

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 10th April 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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Passion: Luke 22:14-23:56

'The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ'

Mass book (P. 184)

Gospel:

Luke 19:28-40

1st Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 21:8-9:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

2nd Reading:

Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 197)

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

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The readings for Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) tell of the death of Jesus Christ, who showed us the true meaning of love and the nature of God. The reading for the procession of the palms recounts how Jesus was greeted by crowds while entering Jerusalem.

The first reading tells how we will be saved by a servant. The psalm was quoted by Jesus from the cross. The second reading speaks of the how Jesus was obedient to the Father. And in the Gospel, we remember how Jesus suffered and died for each of us, so that we could know life.

On this day the Christian community begins to re-enact a very important phase of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We re-enact the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem as well as his passion. Hence today's celebration reminds us of the dual nature of our Christian lives and journey. We are celebrated today and persecuted tomorrow. Today we are loved while the next day we are hated. Today we are praised and castigated the next day.

A very important lesson we must learn from all these is that, as life unfolds it presents us with its different dimensions. The same people who sing our praise in good times might be the same people to castigate us in future. Today, the same people applauding Christ by singing: "Hosanna to the son of David," might equally be the same people to shout: "Crucify him!" This is the mystery and dialectics of life. It is a mystery because at times understanding it is beyond our imagination. It is dialectical because these two aspects of life help us to understand who we truly are, and what we mean to people.



Please familiarise yourselves with the location of the fire exits, extinguishers, and assembly points at this church.

Today, we prepare for Holy Week. Jesus is King and we choose to follow him. We follow him this week, step by step, from the gates of Jerusalem to the Upper Room, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Praetorium, to Calvary and then to the tomb and His glorious resurrection from the dead. We emerge from the desert of penance and fasting, ready to accompany Our Lord on His final journey on the difficult and narrow way of the Cross, sure in the knowledge of His final victory over death and the obtaining of our eternal salvation.

Deacon Des

Holy Week 2022

With our celebration of Palm Sunday, we enter into Holy Week and are invited to share with our Lord in HIS Holy Week. We do not celebrate the events of Holy Week simply as historical events of long ago. Far from it, they are living realities which touch the hearts and lives of all who put their trust in Jesus.

May I take this opportunity of urging you to think carefully about your own celebration of the three Great Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil – and Easter. Resolve now to come and share in the events that brought us salvation. Only by observing Holy Week fully will the celebration of Easter truly touch our hearts and lives. Please, do not let this opportunity, this great gift, pass you by.

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem, a city full of anticipation for the long-awaited Messiah. Israel had been under Roman occupation for some time and so the people expected that God would send the Messiah to get rid of an oppressive regime.

No wonder they went wild when Jesus entered the city, waving palm branches, throwing clothes on the ground to act as a carpet and greeting him with cries of "Hosanna!" And yet within days these cries of Hosanna were replaced with "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

In the dramatic liturgy on Palm Sunday, we are given palm leaves, then the Gospel is read, before we all process into church with cries of Hosanna. In so doing we act the part of the people of Jerusalem. Later on in the liturgy, in the reading of the Passion, we are again invited to be those same people who want to condemn Jesus to death simply because he didn't fit their preconceived image of what God's Messiah would really be like.

The teaching of Jesus is quite clear that each human being is made in the image of God and is, therefore, to be loved and accepted just as we are accepted and loved by Jesus. A few days later Jesus proves how much he loves us by opening his arms and by dying for us on the cross.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Holy Thursday, also known as Maundy Thursday, gets its name from the Latin word 'mandatum', meaning commandment. It was at the Lord's last supper that he said to his disciples "I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you". It is also the start of the Easter Triduum, consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

There are several acts at this Mass that you should take note of. During the Gloria the bells are rung, they will then not be rung again until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

The Washing of Feet; after hearing the Gospel of when Jesus washes the feet of his 12 disciples the priest does this very same act to 12 parishioners. Jesus showed great humility washing the feet of those who were his friends and most faithful followers and in doing this demonstrated the importance to serve rather than be served. (if you don't mind having your feet washed by Fr Lee, please sign up for this on the sheet in the entrance to Church).



