



Palm Sunday & Holy Week

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Joe O'Shea

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Office Hours: Monday 10am – 4.30pm

*The Holy Scriptures
are our letters
from home*



Holy Week, 4th – 12th April 2020

Newsletter, Prayers & Reflections

● Corona Virus Crisis:

PUBLIC liturgies, including celebrations of the Mass, are suspended until further notice. Please check the Melbourne website for information about Mass online <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and other helpful information about COVID-19: www.cam.org.au/coronavirus

NOTE: The Sunday Obligation of the Faithful will not apply during this time of suspension.

● **Holy Week Ceremonies:** All public ceremonies in the church are suspended. Fr Joe alone will celebrate abbreviated forms of the ceremonies. Leaflets will be available for families to **celebrate Holy Week at Home** OR you can access these on our website <http://perpetualhelp.org.au> under Mass Times and Newsletters.

Blessed Palms and Easter Water will be available once the COVID-19 Crisis is over.

● **Masses Privately etc:** Fr Joe will continue to say Masses privately through this time of suspension of Public Masses. Private Home Masses are **no longer allowed**. Mass Online is available for people to join together in spiritual communion. Details are available at cam.org.au Communion to the sick and homebound is no longer allowed. A **priest only** can take Communion to a dying person, i.e. administer Viaticum.

● **Reconciliation & Anointing:** These Sacraments are available on a one to one basis. Contact Fr Joe to arrange a time and place if you require these Sacraments. In an Emergency Fr Joe may be contacted as above on ☎ (03) 9401 6314 or ☎ (03) 9401 6313

● **Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals:** Baptisms are to be postponed unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. Weddings are to be postponed where possible. If baptisms or weddings meet these criteria, only 5 persons may gather. Funerals can be celebrated if urgent with 10 or less persons. In all circumstances, health guidelines are to be adhered to. ✍ Archbishop Peter Comensoli

● **Support Your Parish:** We need to continue to support our Parish while we have no collections at Masses. Those who use sacrificial giving envelopes might consider dropping their envelopes off at the Parish Office (in the box by the presbytery door) or preferably making a direct deposit payment through your bank to:

1st Collection (Fr Joe) - OLPD Dromana Presbytery Account BSB 083 347 Acc No: 904378858

2nd Collection Dromana OLPD Church Account BSB 083 347 Acc No: 650781814

Please include your name or envelope number (if you have one) as the reference. All donations will be graciously received. We need finance to continue to pay the bills of our Parish. ✍ Fr Joe

● **Keep in Touch:** See our website: <http://perpetualhelp.org.au>

FAMILY PRAYER at HOME – Palm Sunday

Take a green branch from your garden. Gather the family together and, with each person holding a branch: +

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: During Lent, we have been preparing our hearts to celebrate Easter. Today we join Christ as he enters Jerusalem. In the coming days, we will relive the mystery of his death and resurrection. By joining ourselves to Christ, God's grace will lift us up and rescue us.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they were near Jerusalem, the disciples brought a donkey to Jesus and laid their clothes on its back. Jesus sat on the donkey. A great crowd spread their clothes on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who were following were crying out: 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, the whole city was in turmoil as people asked, 'Who is this?' and the crowds answered, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'



➤ **FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7**

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

➤ **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 21**

℟ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1/ 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.' ℟

2/ 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. ℟

3/ 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! ℟

4/ 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.' ℟

➤ **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11**

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

➤ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

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: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66** use Lectio Divina on p3 for reflection on the Gospel



CONCLUDING PRAYER at HOME – Palm Sunday

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Lord, increase the faith of your people and listen to our prayers. Today we honour Christ our triumphant king by carrying these branches. May we honour you every day by living always in him, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen. Our Father ...

Leader: May God bless us and keep us safe. +

Please pray for those who are sick especially:

Carl Rooney (Fr Joe's nephew), Raelene Watt, John Coughlin, Mike Henry, Denise Vidoni, Mark Burns, Jenny Brewer, Hank Morris, and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.

(Because we respect your privacy – For people to be named on the list of the prayers for the sick: their names must first be submitted on an AUTHORIZATION FORM available in the church foyer or from the Parish Office.)

Please pray for those who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, and for all who have died. May they rest in peace.

St Joseph, Protector of the Church, pray for us.

● **Sell Raffle Tickets:** We still have 80 Books of Tickets to sell. If we do not sell them, we will not recoup the costs to the Parish for participating in this Raffle. So, buy a ticket or take Books of Tickets to sell. See Fr Joe for tickets or the Parish office during office hours as above. Ticket butts can and should be returned to the Parish office or the drop-off box beside the presbytery door ASAP. We need to make this Raffle a fundraiser for our Parish !! ✍ Fr Joe

Readings of next Sunday:

Easter Sunday, Yr A

1st Reading: Acts 10: 34. 37-43

Resp. Psalm: Ps 117: 1-2. 16-17. 22-23

2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

WORD of God – are we Listening better ?

→ Use these notes to pray through **Lectio Divina**

on the text of this Sunday's Gospel – the Lord's Passion:

Lectio: Jesus has completed his preaching, teaching and miracles. Mary Magdalene has just anointed Jesus with precious oil over his head (as part of his funeral care). He now remains passive as the forces of evil try to overcome him and the way of love he had preached – his Passion.

Read: **Matthew 26:14 -27:66** or **Shorter version:**

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and he questioned him, '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. ... Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that the crowds had handed him over. ...

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas (a notorious prisoner) 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.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them to the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round 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 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 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 to 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.

Pause for a moment

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 bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after the 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.'

Meditatio: How do I react when people tell lies about me? Have I let crowd pressure over-ride my good choices? Have I stood by as people made fun of Jesus or of my faith in Jesus? How much love Jesus must have for me!? Jesus died for my salvation, am I up to the challenges of saving lives in these times of crisis? Is my faith in Jesus growing stronger?

Oratio: Pray for calm in this time of crisis. Pray for all who are stressed especially those who have lost their jobs. Pray for those governing us. Pray for health care providers. Pray for hope that through our crosses will come resurrection. Pray for medical researchers. Pray for police and soldiers.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Make time for Prayer & Reflection in your home this Holy Week. ✍ Fr Joe

Coming Events in 2020

- **NO Masses & Services** during Covid-19 Crisis
- Holy Wk, Easter Sunday – **Pray at Home**



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