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*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.*

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YR A**

**4TH & 5TH APRIL,  
2020**

### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense



of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence

rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.



### Gospel Focus – Uniquely Matthew

*The passion narrative in the gospel of Matthew follows the gospel of Mark very closely. However, unlike in other sections of the gospel the Matthew writer has not just inserted sections from the Mark account. Rather, the material is reworked and given a unique Matthean 'flavour'. In addition, the Matthew account includes five events that are not found in the Mark account: Judas hanging himself (27:3-10); Pilate's wife's dream (27:19); Pilate's washing his hands (27:24-25); extraordinary events at the time of Jesus' death (27:51b-53); sealing and guarding the tomb (28:62-66).*

### WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration  
have been suspended  
until further notice.**

**Fr Chris is PRIVATELY  
celebrating Mass each day  
and will continue to pray  
for all parishioners.**

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Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive  
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Postal: PO Box 21  
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Fax: 4729 2989

Email: [parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au)

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

### PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -  
Parish Priest

[Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org](mailto:Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org)  
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers  
- [owen.rogers7@bigpond.com](mailto:owen.rogers7@bigpond.com)

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary  
- [mc@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:mc@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support  
- [sw@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:sw@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament  
Support

### SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200  
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900  
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

# The Living Word

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord A, Year A**

**5 April 2020**

## THE PROCESSION

### **Gospel Mt 21:1-11**

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.'

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

## THE MASS

### **First Reading**

**Is 50:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

***I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.***

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2**

***(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?***

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**

Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**

They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**

I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**Phil 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

***He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.***

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he 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 other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Phil 2:8-9**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **Gospel Mt 27:11-54**

#### **Shorter form**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

*(continued on next page)*

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### *Lowly Prince of Peace*

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.



***This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children.***

***The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.***

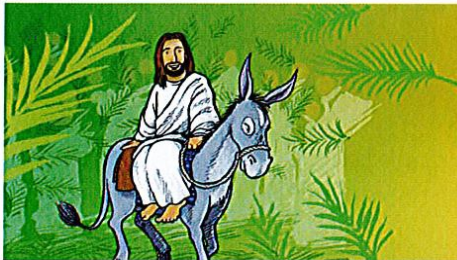
- ♦ Who are the people who love you?
- ♦ What special things do they do for you?
- ♦ Jesus suffered and died because he loved us.
- ♦ How can we show God's love to others?
- ♦ Today is the beginning of a special week of celebrations.
- ♦ How can we participate in Holy Week?

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# Hosanna!



**Passion Sunday, Year A**

Fill in the details of the events of Holy Week.

## PASSION SUNDAY

Write down what you know about the procession of palms.

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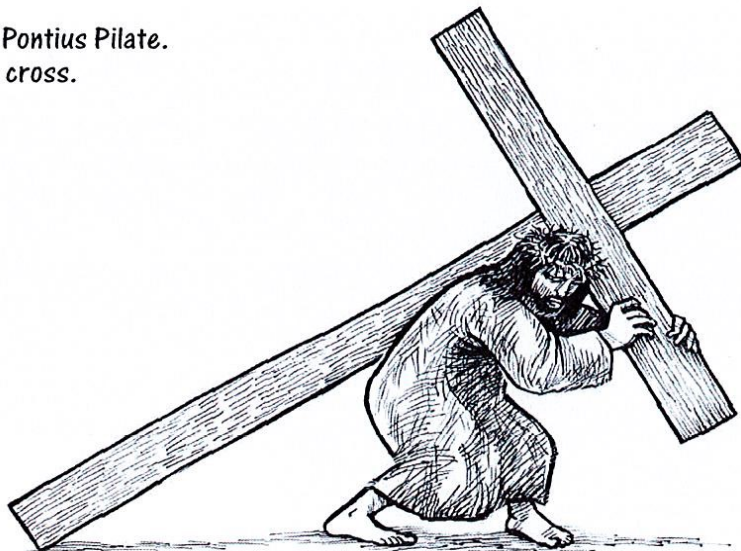


## HOLY THURSDAY

Draw Jesus and his disciples at the last supper.

## GOOD FRIDAY

Draw Jesus standing trial before Pontius Pilate. Then colour in Jesus carrying his cross.



## HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday is a quiet time when we reflect on the death of Jesus.

How do you think Jesus' friends and family were feeling on that day?

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## Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you. Alternatively, you may contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

## Project Compassion

Please call Caritas directly on 1800 024 413 or visit <https://lent.caritas.org.au/> for information on how to return your Project Compassion boxes or to make a credit card donation.

Or, if you prefer, you can hold on to your Project Compassion boxes until after Easter, at which time the Diocese will advise how the donations can be collected.

## Palm Sunday Mass

**YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH A LIVESTREAM OF PALM SUNDAY MASS WITH BISHOP VINCENT.**

**THE PRIVATE MASS STARTS 10AM ON SUNDAY 5TH APRIL, PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD.**

Watch the Mass live: **YouTube** ([www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese](https://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese)) & **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/parracatholic](https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic)).

## PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
ST BERNADETTE'S CHURCH	Castle Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live @ 7am/7pm and 12pm Angelus <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Castlehillparish/photos/a.943697955789478/1556450387847562/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/Castlehillparish/photos/a.943697955789478/1556450387847562/?type=3&amp;theater</a>
PADRE PIO PARISH CHURCH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223">https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223</a>
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH	Granville East Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA</a> ) example - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0</a>
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	Granville Parish	Recording and then posting onto Parish YouTube channel ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc-5ODOaRZE0yprZwqatAeA</a> ) example - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8ShYXiOoB0</a>
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLijp15JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLijp15JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured</a>
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE CHURCH	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/">https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/</a>
ST MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA</a>
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/">https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/</a>
THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/">https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/">https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/</a>
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH	Rouse Hill Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live <a href="https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/">https://www.facebook.com/150713848317487/videos/835921950226114/</a>
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/">https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/</a>
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/">https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/</a>



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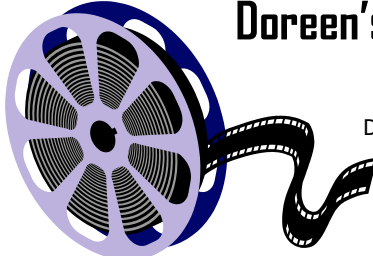
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