

## Gospel Reflection for Passion (Palm) Sunday



### What Good is Suffering?

The supermarkets have been filled with Easter eggs... and have been since Valentine's Day! As we go through the doors we can smell the tantalising smell of hot cross buns. Of course supermarkets are happy to skip straight from Christmas to Valentine's Day to Mother's Day and straight to Easter without anything in between. As Christians we know that Easter makes no sense without the suffering that precedes it.

Palm Sunday sets the scene for the week ahead. Today marks the start of an Easter pilgrimage that moves from the carnival style atmosphere of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, to the sombre events of Good Friday. But we have a human inclination at this time of year, to want to skip from Palm Sunday to the celebrations of Easter Sunday without dwelling too much on the uncomfortable events in between. We don't want to dwell on suffering. What good can it do?

Jesus on the other hand confronted suffering head on. He could have avoided going to Jerusalem, or at least kept his head down. Instead he chose to go there in a blaze of publicity. To side step his destiny would have been a compromise Jesus wasn't capable of making. To have by-passed Jerusalem would have meant stepping down from everything he stood for. And so because Jesus was committed to his destiny, we as Christians are committed to be a people who remember Jesus' Passion. To think of Easter only as a time when we rush round buying chocolate eggs and new clothes is to seriously compromise our commitment.

Remembering suffering is important. We commemorate suffering for all sorts of reasons. Human tragedies are remembered so that lessons can be learnt. The lives of martyrs are celebrated because they were not willing to compromise certain beliefs and as a result those beliefs have gained stature in our eyes. In remembering Our Lord's death, we learn that Jesus' mission to save each and every one of us was more important than life itself.

**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**

## PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY

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### 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

#### Weekend Masses – Page 176 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish	(Angelus)
Sunday	9.00 am	Francis Lynch	
	11.00 am	Sean Conway	(Angelus)

#### Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

#### Masses for the coming week – HOLY WEEK [Psalter Week 2]

Monday of Holy Week	---	No Mass today
Tuesday of Holy Week	10.00 am	
	7.30 pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group in Emmaus room
Wednesday of Holy Week	7.00 pm	<b>Chrism Mass at St John's Cathedral, Norwich</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross for children</b>
	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion</b>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 am &amp;</b>	<b>Mass of Easter</b>
	<b>11.00 am</b>	

**Anniversaries this week** - Patrick Malone, Margaret Hindle, Gladys Reeve, Rita Power, Vera Conway, Ricci White, Maria Santana, Stephanie Grange, Roger Borthwick, Edith Carter & Harold Chapman. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Money Matters** (*O yes, it does!*) – The collection last weekend was £426.94. Thank you. The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Land Shrines. The collection at the Easter Masses is the traditional offering to the parish priest.

**Chrim Mass** – We have booked a 33-seater coach to go to Norwich for the Chrim Mass on Wednesday. We will leave Dereham at 5.30 pm. The Chrim Mass will begin at 7.00 pm.

**Watching at the Altar of Repose** – Please put your name on the list for adoration at the Altar of Repose. Adoration ends at midnight.

**Good Friday** - Please note that Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

**Easter Cards** and other religious articles are available for purchase from the repository.

**Collection Envelopes** - Please note that envelopes for the weekly offertory collection will be on the table at the back of church for people to collect.

**Sound System** - The sound system in the Church is going to be updated and it has been noted that the back speakers have a quite loud mains hum. In the meantime, it would be helpful if those people with a hearing aid with a T switch could let me know what the sound is like for them at present.

**The Tablet** - This is the final week of the trial run of *The Tablet* in the parish. I think the best thing is for those who would like a copy to subscribe to it directly. If I start selling newspapers at the back of the church then there is the issue of keeping accounts and doing returns for unsold copies and being billed for them etc. If there are some people who would like to order their own copy, here are the contact details: you can order online at [thetablet.subscribeonline.co.uk](http://thetablet.subscribeonline.co.uk) - quoting promotion code 3006, or on the 'phone by calling 01795 414855, or write to: The Tablet Subscriptions PO Box 326, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 8FA (free postage in the UK).

### Easter Triduum

The term triduum means 'three days.' The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days 'tells' a

different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. We look at the Easter Triduum as a single celebration that lasts for three days. We cannot separate the death of Jesus from his resurrection. We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are called to church to gather and remember together.



### Maundy Thursday

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus instituted the sacrament of the Eucharist. We hear his admonition "Do this, in remembrance of me." And then we have the wonderful example of the service to which we are called when Jesus, who is Lord and master, takes a basin of water and washes the feet of his apostles ending with the words "What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do."

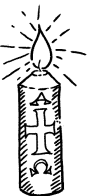


### Good Friday

On this afternoon we listen and remember how Jesus suffered and died for our sins. After the Passion we are reminded that there are many people in the world who need our prayers. Then a cross, the symbol of our salvation, is brought forward for us to venerate. This is our opportunity to humble ourselves before the awesome saving action of Christ. After veneration we participate in a simple reception of the Eucharist and then leave church again in silence to continue our prayer and fasting at home and to return on Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil.

### Holy Saturday

We wait for nightfall before gathering for this vigil service of light. The lighting of the fire and of the Easter candle go back to rites that long precede Christianity. The candle, carried with loving reverence and lyrically praised in word and song, is a sign of Christ 'the light of the world,' and celebrates the victory of light over darkness.



### Bite Size

*"The truth that many people never understand, until it is too late, is that the more you try to avoid suffering the more you suffer, because smaller and more insignificant things begin to torture you in proportion to your fear of being hurt."*

Thomas Merton