

### Passion of the Lord (Palm Sunday)

2 April 2023



*Readings for  
this week:*

Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66



*Readings for  
next Sunday:*

Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9 or Matt 28:1-10



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Mystery of Christ

The Second Reading this Sunday is noted as a hymn about Christ. Paul, writing to the Philippians, includes this very early Christian hymn. The text both reminds them of the humility and suffering of Christ but also of his victory over death and his glory. It is now a hymn for us to sing of our salvation that reaches out to everyone.

Christ reverses the sin of Adam. Adam sought to be god-like, Christ emptied himself to be a human being. But God raised him high so now Christ may raise up all. There is a strong connection with this hymn and the four servant songs in Isaiah. It is worthwhile to read them as a whole. The suffering servant songs are read at the Masses on Holy Monday (1<sup>st</sup>), Holy Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup>), Palm Sunday and Holy Wednesday (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Good Friday (4<sup>th</sup>).

© Diocese of Sandhurst 2020

### Looking at the Readings

Palm Sunday's Mass contains four readings and the psalm. The first, a Gospel, relates to Palm Sunday's remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This year we proclaim Matthew's account which emphasises the fulfilment of the Hebrew scriptures and the reference to "Son of David". These elements are constantly recalled in this Gospel; remember the Gospel of Matthew is the only one that includes the visit of the Wise Men from the East with their royal and godly gifts. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah and the second reading are read every year (see left column).

The Reading of the Passion is lengthy and designed in the lectionary to be read in parts: Narrator, Jesus, Other dialogues and the Crowd in which the whole congregation may participate. Again Matthew's version is rich with quotes from the psalms and prophets.

"He is writing to believers in a doctrinal and quasi-liturgical style. He offers Christ's disciples some keys to understanding the passion. He wants to introduce his readers to the Christian understanding of the disconcerting events that led their Master and Lord to die on the cross. Thus by sharing the faith of the church they will be able to see the cross in the coherent whole of the divine salvation." (Days of the Lord v2 p225)

### Did you know?

The words of Jesus from the cross: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani" are in Aramaic, the language Jesus and his people spoke. These words are the first line of Psalm 21 (22): A psalm of "suffering of a virtuous man. It is the response to the Psalm in today's liturgy.


### Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023 (continued)

Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection.

### On the Lighter Side

The question 'When is Maundy Thursday?' reminds me of an old joke: Where is the tiger's head? Three feet from his tail! When is Maundy Thursday? Three days before Easter Sunday!



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	Giuseppe Casuscelli, Kevin & Kath Webster
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Teresa Muto, Vito Prinzi, Bill Worm

DAY, TIME, DATE	Commentator	Reader	Gospel Procession	Passion Of Our Lord	Gift Presentation	Special Ministers	Screen Operator/Organ
Thu 6:00 pm 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Carol Coulston	Mary Gale	Shelia Gregg	N/A	TBC	TBC	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Fri 9:00 am 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Readers required for the Stations of the Cross						
Fri 3:00 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Rob Miller	Debbie Worm	Peter Crombie	N: Carol Coulston O: Shelia Gregg C: Fr John	Joyce Caiafa Delphi Hamilton	TBC	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Carol Coulston	Dean Filgate Rob Miller Shelia Gregg Peter Crombie	TBC	N/A	TBC	Debbie Worm	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Mary Gale	Denice Bourke	TBC	N/A	TBC	Debbie Turvey	

## Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### Weekday Mass

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> April No Mass  
 Tue 4<sup>th</sup> April BENDIGO Chrim Mass 11am  
 Wed 5<sup>th</sup> April 9:15 am Anointing Mass  
 Thu 6<sup>th</sup> April 6:00 pm – Holy Thursday Mass  
 Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April 9:00 am – Stations of the Cross  
 3:00 pm – Passion Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April 6:00 pm – Easter Vigil Mass  
 Sun 9<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 am – Easter Sunday Mass

### Weekday Mass

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> April No Mass  
 Tue 11<sup>th</sup> April No Mass  
 Wed 12<sup>th</sup> April No Mass  
 Thu 13<sup>th</sup> April No Mass  
 Fri 14<sup>th</sup> April No Mass

### Weekend Mass (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> April 6:00 pm Mass  
 Sun 16<sup>th</sup> April 1030 am Mass

Next Reconciliation will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May

## Parish Gathering – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30 pm

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Parish Gathering after our Reconciliation Service on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

There was a wonderful selection of main meals and a beautiful selection of desserts.

Thank you also to everyone who helped with washing the dishes and cleaning up the hall.

## Rosario italiano

Il Rosario italiano di aprile è stato cancellato. Il prossimo Rosario italiano si terrà il 12 maggio

## Italian Rosary

The April Italian Rosary has been cancelled. The next Italian Rosary will be held on May 12th

## Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First National Australians in truth and justice.



REMEMBER  
CELEBRATE  
IMAGINE



CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
of DIVINITY

## Engaging Your Faith

The Catholic Theological College is delighted to announce the return in May 2023 of their popular online lecture series, Engaging Your Faith. Eighteen stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff.

These sessions would be an ideal opportunity to explore the possibilities offered at CTC for personal, theological, and spiritual development. Topics include:

- Explorations in the Bible
- Vatican II, the Catholic Church, and being a Catholic
- Spirituality, mysticism, poetry, and meditation
- Science & faith issues
- Interfaith relations

Cost: \$25 per session or \$40 if seeking teacher accreditation.

