

St. Joseph the Worker

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Week

5th April, 2020



Fr Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

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We are a parish with a clear identity and purpose: to be a Catholic community, formed by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, for the glory and praise of God the Father and the service of His Kingdom, and also for the mutual up-building and support of its members. The core message that we feel called to live is contained in Jesus' words:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

<p>Sunday, 5th April</p>  <p>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</p>	<p>UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED WITHOUT A CONGREGATION.</p>	<p>10.00 am Margaret Ward</p>
<p>Monday, 6th April</p>		<p>9.00 am Barbara McGwynn</p>
<p>Tuesday, 7th April</p>		<p>9.00 am The People of the Parish</p>
<p>Wednesday, 8th April</p>		<p>9.00 am Frank Meadowcroft</p>
<p>Thursday, 9th April</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday</p>		<p>THE EASTER TRIDUUM 7.00 pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Patrick Finan</p>
<p>Friday, 10th April</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>Today is a day of fasting and abstinence.</p> 		<p>3.00 pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION This is not a Mass, but a solemn celebration held at the time of Our Lord's death on the Cross.</p>
<p>Saturday, 11th April</p> <p>Holy Saturday</p>		<p>We join Jesus in His "Sabbath Rest" in the tomb, until ... 9.00 pm THE EASTER VIGIL The People of the Parish</p>
<p>Sunday, 12th April</p>  <p>Easter Sunday</p>		<p>9.00 am Mary Veronica McGovern (Anniversary)</p>

Please pray for those we know who are sick including: Fr. Michael Stack, Richard Healy, George Morton, Josie Dekkers, Paddy Beausang, Kevon Perry, Bridget Cherry, Chris Mullen, Peter Kennedy, Jennifer Shaw, Anne Doherty, Danny and Mary Harrington, and all the sick.

Please pray for Barbara McGwynn, Patrick Finan, Jim Feeney and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Anthony Emery, Canons William Swift and Peter Jones, Frs. Michael Glynn, Kevin Preston, Eamon Clarke, Kenneth Collins, Joseph Barr and Michael McManus, and also Michael McCarthy, Johanna O'Sullivan, Annie Louis, Thomas Patrick Kelly, Catherine Cann, George Overton, Margaret Banks, Terry Brown, Emily Walker, Alice Gerety, Dorothy Adams, Bob McNarry, Mary Fitzgerald, Owen Brown, Christopher Shaughnessy, Robert Fletcher, Vera McGovern and Matthew Moloney. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Holy Week will obviously be very different for us all this year. Although you cannot attend Holy Week services in person, if you have the equipment and the know-how you will be able to watch them online. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating all the principal ceremonies this week in St Chad's, starting at 11.00am today (<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham>). Please join the services taking place at our diocesan Mother Church if you can. The picture is excellent quality, and it is an opportunity to hear the Archbishop address us.

Here in St. Joseph's I shall be celebrating the Liturgy of Holy Week according to the instructions that have been issued for this extraordinary time:

Palm Sunday. The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem and the Mass should be celebrated within the church buildings and not outside; the Simple Entrance is used and there is no blessing of palms.

Maundy Thursday. In the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Washing of the Feet is to be omitted and there is to be no procession to the Altar of Repose.

It is customary for a time of Watching to take place after the Mass, remember Our Lord's Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and I invite you, from your homes, to join me spiritually in this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. During this period I shall make a Renewal of Priestly Commitment which would normally be done at the Cathedral during the Chrism Mass.

Good Friday. On Good Friday there is no Mass, but at 3.00 in the afternoon there is a "Solemn Celebration" of the Passion of our Lord in 4 parts:

1. *The Introductory Rites*
2. *The Liturgy of the Word*
3. *The Veneration of the Cross*
4. *Holy Communion*

The Holy Father has decreed that a special intention (For the afflicted in time of Pandemic) be inserted into the General Intercessions during the Celebration.

Holy Saturday: We do not celebrate Mass on Holy Saturday, the Lord's Day of Rest in the tomb, but in the evening, starting at 9.00, we begin our Easter celebrations with the Easter Vigil, the greatest event in the Church's year. There are four parts:

1. *The Service of Light*
2. *The Liturgy of the Word*
3. *The Liturgy of Baptism*
4. *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

This year, the preparation of the fire is omitted, and the Paschal Candle is lit and placed in the candlestick without ceremony.

Those who were due to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, or to have been received into Full Communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil should be remembered in the Prayer of the Faithful at the Vigil.

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray: look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for those working in Health Care.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Frank Meadowcroft.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the Sick and the Dying.

Tailpiece: A Co. Tyrone couple had been married for 25 years. On their anniversary the man was starting off to work and his wife called out, "Hi, John, don't you know what day it is?" "Aye, indeed I do." "Well, how are ye going to celebrate it?" "I don't know, Maggie ... How about two minutes' silence?"

May God bless you and all those whom you love and keep you safe. Fr. Harry