

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY
Week Beginning: 24th March 2024
Prayer Week: Holy Week

www.diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 24th March <i>Passion Sunday</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 25th March	10:00am	Monica & Tom Ashton	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 26th March	10.00am	Percy & Paddy Emm	St Joseph's school
Wednesday 27th March	7.00pm	Ian Joseph Mc Aleer	Holy Rosary
Thursday 28th March <i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	7.00pm	Parishioners	St John's
Friday 29th March <i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>	3.00pm	The Lord's Passion	Holy Rosary
Saturday 30th March <i>Holy Saturday (Vigil)</i>	8.00pm	Welfare of Rose Wall	St John's
Sunday 31st March <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick and everyone who is ill:

Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Faustina Morgan, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, Sheila Holmes, Michael Bickers,

Lately Dead-

HOLY WEEK

Through the Readings, Prayers, the Liturgy of the Church, we are invited to accompany Our Lord in this holiest of weeks as we commemorate and celebrate his dying and rising for us.

Palm Sunday- palms blessed and distributed

Maundy Thursday- Mass 7pm, St John's
Watching at Altar of Repose until 10pm

Good Friday- Children's Stations of the Cross, Holy Rosary 10.15am
-Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Holy Rosary 3pm

Holy Saturday- Vigil, St John's, 8pm

Easter Sunday- Mass 10am Holy Rosary

Cafod coffee morning in The Medway next Sunday, 7th April, after Mass.

GIFT AID

A reminder to all currently signed up to the Gift Aid scheme- Please check you are paying sufficient income tax to cover the amount we claim from HMRC. Please advise us of any change of name or address. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can contact the number below. Forms for anyone wishing to start donating to the Parish by bank standing order are available at the back of church. New planned giving envelopes will be available in March, however if you wish to change over to standing order please make contact ASAP. All contributions made by each method are gratefully received and details are treated with utmost confidentiality. For more information, please contact Caroline Kelly 07899788760

Friendship Group- Pie & Pea Supper. Monday March 25th, 6.30pm
Catholic Club. Tickets (£5) available after Mass

Confessions Monday morning after Mass
Wednesday 6.00-6.45pm

400 Club: February Draw- £100 (82) C. McGee/ £100 (435) J. Buckton
£50 (161) D. Greenan/ £50 (334) A. Jacques

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest

PSALM GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem,
to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately as you enter it
you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat;
untie it and bring it.

If any one says to you,
"Why are you doing this?" say,
"The Lord has need of it
and will send it back here immediately."

And they went away,
and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street;
and they untied it.

And those who stood there said to them,
'What are you doing, untying the colt?'

And they told them what Jesus had said;
and they let them go.

And they brought the colt to Jesus,
and threw their garments on it;
and he sat upon it.

And many spread their garments on the road,
and others spread leafy branches
which they had cut from the fields.

And those who went before
and those who followed cried out,
'Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!
Hosanna in the highest!

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

50:4-7

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Mt 21:9

PSALM

Ps. 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R.v2

R) My God, my God, why have you forsaken 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

2:6-11

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

**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.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

THE PASSION

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 26:42

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

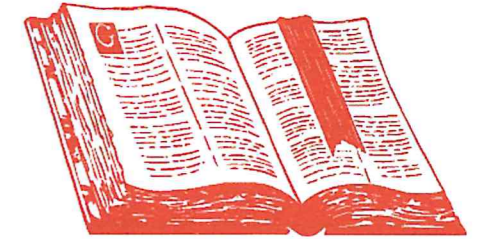
GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today we relive the horror of Jesus' prosecution, his carrying the cross and his excruciating death. The danger is that we are so familiar with these events that

they can wash over us and we lose the deep meaning of the final hours of Jesus. All of us have experienced failure of one sort or another in our lives. If our failure has led us to desperation, we can have a least an idea of what Jesus went through. The Son of God is born on earth with a mission to save us, to bring back the lost sheep to the Father, and he ends up being beaten and crucified. He has also been abandoned by the men he had chosen to follow him, including the one he had

designated as head of his Church. But the moment of his greatest suffering is when he cries out "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" He, who always sought to the will of the Father feels abandoned by him. His life seems to have ended in total failure. We will see on Easter Sunday how that apparent failure is transformed into great joy.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



INTERNATIONAL POWER

172. The twenty-first century "is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tend to prevail over the political. Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments, and empowered to impose sanctions".¹⁴⁹ When we talk about the possibility of some form of world authority regulated by law,¹⁵⁰ we need not necessarily think of a personal authority. Still, such an authority ought at least to promote more effective world organizations, equipped with the power to provide for the global common good, the elimination of hunger and poverty and the sure defence of fundamental human rights.

¹⁴⁹ Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), 175: AAS 107 (2015), 916-917.

¹⁵⁰ Cf. BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate* (29 June 2009), 67: AAS 101 (2009), 700-701.

The Fire of Love*

HOW RICHARD CAME TO THE FIRE OF LOVE (2)

Just over nine months later, I was enkindled by a sweet warmth and I heard the sound of song and eternal praise such as that known only in heaven, and which no one can hear unless separated from earthly things.

Sitting in the same chapel and reciting the night psalms before going in to supper, I heard above my head the joyful singing of psalmody. In prayer I was reaching out to God with heartfelt longing when I became aware of a symphony of song and heavenly harmony persisting in my mind.

Right then and there my thinking turned into melodious song and my meditation became a poem. My prayer and psalms then took up the same sound. What I had previously spoken became a song in my heart. It was wonderful to be caught up in such joy and given gifts like this purely from God's grace and not my own merit.

Anyone who really loves the name of Jesus might hope to achieve this state. For this I give unending praise and thanks to God. He has given me comfort in sorrow and enables me to await in confidence the everlasting crown.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press