

# University of Warwick Chaplaincy

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Week

5<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

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### Today we begin Holy Week.

Holy Week is the greatest week in the Church's year. We can enter into the events that happened about two thousand years ago. We can share with Jesus His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His special celebration of the Passover with His disciples at the Last Supper and then His agony and betrayal in the Garden on Maundy Thursday, all the horrible events of Good Friday, His "Sabbath Rest" on Holy Saturday, and thus we can truly share in His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

### Prayer Before Mass

God our Father, you sent Jesus, our High Priest, to redeem us and you willed that His saving work should continue through the ministry of priests. Enlighten us to celebrate this Sunday Mass with our priest, so that, empowered by the Word of life and the Eucharist, we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live to the full our Christian calling. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation.** I am very sorry, but because the church is closed and we are required to practise "social distancing", it is not possible to offer Confession at this time. Nor can the Sacrament be celebrated over the telephone or by conference call. A recent Note from the Vatican says:

*Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by ... the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones.*

So if you need to go to Confession you should make a Perfect Act of Contrition and then to go to Confession as soon as it becomes possible. Perfect contrition means being really sorry for our sins, because we know how much God loves us, and being resolved not to commit any more sins.

As you know, we should normally receive Holy Communion and go to Confession during the Lent and Easter period. This is called our Easter Duties. Since it is not possible to receive Holy Communion at this time, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for this year. Instead we should all make a Perfect Act of Contrition.

**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**