



The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians
Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

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The Passion of the Lord (B)

24th March 2024



The Lord's Entry into Jerusalem

In the First Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah we hear from the prophet who, like Jesus, was persecuted because the people didn't like what he said. Here he is explaining how he persevered even under severe persecution. You might consider Isaiah as being a precursor of Jesus, who was thought by his own people to be a prophet.

The Responsorial Psalm begins with the words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" These are the same words that Jesus cries out from the cross; first because He is human and in anguish, but also because these words were written about Him more than 200 years before as a prophesy of God's suffering servant, a role that Jesus is now fulfilling. The end of this psalm is a victory claim in anticipation of the victory of the Resurrection.

The Second Reading, from the Paul's Letter to the Philippians, is a poetic summary of the role of Jesus Christ (the Son of God, coming to earth, living and dying out of love for His Father and for all people) and the honour bestowed on Him by the Father: that of being called or recognized by all as "LORD" and equal to God.

The Gospel Reading for Palm Sunday is a three-part reading from the Gospel of Matthew. In it, we hear the familiar story of the Last Supper, the betrayal of Judas, the arrest and suffering of Jesus and finally the crucifixion. Not until Easter Sunday do we hear the third part of this great triune event. So listen carefully! Put yourself into the crowd scene. Are you one who is shouting, "Crucify Him!" or are you one who is quietly standing by silently saying, "Oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner?"



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention



For the martyrs of our day. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world will inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

March is the month of St Joseph, husband of Mary. He was the foster father of God's only Son, Jesus, "hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, who ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth" (Pope Leo XIII). He is the Patron of the Universal Church, and his Feast is on 19th March.

The Season of Lent



The Season of Lent is a wonderful season of penance and spiritual renewal that prepares us to celebrate the great feast of the Lord's Death and Resurrection at Easter. To help us in our preparation the Church encourages us to practice faithfully the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There is no better way to sanctify the season than the celebration of Mass for those who are able.

Easter Services

The main Holy Week Services this year will be:

Passion Sunday	~	5.30pm Saturday Mass with Blessing of Palms
	~	11.00am Mass with Blessing of Palms
Maundy Thursday	~	5.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	~	3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	~	7.30pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	~	11.00am Mass of Easter

All Services during Holy Week are listed in a booklet available in the porch – do please take one.

Parish Collection – Standing Orders

Many thanks to those who have taken a Standing Order form and/or a Gift Aid form. Additional forms are available after Mass this weekend. Completed forms can be returned in the basket at the back of Church or handed in to the sacristy.

If you have a standing order and haven't changed it for a while you might want to kindly consider increasing it to keep up with inflation and increasing costs. Many thanks for your support of our Parish.

Offertory Envelopes

The new Offertory Envelopes are available. If you need some please contact Anne-Marie Austin on 07806 778 674. This applies to people who have received envelopes in previous years as well as any new parishioners. Thank you for your continued support.

Red Mission Boxes Annual Collection

Hello everyone, my name is Anne Fidler, and I am the new Parish secretary for Missio. I would like to thank the retiring secretary Jan Fitzpatrick for the good work she has done and wish her well for the future.

I will be collecting the Missio Red Boxes for emptying in APRIL over two weekends.

I would be grateful to all holders of Red Boxes if you could bring them to weekend masses on Saturday, 6th April/ Sunday 7th April & Saturday 13th April / Sunday 14th April. I will be in the chapel to collect the boxes before each mass. If you would like information on how to donate to Missio, please see me in the chapel.

Thank you to all who donate to Missio direct, contributing either by cheque, on-line, by direct debit/standing order or by the traditional red boxes. We are extremely grateful for your continued support, which allows us to continue our Missionary Work of sharing God's love throughout the world. We are proud to be the Pope's charity for World Mission.

Bereavement Group

The next meeting of the Bereavement Group will be at 2.00pm this coming Wednesday, 27th March, in the Church Hall.

Service of Reconciliation

As part of our preparation for Easter there will be a Service of Reconciliation, with General Absolution, at 7.00pm on Monday of Holy Week (25th March).

Carmel College Passion

Carmel College Passion This Maundy Thursday, Carmel College students and Chaplaincy Team invite you to join them for a dramatisation of The Passion of Christ, with time for personal reflection. We will reflect on the final hours of Jesus, leading up to his crucifixion through the mediums of music, drama and prayer. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. The service begins at 12.45, all are welcome.

Lenten Music at the Cathedral

You are invited to a programme of sacred music sung by the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday 24th March (7.30pm) Tenebrae

Good Friday Walk of Witness

This will begin at 12.00 pm at the far end of Eccleston Street near the Watch Maker pub and will slowly move back towards the Parish church. This is a great opportunity to witness to the Catholic faith on this important day. All are welcome.

Time Out Tuesdays

This day, which starts at 10.30am on Tuesday 9th April at the Cenacle (Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Liverpool, L15 6TW) offers a time to be quiet, reflect and pray. There is a suggested offering of £10.00 per person. No booking required, and please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee are provided. For more information contact Sr Winnie, Tel. 0151 722 2271 or email morleywinifred6@gmail.com



Palm Sunday (B)

Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 2

Saturday 23 rd March	5.30pm	Thomas McEllin
Sunday 24 th March	11.00am	John Fletcher
Monday 25 th March	9.30am	Anne O’Ryan
Tuesday 26 th March	9.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 27 th March	9.30am	Special Intention (W & L)

The Sacred Triduum

The next three days plunge us into the central mystery of our faith, the “solemnity of solemnities”, the event by which we are saved. The three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday night are the climax of the whole Christian year. It is the time when the mystery of the cross and resurrection brings us new life through the sacraments.

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday	5.30pm	Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Friday 29th March Good Friday	3.00pm	Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday	7.30pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday 31st March	11.00am	People of the Parish

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass

Penitential Rite	Form C	p.
Profession of Faith	Apostles’	p. 12
Preface	Passion of the Lord	p. 59
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

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