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PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD - YR B

27TH & 28TH MARCH, 2021

WEARING OF MASKS FOR MASS

In consideration of your safety and the safety of others, it is strongly recommended that you wear a mask during all Masses.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern.

We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL 5PM & 6PM

& SUNDAY 7.30AM, 8.30AM & 9.30AM

You are now invited to attend Mass every week at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

If you need to change your allocated time, please phone Fr Chris.

ALL RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD AT PLACES OF WORSHIP ADHERE TO THE 2 SQUARE METRE RULE AND AS SUCH WE HAVE A LIMIT OF 120 PEOPLE.

Online Masses are still available so if you are feeling unwell or you are advised not to attend Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.

***PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN IN

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact Fr Chris on his mobile 0415 505 594 to make an appointment.

DUE TO COVID-19, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS PER MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH IS

120

PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.



As per government regulations, please observe the 2 square metre rule.

Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances for use upon entering and exiting the Church.



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

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Email: parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm
(Tuesday & Thursday)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- 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)

Parish News

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL

NOT BE MASS

NEXT WEDNESDAY 31ST MARCH (6PM) AND

NEXT THURSDAY 1ST APRIL (9.10AM).

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Thursday 1st April - 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

A beautiful celebration of the origins of our Eucharist.

Friday 2nd April - 10.00am

The Stations of the Cross

(in school grounds)

Friday 2nd April - 3.00pm

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This moving ceremony honours the
great sacrifice of Christ.

(in school grounds - BYO Chairs)

Saturday 3rd April - 7.00pm

(Note not 5.00pm & 6.00pm)

The Easter Vigil

This is the highlight of the Church year when we
celebrate the greatest hope ever given to humanity.

Sunday 4th April -

7.30am, 8.30am & 9.30am

Masses of Easter Morning

A continuation of the celebration of resurrection when
the new Easter light and Easter water of Baptism

Ministry Roster for Easter Liturgies

If you are able to assist in the ministries of Acolyte, Reader, Commentator and Data Operator for the Easter Liturgies, please put your name on the list in the foyer.

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Good Friday Stations of the Cross



This year the Stations of the Cross [at 10am](#) on Good Friday will once again be a pilgrimage with Jesus around the school grounds let by Corpus Christi 2749, our Youth Group.

Although we will be moving from station to station around the school, seating will be available for those who are unable to walk or stand

for the duration.

Anyone in Year 6 to Year 12 who would like to join our Youth Group in leading the Stations is welcome.

WE WILL BE HOLDING A REHEARSAL

[THIS SATURDAY, 27TH MARCH AT 9:30AM.](#)

Please contact Denise Caffrey on [0409 558 553](#) if you would like more information.

Good Friday Adoration/Vigil at the Tomb for all Parishioners

All members of the Parish are invited to join our Youth Group as they lead a reflection of The Passion in the church [at 7:30pm](#).

This will be followed by Adoration in the Chapel.

The Chapel will be available for individual Adoration by candlelight [from 7:45pm - 8:45pm](#).

This is a wonderful time to reflect on the readings of the Passion and to prepare for the joyful resurrection to come.

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Bishop Vincent's Pastoral Letter on Holy Week 2021

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the people of Parramatta on the coronavirus and Holy Week 2021.

The letter can be read here: shorturl.at/flvQ4



**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
28th March 2021**



For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, supporting vulnerable communities before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and crises – making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Parish News

Easter Parish Working Bee for Front Gardens

THIS SATURDAY 27TH MARCH
FROM 8.30AM – 1PM



Please bring your own brooms, rakes and weeding equipment.

Many hands make light work.

Planned Giving Envelopes

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PLEASE COLLECT YOUR NEW**

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FROM THE FOYER.

If you are:

- ◇ contributing to the Planned Giving Programme by way of credit card and your details have changed;
 - ◇ or contributing to the Planned Giving Programme via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
 - ◇ or if you would like to join the Planned Giving Programme,
- please contact Marie at the Parish Office.