Book and pay directly through the college's website.

## Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet



We are seeking 12 volunteers who will be willing to participate in the washing of the feet at our Holy Thursday Mass service. If you are willing to be part of the service, please let Trish know and ensure that you come prepared by wearing appropriate footwear. Traditionally it is only the right foot that is washed.

If we don't receive any volunteers you will be tapped on the shoulder when you arrive at Mass.

## Ladies Cuppa and Chat

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Ladies Chat and Cuppa

Date: Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 2pm.

Venue: St Mary's Hall - Please bring a plate

SACRED HEART PARISH TATURA

# Holy Week Masses



## Holy Thursday

Thursday 6th of April  
6:00pm - Mass

## Good Friday

Friday 7th of April  
9:00am - Stations of the Cross  
3:00pm - Passion Mass

## Easter Vigil

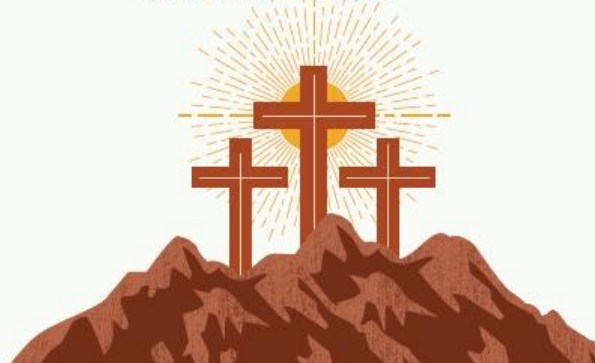
Saturday 8th of April  
6:00pm - Mass

## Easter Sunday

Sunday 9th of April  
10:30am - Mass

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday 16th of April  
10:30am - Mass



Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura.

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616, 03 5824 1049, e: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au  
The presbytery office is open on Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm

## Themes for Palm Sunday Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

### Suffering and Abandoned

As we enter into Holy Week, the readings for Palm Sunday Year A invites us to reflect on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the meaning of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We see Jesus as a humble and peaceful king, riding on a donkey instead of a horse, surrounded by crowds of people who wave palm branches and shout his praises. This image reminds us of Jesus' identity as a powerful and beloved leader who comes to save us from sin and death.

At the same time, we are also reminded of the cost of Jesus' sacrifice. The Gospel reading from Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 describes the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, including his betrayal by Judas Iscariot, his arrest and trial before the high priest, his denial by Peter, and his sentencing by Pilate. We see Jesus' selflessness and obedience, even in the face of intense suffering and humiliation.

The theme of feeling abandoned is also present in the readings. Jesus' cry of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" in Matthew 27:46 reminds us of the depth of Jesus' suffering and his identification with all those who have ever felt abandoned or alone. Yet even in his darkest hour, Jesus expressed trust in God's ultimate protection and proclaimed God's glory to others.

### Where Am I?

The readings on Palm Sunday Year A also provide us with the opportunity to place ourselves in the events of Holy Week and consider how we would have responded had we been there. Perhaps we would have been among the crowd on the street singing Hosanna, or maybe we would have been complaining about these demonstrators who were disrupting our preparations for the Passover.

We might have been sitting next to Peter, denying we even know the Lord, fearful and afraid. Or we might have been among the crowd calling for the crucifixion of Jesus. There are other people to identify with: Simon of Cyrene who was forced to serve, the women at the foot of the cross who steadfastly stayed close to Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea who provides what he can, the women who keep vigil at the tomb.

Chances are we can see ourselves in many of these people. This is an opportunity to think about how we respond to Jesus in our own lives.

### Am I Willing to Follow?

As we further reflect on these readings for Palm Sunday Year A, we are invited to consider our own response to Jesus' sacrifice. Are we willing to follow his example of love, humility, and selflessness? Are we willing to trust in God's ultimate protection, even in the face of suffering and despair? These are

difficult questions, but they are essential for our growth and our relationship with God.

As we journey through Holy Week, let us take time to reflect on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and the meaning of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. May we be inspired by his selflessness and obedience, and may we be strengthened in our commitment to follow him, even in the midst of adversity.

## Reflection Questions for Palm Sunday Year A

- What do you imagine it would have been like to be among the crowds that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? How might you have responded?
- How do the readings for Palm Sunday challenge you to reflect on Jesus' identity as a humble and peaceful king who sacrificed himself for the salvation of humanity?
- In what ways do you identify with the people in the Passion narrative – Peter, Judas, the women at the foot of the cross, etc.? What do their experiences teach you about your own relationship with God?
- How does Jesus' cry of "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" in Matthew 27:46 speak to your own experiences of feeling abandoned or alone?
- How can you follow Jesus' example of love, humility, and selflessness in your own life, particularly during Holy Week and the Easter season?
- How can you cultivate a deeper sense of trust in God's ultimate protection and providence, even in the face of suffering and despair?
- How does the story of Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week invite you to consider your own response to Jesus' sacrifice and your commitment to follow him?

## Holy Land Collection Good Friday

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April as a Bucket Collection after the Passion of Our Lord Mass at 3pm.

This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, parishes and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million and the Diocese of Sandhurst contributed just over \$12,000.