

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**



Today we begin **Holy Week**. We recall the last days of Jesus and his passion and death on the cross. This is the central mystery of our salvation, and we ask God that we may celebrate it, even at home, so devoutly that our hearts and minds are touched by the love of him who gave himself so generously for us.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION DURING HOLY WEEK.**

**UNFORTUNATELY, THE DEMANDS OF HAVING STEWARDS, CLEANERS AND SANITISERS MEANS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.**

**PLEASE KEEP IN UNION WITH US ALL, DURING THIS WEEK, BY PRAYER AND RECOLLECTION IN YOUR OWN HOMES.**

May we live in our world with that same loving kindness and self-sacrifice.

### **Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord does not cover his face against insult and spittle.

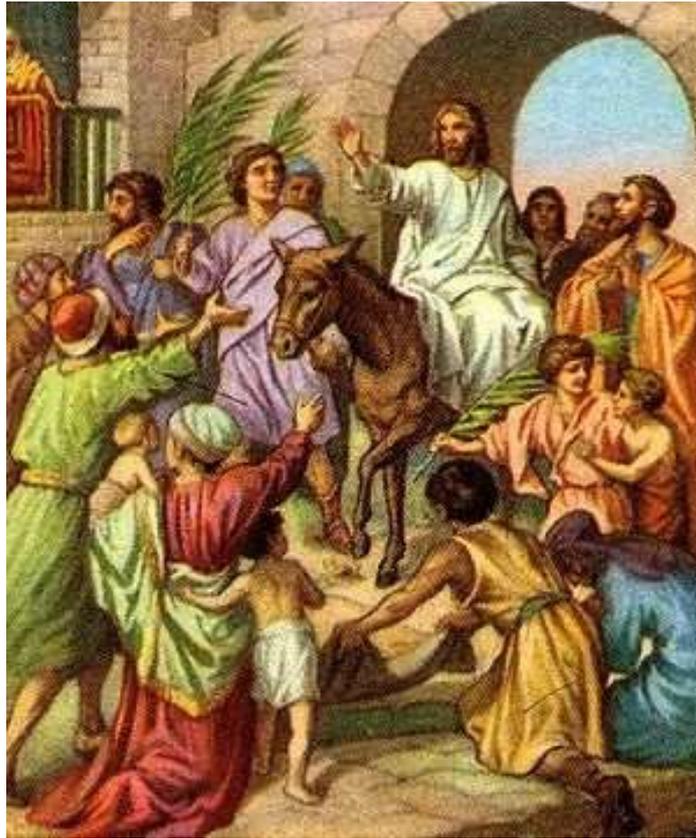
### **Philippians 2:6-11**

God raised him high, so that every tongue should proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

### **Mark 15:1-39**

Mark tells the story of the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**



"Abba, Father, all things are possible to you.  
Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will"

Saturday 27 March Mass at **6pm** (1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Palm Sunday.

Sunday 28 March Mass at **9am,**  
**10.30am &**  
**12noon**

*Palms will be blessed at all four Masses and distributed at the end of Mass as you leave.*

Wednesday 31 March Mass at **12.15pm**

*Numbers are severely restricted by Government decree. The doors will be **closed** when the permitted number is reached. The Diocese recommends that those who can should have a time of silence and prayer in tune wiith Bishop Alan and the whole Diocese.*

Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate the Passover feast, which commemorated the Hebrew people's exodus from slavery to freedom (Exodus). He inaugurated the new covenant with his people by giving them his body and blood in the bread and wine of the Passover meal. Jesus warned Peter and the

other disciples that they would all deny him. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepted the bitter cup of suffering, and was betrayed by Judas who embraced him as a friend. Jesus was arrested, accused of blasphemy by the religious leaders, and condemned to death by the Roman governor for the crime of sedition. The crowds demanded the release of Barabbas (his name means: "son of the father") in place of Jesus, the **true** Son of the Father. The soldiers mocked him as "King of the Jews", and he was led to Golgotha (Hebrew for "skull;" Latin: *Calvaria*; English: Calvary) where he was crucified between two "revolutionaries" (zealots). Jesus sealed the covenant with his own blood, and a Gentile soldier made the declaration of faith that Jesus was indeed, the "Son of God". Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the Jewish High Council, the Sanhedrin, and secretly a disciple of Jesus, offered his own tomb for Jesus' burial. Mary Magdalene, and the other women who faithfully followed him, watched where he was laid.



**PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET on Saturday 27 March.**

Passover (in Hebrew *Pesach*) is probably the best known of the Jewish feasts/holidays, mostly because it ties in with the Last Supper, which was a Passover meal. Passover starts at sundown on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Nissan, which typically falls in March or April. It is the first of three major festivals. The other two are Pentecost, (*Shavu'ot*) and Tabernacles, (*Sukkot*). Passover represents the beginning of the harvest season in Israel, but not much attention is paid to this aspect of the holiday. The primary observances of Passover are related to the Exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery. This story is told in Exodus, Ch. 1-15. The name "Passover" refers to the fact that the angel of death "passed over" the houses of the Jews when slaying the firstborn of Egypt.

**Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday)**  
**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

On this most holy night the Lord showed the depth of his love by washing his disciples' feet and giving us his body and blood, so that we may be one body, one spirit in him.

**Exodus 12:1-8. 11-14**

God's people of old celebrate the Passover as a feast in the Lord's honour.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

St Paul describes the Last Supper and explains that the Eucharist is a memorial of the Lord.

**John 13:1-15**

During the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and commanded us to wash each other's feet, so that we can offer the Eucharist in love and unity.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**



"As I have done so you must do"

Thursday 1 April **MAUNDY THURSDAY Mass at 8pm.**

*Mass of the Lords Supper. No Altar of Repose; no Watching after the Mass.*

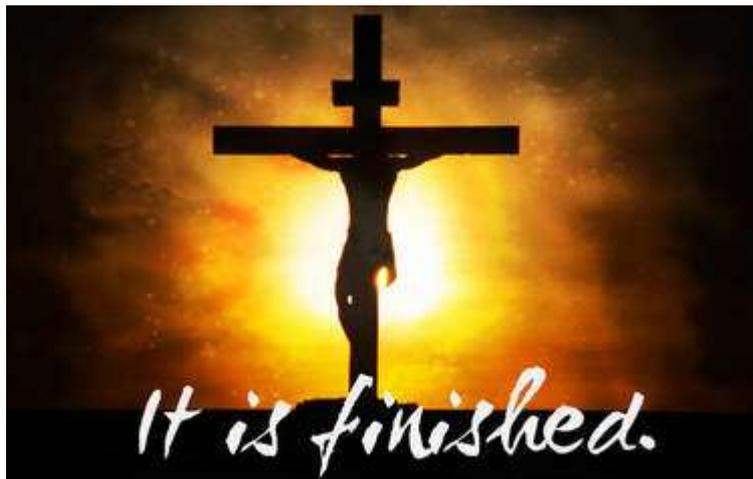
*Numbers are severely restricted by Government decree. The doors will be **closed** when the permitted number is reached. The Diocese recommends that those who can should have a time of silence and prayer in tune wiith Bishop Alan and the whole Diocese.*

The "hour" had come. Jesus is on the threshold of his saving death. He wanted to demonstrate his love for his disciples, a love that he would show them "to the end". Although Jesus was "fully aware" that God had put "everything into his power", he rose from the table, stripped himself of his outer garments and began

to bathe the feet of his disciples, a menial task only done by slaves. When Peter objects to having his feet washed, Jesus insists that Peter must receive his love if he wanted to share his heritage. Jesus commands his disciples that they got to follow his example and serve one another. The washing of the feet on Holy

Thursday is a reminder to everyone of us who have been cleansed by the purifying waters of Baptism, to follow Christ's example of humble service. He teaches the leaders of the Church, especially, that their role has got to be one of service, not of power.

## GOOD FRIDAY



### **Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord Day of Fast and Abstinence**

The passion and death of Jesus is ritually expressed in the liturgy of Good Friday. It is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated. The service held in the afternoon recalls the "hour" of Jesus' crucifixion. The red vestments signify the blood that Jesus shed. Just as Jesus was stripped of his garments, the altar is bare. The readings are sombre; Jesus is the suffering servant of the Lord.

The assembly listens to John's Gospel recounting Jesus' passion and death. The mental and physical pains that Jesus suffered cannot be measured. The crown of thorns pierced his head; his back whipped with forty lashes; carrying the cross to the place of his crucifixion and, to add to all this torment, Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the wood of the cross.

At Jesus' last words, "It is finished" we bow our heads and kneel in prayer. We then venerate the cross of salvation in a moment of silence.

We come forward to receive the Lord in Holy Communion.

.Jesus offers us his forgiveness for all our sins. His crucifixion was the opening up of the divine heart so that we could see that no sin of ours could finally separate us from the love of God.

*Numbers are severely restricted by Government decree. The doors will be **closed** when the permitted number is reached. The Diocese recommends that those who can should have a time of silence and prayer in tune with Bishop Alan and the whole Diocese.*



On Holy Saturday, the Church waits with the women at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his suffering and death. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated during the day. The solemn vigil at night anticipates Easter morning, symbolizing light versus darkness. The Easter candle expresses Christ our light. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we experience the dying and rising of Christ. The faithful renew their own baptismal commitment, dying to sinful self, and dedicating their lives to the love and service of the risen Lord. Like the women at the tomb, each of us have a choice. We can continue to search in all the wrong places for the answers to life's questions, or we can believe the testimony of the empty tomb and experience true life with the Risen Christ.