

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your
abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your
abundant mercy!

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, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

**Response: My God, my God, why have you
forsaken 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.'

(R)

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.

(R)

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!

(R)

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.'

(R)

SECOND READING

2:6-11

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians*

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

GOSPEL

15:1-39

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to Mark (Shorter Form)*

First thing in the morning, the chief priests
together with the elders and 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. Then
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 up 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.

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'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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
deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we
may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**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.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Look, we pray, O Lord, on this your family,
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ
did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of
the wicked
and submit to the agony of the Cross.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Readings – Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10:34.37-43

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20: 1-9

Homily

28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday

Today we begin Holy Week, the most important week of our Church year, and as I say every year we are invited to walk with Jesus on those last steps of his earthly journey. Holy Week of course ends with the glory of Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection and Jesus' great victory over sin and death and this is what gives hope and meaning to our lives.

On Palm Sunday we begin the week with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowds are gathered, they lay their garments on the road and waive palm branches and sing '*Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest heavens*' as they welcome their Messiah and King. But the mood changes and the shouts of Hosanna quickly turn into cries of '*Crucify him*' as we listen to Mark's version of the Passion.

The readings today are beautiful and give us so much to reflect on. As we reflect on the readings and the shorter form of the Passion what is it that the Lord is saying to us today?

Simon of Cyrene stands out for me, he is a passer-by who is enlisted by the soldiers to help Jesus carry his cross. We know very little about Simon, he is a father of two boys and he had come into Jerusalem from the countryside. I wonder why he was chosen and what he thought as he helped carry the cross? Some commentators have suggested that he was reluctant to help, we don't know if this was the case, but he did help, we know this because it is recorded in the Gospel.

What a great privilege to be able to walk with Jesus and help him carry his cross. We are all asked to walk with Jesus in our lives and like Simon help Jesus carry the cross. This I guess will be different for each one of us, I wonder how we carry the cross in our lives? How do we assist and help others with the burdens that they shoulder and carry or through our actions do we add to the weight of the cross of others?

As St Paul tells us in the Second Reading Jesus emptied himself and humbly accepted death on the cross, for me this is one of the times that Jesus is at his most human as he suffers and dies for us. However, God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Jesus' death on the Cross is the greatest act of love that there ever has been.

Homily

28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday

The Cross is the great symbol of God's love. God loves us more than we could ever imagine and Jesus is the one who reveals that love through his passion, suffering and death on the Cross that will be the focus of our thoughts and prayers on Good Friday.

Let's walk these final steps with the Lord this Holy Week, as we pray and reflect on the last days of Our Lord's earthly life. We pray that we will come even closer to Jesus Our Lord of love and life, the new life that we will celebrate together next week on Easter Sunday. Like Simon let's help Jesus carry the cross this Holy Week and every day of our lives.

Have a good week, sending love and prayers, God bless, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday, Year B

As we begin Holy Week we bring all our prayers to God our Father and we pray that we may walk with Jesus through the events of this week:

We pray for the Church: may it preach the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth with humility and love. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for and all victims of violence and abuse: may all people, across the globe, be safe to live their lives without the threat of violence or harm.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all those who are sick, housebound or struggling in any way: that they may experience the healing love and grace of the Lord and that we may help them carry their cross of suffering. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all the faithful departed especially **George Dittman, Ronald Garnell**, those who have died from Covid-19 and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy.....

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

God our loving Father,
hear our prayers that this Holy Week we may enter into the Paschal Mystery anew and be transformed by Christ’s death and resurrection into servants of his merciful love.

We make all our prayers through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

28th March 2021 – Palm Sunday, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen

The Week that changed the World

Holy Week from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday is the climax of the Christian year and the greatest Feast in our calendar. It even overshadows Christmas, for Christ was born to die and rise.

Over the centuries the Church has celebrated these seven days with deep solemnity. This is known as the '**Great Week.**' In fact the three days from Thursday night until Sunday morning are celebrated not simply as separate days but as one huge Feast. In Latin this is called the '**Triduum**' or the 'Three-day Feast.'



It is a Week that changed the world and can once more change you and me. The drama of our faith unfolds as the Week goes on, and we recall our pledge to let the salvation of Christ won for us on the Cross take effect now in our daily lives.

This Week is something not to be missed and is something worth participating in as fully as possible. Certainly you would be well repaid if you reflected on the three parts of the Triduum: the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

What we do this Week is that we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us so that what Christ won for us in that first Holy Week may be real and effective in our lives. We actuate it. That means we make it really present so that it can take hold of us. We summon up its power. And if we let it, it can and will change us.