The Net:

If you know of anyone who is not receiving The Net via email and they would like to, please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

Parish Office Hours

**The Parish Office is now open on
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3.30pm.**

First Communion and Confirmation Photos

There are still First Communion and Confirmation photos from last year (2020) that have not been collected. If your child received either of these sacraments last year and you haven't yet done so, please pick up the photos from the Parish Office during office hours.

Chrism Mass



Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Chrism Mass is only open for clergy and those allocated to collect oils.

The Mass will be live streamed by the Diocesan YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese>) on Wednesday 31st March at 7.30pm.

Friday Communion Service

AS FROM FRIDAY 19TH MARCH THERE WILL
NO LONGER BE A MORNING MASS.
DEACON OWEN WILL LEAD A COMMUNION SERVICE
EVERY FRIDAY AT 9.10AM.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Recently Deceased:

Bishop Bede Heather, Fr Mick O'Callaghan, Sam Vassallo (*brother of Rita Vella*)

Mass Intentions:

Maria Aquilina, Josephine Portelli, Margaret & James Vella

Anniversaries:

Mario Vella (16/03/06)

And for those who are sick:

Kevin & Mary O'Connor, Robyn Toose, Pauline Rugg



Palm Sunday

On this day of great rejoicing,
Lord Jesus Christ, when we welcome
You as our King and Saviour,
we also walk in the shadow of Your cross.

Hosanna! we cry.

Blessed are You who come
in God's name to save us.

Hosanna!

Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday

so that when the time comes
to carry the cross we might still
call out to You with heartfelt praise.

Give us the grace and the courage
to follow You this Holy Week
from death to resurrection,
from darkness to the fullness of light.

We need You,

Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Hosanna!



The Living Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

28th March 2021

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians **(Phil 2:6-11)**

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

Mk 15:1-39

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Women and War

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.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In this final Lenten Sunday, we see that we have been saved through the kenotic (partial renunciation of divine nature) humility of Jesus, not through military power. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted criminal, and there endured the sense of abandonment. However, this saviour was later lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives.

Jesus became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. He was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. The passion recounts the extent to which he willingly offered himself. 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 are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with him 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 seems to hold 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 us.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

Intention for evangelization -

Sacrament of reconciliation



Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why is the detailed retelling of this Passion narrative such an important part of the Christian tradition?
- * What emotions might Jesus have been feeling when he prayed at Gethsemane?
- * What message was conveyed to humankind by Jesus' death?
- * What is significant about the group of people who were with Jesus at the very end of his life?
- * What 'moment' of the story can you identify with and apply to your own life?

Questions for Adults

- * Why is it important that we continue to 'tell the story' of the Passion?
- * Which elements of this Passion narrative are challenging / confronting / surprising?
- * Can you find examples of how the writing style of this gospel enhances the drama of the story?
- * Which films or artworks depicting the Passion have you found to be inspiring?
- * How does Christ's Passion story reflect the reality of human existence?

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?
- * Who are people who are in need or in pain?
- * How can we show God's love to these people?
- * Today is the beginning of a special week of celebrations.
- * How can we participate in Holy Week?



Hosanna! Hosanna!

Passion Sunday, Year B

Draw or write what happened on each of these special days during Holy Week.



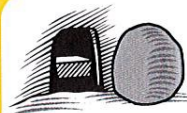
Passion Sunday



Holy Thursday

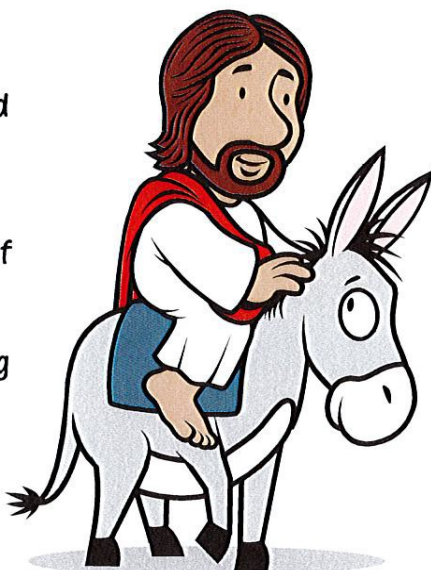


Good Friday



Easter Sunday

A crowd of people came to see Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Draw yourself amongst a crowd of people waving palm fronds at Jesus.



