesthood.

“The following morning I was out of bed just after 6am to serve the community mass as celebrated by Bishop Michael: thus I was first to have the opportunity to exercise the ministry of acolyte, and what a great privilege that was. In addition to serving at mass and acting as a minister of holy communion, acolytes at the Beda lead services of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament five evenings each week and also preside at Compline from the Divine Office, which prayer concludes the day here: this is good practice for what we all aspire to in working towards diaconal and priestly ordination. In the last week members of the community also assisted with the early morning Stations mass held at St Paul’s Basilica and celebrated by Cardinal Harvey, after which the congregation was invited back to the college for breakfast. Hospitality remains a high priority at the Beda, and friends and family who visit Rome are always welcome here.

“Please accept my prayers and good wishes for a blessed Eastertide. I will be back in the diocese in June, at which time I hope to see everyone and hear your own news; although I am delighted to be here, I do miss people and places, and very much look forward to my return. ~ Regards, Mike Brookes”