

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

Palm Sunday
Sunday March 24 2024

St. Mark 11:1-10

Jesus enters Jerusalem and the people greet him waving palm branches.

Isaiah 50:4-7

The true servant of God did not protect himself from death.

Phillipians 2:6-11

An early profession of faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus

St. Mark 14:1-15:47

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*'Hosanna to the
Son of David!
Blessings on
him who comes
in the name of
the Lord!
Hosanna in the
highest
heavens!'*



Today's Psalm
Psalm 21

*They have pierced my hands and feet, they
have numbered all my bones.*

These words always remind me of the *En Ego*, a favourite of my schoolmaster father, which was recited at the end of class. This vivid picture of the suffering Saviour was printed on my young imagination.

These were the hands which welcomed the children and blessed them. The hands whose touch cleansed the leper, opened the eyes of the blind and raised the dead. Hands that welcomed the sinner and broke bread with the outcast. Praying hands raised in adoration or joined in earnest pleading. Expressive hands adding pictures to the words of the preacher.

These were the feet beautiful with the good news brought from village to village. Feet directed in resolute pilgrimage towards Jerusalem.

Good hands and beautiful feet, now pierced with searing metal by sin's mad rejection of the light. Pinioned and closed in a futile attempt to ease pain.

The psalm we pray today anticipated scenes from the passion of Christ. Jesus cried out, *my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Picture all who mock him as they curl their lips, they toss their heads. Like dogs they surrounded him, baying for blood. His clothes are divided and there is a lottery for the seamless robe.

Yet the psalm is a prayer of confidence, leading unto praise. *O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me.* The awful scenes of the passion only serve as a dark backdrop to the awesome power of God in the resurrection.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

**"Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won."**

So begins Malcom Guite's sonnet 'Palm Sunday' (Sounding the Seasons, Canterbury Press, 2012), capturing the elation of the crowds that line the streets of Jerusalem to welcome Jesus. But their loyalty is short-lived, as we discover in our reading of the Passion. Jesus is soon deserted, betrayed, denied, and left to face humiliation and death alone.

**"Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune."**

We can all see ourselves in the Passion. There are times, when things are going smoothly, when it is easy to praise God and shout 'Hosanna!' There are days when we struggle, when we are confused or upset and do not know what God expects of us. We can even turn our backs on him when the going gets tough, or when we cannot find the courage to stand up for our beliefs. This week we are the disciples walking with Jesus, on a journey that leads to the cross, and beyond.

Triona Doherty

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Mass intentions w/c March 21 2024

Palm Sunday

8.30.am: Parishioners

10.30.am: Sean Toman

Mon: Weekday in Holy week

9.30.am: **Joseph k Hicks**

Tues: Weekday in Holy week

9.30am: Holy Souls

Wed: Weekday in Holy week

9.30am: World Peace

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)
Email stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Confessions
At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home
Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

**We pray for all the sick of the parish. including Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson;
Thomas Halligin;; Wiliam(Bill) Drinkwater.**

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday: 7.00.pm.

GoodFriday: Stations of the Cross: 12.,00 Noon

Pssion of the Lord 3.00.pm.

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil: 7.00pm.

Easter Day: . & 10.30.am.

In most Catholic parishes around the world, a Good Friday Collection will be taken up to aid Christian parishes and their outreaches in the Holy Land. This initiative has been an annual tradition in the Church since its institution by Blessed Pope Paul VI. According to Paul VI, the collection was created "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities."

The unforgettable faces of thousands of children and teens, fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and Iraq, continue to challenge us. The small Christian presence in the Middle East has great need of the support and attention of the entire Church.

"Let God's promises shine on your problems."(Ten Boom)