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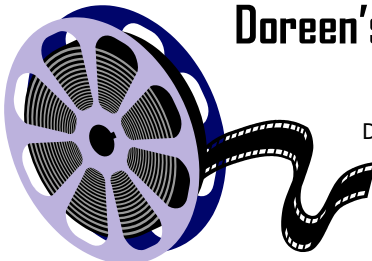
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Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL

Bishop of Parramatta

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☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ bishop@parracatholic.org

🌐 parracatholic.org

Pastoral letter to the people of Parramatta on the coronavirus and Holy Week 2021

My dear brothers and sisters,

As we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery and the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I write to update you on the situation regarding COVID restrictions affecting our parishes and faith communities during Holy Week.

As we are a community of faith, and despite the restrictions on attending Mass, I encourage you, where possible, to attend your local Mass and as much as possible, celebrate the Easter season.

With sensible precautions that are increasingly being scaled back, we can once again come together as a faith community. Fortunately for the people of New South Wales, we can practice our faith with greater freedom than most of the country and indeed the world. This has been due to taking sensible and responsible steps to mitigate the risks associated with COVID.

As the Government restrictions change, the Diocese of Parramatta will endeavour to notify you of these changes and how they affect your faith communities. We continue working with NSW Health and government agencies to best manage the affects of COVID on our communities.

My 20 March 2020 decree (in accordance with Canons 85 and 87) that Catholics are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligations (Canon 1247) will remain in place. I will await the advice of health experts before rescinding this decree.

Masses and religious gatherings will, for now and until we receive updated advice from health authorities, remain capped only by the 2 square metre rule. Parishes need the COVID-19 Safety Plan in place to manage all Masses and parish events. Parishes may also be subject to spot audits by public health officials to ensure compliance with the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Restrictions on singing during Masses have eased slightly. Singing remains a critical part of our liturgical celebrations. Congregational singing can occur and is indeed encouraged. Where possible, liturgies should feature singing and a musical component.

Outdoor Masses are still subject to the 2 square metre rule. Congregational singing can be held indoors, if the Parish chooses, and is instead subject to the 4 square metre rather than 2 square metre rule. Masks will be mandatory in this instance. Up to 30 singers/performers will be permitted to sing indoors. The instructions received are that the choir should be facing forward, 1.5 metres apart and located at least 5 metres from the congregation. There is currently no maximum cap for outdoor singing by the choir. However, the same distancing rules apply to outdoor singing as indoor singing.

Parish events, like morning teas, can be held. The same restrictions apply, and buffet food distribution should be avoided. Masks and gloves are mandatory for those preparing food.

Though the annual Catholic Youth Parramatta Palm Sunday procession in Parramatta has been cancelled, Palm Sunday should be celebrated in your local parishes.

On Maundy Thursday, the washing of the feet is optional. You may decide to halve the number of people. Precautions should be taken like using fresh towels between each person.

The veneration of the cross on Good Friday can be done by bowing to the cross. Only the priest is to kiss the cross. For now, parishioners are not able to touch the cross.

Some parishes and chaplaincies have also requested permission to duplicate some of the Holy Week ceremonies to accommodate greater attendance. It is my view that such a decision be taken at the local level, but it might also be necessary to implement some booking system to balance out numbers.

In the event that restrictions are eased on faith communities before Holy Week you will be advised accordingly from the Chancery.

I thank you for your love and commitment to each other and our Church. May you all have a holy and blessed Easter.

Yours in Christ the Redeemer,

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Vincent Long Van Nguyen".

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 19 March 2021
Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary