

5 APRIL 2020

Sunday Message

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 2

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

(MATTHEW 26:14 – 27:66)



With Passion (or Palm) Sunday we begin the most solemn week of the Church's year, and we listen to Matthew's account of the passion of Jesus.

We are accustomed to the Stations of the Cross and to hymns which dwell on the sufferings of Jesus, but when we read or listen to the narrative of these events, we notice that there is little, if any, stress put on the physical pain he endured. The evangelist is more concerned to show that Jesus is faithful to his mission, as the mental or psychological struggle in Gethsemane shows. The crown of thorns is an ironic mockery on the part of the soldiers: they are, unconsciously, correct in addressing him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" while they make fun of him. Jesus' cry from the cross, "Why have you deserted me?" is best understood as an expression of his feeling abandoned, and in this he is identified with all those who feel bereft and alone.

Matthew relates dramatic events which accompany the death of Jesus, such as the earthquake, the opening of the tombs and the appearing of dead people: these are his way of telling us that with the death of Jesus, the general resurrection has begun. The women from Galilee are the link throughout, being present, at a distance, at the crucifixion, at the burial, and later at the tomb on Easter morning. Matthew alone mentions the setting of the guard and the sealing of the tomb: thus he answers later objections to the proclaiming of the resurrection, that the body of Jesus was missing because it had been removed. ■

SAY

Christ was humbler
yet, even to accepting
death, death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:8)

LEARN

The passion narrative is the earliest connected unit in the Gospel tradition.

The Pharisees are mentioned only once in all the four accounts of the passion: that is in connection with the request to Pilate to set a guard at the tomb of Jesus.

It is the chief priests, the scribes and the elders who plot and secure the death of Jesus.

DO

Take time to contemplate the cross: remember that it is Jesus' commitment to his mission, his obedience to the Father, which redeems us, not his physical suffering.



REFLECT

The community for which Matthew wrote his version of the Gospel was made up largely of Jewish Christians, and so the argument with the synagogue over the person of Jesus was especially bitter, as family quarrels often, sadly, are. There was also a concern to minimise the responsibility of the Roman authorities for the death of Jesus: so in this account, we find Pilate's wife reporting a dream she has had about Jesus which upset her: this reminds us that Joseph received messages from

God in this way in the chapters which told about Jesus' birth. Pilate himself washes his hands of the matter and the people present are portrayed as accepting full responsibility for Jesus being condemned: "His blood be upon us and on our children!"

This text is one of those which have been tragically and cruelly misappropriated down the centuries to justify persecuting later generations of Jewish people. Despite the horrors of the Holocaust

and the events which led up to it, antisemitic attitudes and behaviour have not disappeared. Jesus was a Jew: his mother was Jewish, as were his early disciples. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all claim Abraham as their ancestor in the faith. ■

1. THE SOLEMN ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord, the King of Israel.
Hosanna in the highest.

As the Lord entered the holy city, the
children of the Hebrews proclaimed the
resurrection of life.

Waving their branches of palm, they cried:
Hosanna in the Highest.
When the people heard that Jesus was
coming to Jerusalem, they went out to meet
him.
Waving their branches of palm, they cried:
Hosanna in the Highest.

2. THE SIMPLE ENTRANCE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of
Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your
abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your
abundant mercy!

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human
race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit
to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson
of patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the
weary,
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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 21

Response:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken 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

Philippians 2:6-11

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

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.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory:
Christ 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 names.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten
Son, O Lord,
may our reconciliation with you be near at
hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own
deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my
drinking it,
your will be done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we
believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE,

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER 5th April 2020 Palm Sunday

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Today, we begin Holy Week and what a strange week it will feel as we follow the Lord through Palm Sunday to the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Passion on Good Friday and the curious emptiness on Holy Saturday – all this in the isolation of our own homes and not physically together in church. But we can be united in spirit and in prayer and through the marvels of modern technology by joining live streamed services. Our parish website (www.catholicwestbourne.org) contains further details of these, especially the services being streamed from the Cathedral. Take care and keep safe.

A word about finance:

It is, of course, understood that many may be facing financial challenges at this time and the parish is not exempt. With no Sunday masses the offertory collection (which amounts to about half the parish's income) has dropped considerably. The continued support from those who contribute through gift aid standing order and envelopes is much appreciated. The new 'Donate' button on the homepage of the parish website can be used to make contributions (which can be gift aided). Please use this facility for general donations to the church or for the Sunday offertory collection. Those who contribute by envelope, please just keep those until such time as things return to some semblance of normality. For those who may wish to take out a standing order the parish's bank details are as set out below. At this time of year it is customary to make an **Easter Offering** which is a personal gift to the priest and which forms a significant part of his personal income. For those who may wish to make a bank transfer for this, again please use the details as set out below but add the reference Easter Offering Many thanks.

Bank: Lloyds
Account Name: PRCOTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code: 30-93-04
Account Number: 00875075

Liturgical Calendar: Fr Andrew continues to offer mass privately.

With only one mass on Sundays – which is always said *For the People of the Parish* – additional intentions booked for Sundays will be moved to the nearest free day. To request mass intentions please email or phone the Parish Office.

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|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Sunday April 5th | Palm Sunday | People of the Parish |
| Monday 6 th | of Holy Week | - |
| Tuesday 7 th | of Holy Week | - |
| Wednesday 8th | of Holy Week | Julia Gray RIP |
| Thursday 9 th | Maundy Thursday | - |
| Friday 10 th | Good Friday | - |
| Saturday 11 th | Holy Saturday | - |
| Sunday 12 th | Easter Sunday | People of the Parish |

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford and Germaine McAulay.