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Celebration of the Eucharist; this, like in all Masses recreates the moment Jesus turns bread and wine into his body and blood at the Last Supper. After Communion any remaining consecrated hosts are taken to the Altar of Repose in a procession where the Priest will be wearing the Humeral Veil. This represents the time Jesus spent in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before his crucifixion. The congregation can remain in the church until Midnight sitting in the presence of our Lord or leave in silence. The Altar is then stripped of all its cloths, and the Church remains bare.

GOOD FRIDAY

Today we remember God's love for the world when He gave His only Son Jesus Christ up to death, death on a Cross. The Liturgies of this day leaves us with many more questions than answers: Good Friday or Bad Friday? Why was there a 'good thief and bad thief' either side of Jesus on the cross? Why death by Crucifixion? My God, my God why have you deserted me?' – what did Jesus mean by this? Why is Mass not celebrated on Good Friday? What part do we have to play in the Veneration of the Cross today? Why not come along and seek the answers to these questions?

HOLY SATURDAY

We start the Liturgy not in Church but outside with the lighting of a fire, which is blessed by the priest and then the Liturgy of blessing the Easter (Paschal) Candle which is then lit from the new fire. This lit candle represents the Risen Christ whose light shines out in a world of darkness. The candle is processed into Church by the priest followed by the people who share in this light as the light from the Paschal candle is passed back to them once in Church. The candle is placed by the Ambo where the readings are read and is blessed and has an ancient hymn sung by Deacon Des right by the Candle (The Exultet). Then a number of readings are read, and psalms sung; these chart our salvation history from the garden of Eden to Jesus resurrection from the dead. All the lights are then lit, and our Mass of Easter Day begins with the Gloria. During this Mass we all renew our baptismal promises. The Mass then continues in Easter Joy.

The times of the Liturgies for each day this week are printed on the back of this newsletter. Everyone is welcome to attend these liturgies, including The Office of Readings and morning prayer that are said publicly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. Booklets for these will be provided. Do please be in Church to celebrate the events of our Salvation.

Fr Lee

Parish News

13th April 2022: Please note there will be no Mass on Wednesday 13^h April. Thank you.

Maundy Thursday 14th April: If you would like to take part in the Mandatum (washing of feet) during the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper do please sign up on the sheet located in the foyer.

Private Prayer: The church will not be open for private prayer this week. Thank you.

Baptism Course: Forthcoming dates are, 11th May, 15th June and 24th July; all on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Sacrament of Marriage: People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Fr. Lee / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Visions Group: The Visions Group would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel for details.



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Mass Times and Intentions

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR C		
Saturday 9 th April	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 10 th April	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	T. Aldridge 40 Years as Eucharistic Minister at St Theresa John O'Donnell R.I.P. (S&K McDowall)
Monday 11 th April <i>Fig Monday</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 12 th April <i>Temple Tuesday</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Christopher Barker (L. Barker)
Wednesday 13 th April <i>Spy Wednesday</i>	No Mass Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral: 11:00 a.m.	
EASTER TRIDUUM		
Thursday 14 th April <i>Maunday Thursday</i>	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 9:30 a.m. Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Dauta Kowalska R.I.P. (E. Moser)
Friday 15 th April <i>Good Friday</i>	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross: 10:30 a.m. Liturgy of The Lords Passion: 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross – Maria Desolata: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
HOLY SATURDAY		
Saturday 16 th April	Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 9:30 a.m.	
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD		
Saturday 16 th April	Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 17 th April	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Anita Horton R.I.P. (Dave & Bernadette) People of the Parish



PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF IT RESPONSIBLY. THANK YOU.



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