

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

Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord
April 10th 2022

Readings & Prayers p. 190

Isaiah 50: 4 - 7

Describes someone putting up with a lot of suffering. Our tradition teaches us that these lines apply to Jesus.

Philippians 2: 6 - 11

An ancient hymn about Christ, which tells us that Jesus achieved glory through suffering.

St. Luke 22: 14 - 23: 56

The prophecies that the Messiah should suffer are fulfilled.

Blessed is
he who is
coming as
King in
the name
of the
Lord!



We know where Jesus is going to end up, and Jesus knows it too. At the beginning of today's Mass, we hear of Jesus' spectacular entry into Jerusalem. The crowds who greet him cry out and praise God – the King has come! It is similar to how victorious army generals were welcomed home. These people have set their hopes on Jesus. They are waiting for a Messiah and King, and have heard so much about this preacher – is he the one they've been waiting for?

But Jesus is not the hero they've been expecting. He has not come to raise up an army or become a great political leader. Quite the opposite: Jesus has come to Jerusalem to die. The story takes a dark and dramatic turn, and we are plunged into a tale of arrest, trial, torture and death. Before long, the crowds are shouting 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' and taunting him on the cross to 'save himself if he is the Christ of God'. Jesus' triumphant entrance into the city is also his entry into his betrayal, suffering, and death.

We play our part in the unfolding drama today, as we first hold up our palm branches and later join the crowds condemning Jesus. In his Palm Sunday homily to young people last year, Pope Francis said the changing reactions of the crowds 'expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love, but also for great hatred; the capacity for courageous self-sacrifice, but also the ability to 'wash our hands'.

Today we place ourselves in the Passion of Jesus, and we look to the Cross as our consolation and our challenge.
Triona Doherty

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.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c April 10 2022

Sun: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8.30.am. **Parishioners**

10.30.am. **Matthew Kemm**

Mon: Monday in Holy Week

9.30.am.

Tues: No Mass Today

Wed: Wednesday in Holy Week

9.30.am: Kevin and Sheila Gorman

Thurs: Holy Thursday

7.00.pm. Sid Belcher

Fri: Good Friday

12.00.pm. **Stations of the Cross**

3.00.pm. **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

Sat: Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil

7.00.pm. **The Hart Family**

Sun: Easter Sunday

10.30.am. **Your Easter Intentions**

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

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.

Cemetery

All visitors are asked to help keep the Cemetery tidy and to use the appropriate waste bins.

Mass Intentions received upto 10/04 2022

Gwenda Hayhurst; Matthew Kemm.

We pray for all the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; and Catherine Thompson; and Maureen Beardsworth

Refreshments are available after 10.30 Mass today.

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 East Triduum as one 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. Because the Triduum tells an ongoing story, try if you can to make all the Services.

Holy Places Collection (Good Friday) Support Christians in the Holy Land 100% of donations taken up by the Good Friday Collection support Christians in the Holy Land. The continued existence of programs that support Christians in the Holy Land depends on the faithful financial support received from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your donation helps maintain the holiest of shrines and provides charitable activities for the poorest of people in that area. Holy Land Franciscans also provide education to children, run parishes and provide liturgical, ecumenical and communications programs. It is because of you that a Christian presence exists in the Holy Land.

The Real Easter Egg New for 2022, the Original Real Easter Egg includes a new free 24 page Easter story activity book with a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. The book also contains a competition with a prize worth £200. Spot the Real Easter Egg in your supermarket and support Fairtrade.

“Everyone must choose one of two pains: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret.”

(Jim Rohn)