

Passion of the Lord (Palm Sunday)

29 March 2026



Readings for  
this week:

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

### Passion of the Lord

#### Prefaces

Our Roman Missal (2010) contains a preface for the Eucharistic Prayer for Palm Sunday and two more for weekday Masses in the final weeks of Lent meditating on the Passion of Christ. The new Missal of the Congregation of the Passion has three more, the Carthusian Missal has two more and the Ambrosian Rite has four, which three came from the Roman Missal.

Many themes are presented to help meditate on the passion, death and resurrection of Christ: his suffering and humility, his obedience and innocence, his willingness to save us, his love and offer of forgiveness even for his executioners, the power of the cross, the pride of the foe, cause of our salvation and most conclude with our preparation for Easter and celebrating joy and life. The prayer for the week in the next column gives poetic-like image of the wonder of the cross and connection with the sin of Adam and Eve and our own redemption.

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### Looking at the Readings

This year we proclaim the Passion of The Lord according to the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew addresses himself to a gathering of 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, they will be able, by sharing in the faith of the Church, to situate the cross within the coherent whole of the divine salvific plan (Matt 26:14-27:66).

Sometimes, Matthew is content to state "it is written" or else "to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet." No, all that has happened is not due to blind chance. We must enter with faith into the painful passion of Jesus, because it inaugurates the new world where God wants his Son's disciples to live."

Matthew's Passion crowns the Gospel he presents to us. It is within the faith of the Church that the evangelist shows Jesus as the stone rejected by the builders becoming the cornerstone of the Church. More than any other writer of his time, Matthew seems to have measured the chasm opening between the Synagogue and the community of the Lord Jesus' disciples. Had not his Master promised that a new people would produce the fruits of the vine planted by God (see 21:43)? But the Church too must nonetheless remain watchful; it, too, could one day forget its Lord by becoming unfaithful to his Gospel. (Days of the Lord v2 p225,6)

### Quote for the Day

People are to march around the church to commemorate the event, Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was greeted with applause and with palms. People thought he had come to overthrow the Romans, but no he had come to change THEM and that led to things turning bad. *Garrison Keillor*

### Prayer for the Week

We give praise and thanks to the Almighty Father, for you, God placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might, likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord. (Carthusian Missal 2021)

### On the Lighter Side

*God shows up on a donkey: "With monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings, the devil's walking parody on all four-footed things." G. K. Chesterton*  
*The devil's walking parody is our Lord's Popemobile!*





**Project Compassion  
Theme for 2026  
Unite Against Poverty**

Please use this QR Code to donate through the Tatura Parish



*Sacred Heart Tatura*

*Holy Week and Easter Celebrations 2026*

**Holy Thursday 2nd April:** 6:00pm

**Good Friday 3rd April:** Stations of the Cross 10:00am  
Service 3:00pm

**Easter Vigil Saturday 4th April:** 6:00pm

**Easter Sunday 5th April:** 10:30am

Volunteers are needed to help at the Easter Masses. Please add your name to the list on the narthex if you can help.



*If you would like to attend the Chrism Mass, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11am on behalf of the parish, please let Trish know.*

*We can car-pool for this special Mass.*

Fr Uday would like to thank everyone for the good wishes and prayers for his birthday. May God bless you.

**LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS PROGRAM**

The program begins on April 19 runs over two months however all webinars are recorded so it can be done in your own time. This free online program brings Laudato Si' to life. Step into a journey of ecological conversion and join a global movement committed to healing and protecting our common home. For information and registration go to [www.laudatosianimators.org](http://www.laudatosianimators.org) Also see flyer on noticeboard.

**The King Who Rides a Donkey**

Palm Sunday Year A remembers the day Jesus came into Jerusalem as a humble king. Crowds welcomed him with palm branches and shouts of praise. They called him the Son of David, showing they believed he was the promised Messiah. Yet, the week ahead would bring both joy and deep sorrow.

This day marks the beginning of Holy Week. It is a time to walk with Jesus in his final days before the cross. Palm Sunday Year A invites us to see the contrast between the cheers of the crowd and the suffering that is to come.

We hold palm branches to remember that Jesus' kingdom is built on peace and service. His way is different from the world's idea of power. As we reflect on this day, we are called to follow him in humility and love.

Palm Sunday Year A calls people to follow Jesus' example of humility, obedience, and love. It reminds them that suffering is not the end, but God brings hope and new life.



We pray for all who suffer injustice as Jesus did and for those who take up the cross to follow Jesus. May our work to end injustice bring peace, healing and unity in the face of all the challenges facing humanity.

Lord, you walked the path of suffering with love and patience. You were betrayed, denied, and abandoned, yet you remained faithful. Help me to follow your example. Give me strength in hard times, courage to stand by you, and a heart willing to serve others. Teach me to love as you love.  
Amen.

**CHILD SAFE PARISH**

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

**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 years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

**Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura**

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# DIOCESE NEWS – 29/3/2026

**SANDPIPER e-News**



Official news from the Diocese of Sandhurst straight to your inbox.



[www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/news-a-events3/sandpiper-e-news](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/news-a-events3/sandpiper-e-news)

Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit [www.CathEvents.org.au](http://www.CathEvents.org.au) to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

**Link for 2026 Lent Reflections on the Diocese Website:**

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3010-lent-reflection-resources-2026>

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**

**Diocese Website:** <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>  
**Diocese Facebook Page:** Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



Donation QR Code



## Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:**

[www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling: 1800 024 413**

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL  
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!



Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

### Learn the truth

A significant portion of chocolate available in Australia is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and exploitative working conditions.

Indulge responsibly, select ethically sourced chocolate, and support companies working towards eliminating slavery from their supply chain this Easter.

Here is how:

1. Join the one billion people who read the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard (<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>) last year to discover their chocolate's true origins and evaluate their favourite brands' ethical practices.
2. Seek out the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging.

Note these certification seals mean the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



Take action and  
make a difference today!



# THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY / A

29 MARCH 2026

- C. Barabbas.
- N. Pilate said to them:
- O. What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?
- N. They all said:
- C. **Let him be crucified!**
- N. Pilate asked:
- O. Why? What harm has he done?
- N. But they shouted all the louder,
- C. **Let him be crucified!**
- N. 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:
- O. I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.
- N. And the people, to a man, shouted back:
- C. **His blood be on us and on our children!**
- N. 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 into 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:
- C. **Hail, king of the Jews!**
- N. 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 had

reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine 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:

- C. **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!**
- N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:
- C. **He saved others; 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'.**
- N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him 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:
- J. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?
- N. That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

- C. **The man is calling on Elijah,**
- N. and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:
- C. **Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.**
- N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

*All kneel and pause a moment.*

N. 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 the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his 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:

- C. **In truth this was a son of God.**

*Longer form, Mt 26:14-27:66*

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## FIRST READING

Isa 50:4-7

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

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

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 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

**R. 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.' **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

Phil 2:6-11

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

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

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

Phil 2:8-9

**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

Mt 27:11-54

N. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (N. Narrator J. Jesus O. Other single speaker C. Crowd, or more than one other speaker)  
N. Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and

the governor put to him this question:

- O. Are you the king of the Jews?
- N. Jesus replied:
- J. It is you who say it.
- N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:
- O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?
- N. But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

- O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?
- N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,
- O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.
- N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:
- O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?
- N. They said: