



PALM SUNDAY YEAR B
28 March 2021
Liturgy and Bulletin



OPENING PRAYER

*Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given the human race Jesus Christ, our Saviour
as a model of humility.
Help us to bear witness to you by following his example.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: 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 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 15

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and the scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he answered. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. The Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case,' he said to them 'what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 'Why?' Pilate asked them 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on

him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah'. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.'



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In this final Lenten Sunday, we see that we have been saved through the kenotic (partial renunciation of divine nature) humility of Jesus, not through military power. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted criminal, and there endured the sense of abandonment. However, this saviour was later lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine prerogatives.

Jesus became one of us in order to show us how we are to live. He was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. The passion recounts the extent to which he willingly offered himself. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we are told to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with him is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair seems to hold sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for us.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: That through compassion and self-giving, Christians everywhere will follow the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ during Holy Week. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are unjustly condemned may live in the truth, and trust in the hope that they are favoured in the Lord's eyes. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Christians may embrace the sacredness of Holy Week with a commitment to repent of their sins and strive for true holiness in Christ. (pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who deny Christ or live with spiritual distress may become faithful witnesses of Jesus' love for all humanity. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be shown mercy and compassion, especially

James Clarke, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermert, Val Biggers and Celia Roach, (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will live forever with Christ Jesus, especially

Bishop Bede Heather, Monsignor Kevin Barry-Cotter and our own deceased relatives and friends. (pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

The death of your Son

gives us hope and strengthens our faith.

May His resurrection give us perseverance and lead us to salvation.

Amen.

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 25 parishioners, the rain preventing many from attending. The Mass of Reconciliation was very well received. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time. The protocols are being slowly relaxed but singing unfortunately is now only allowed with physical distancing impossible for us to manage ie. 1.5m between each other (choir) and 5 metres from all other people. Protocols on noticeboard.

Weekday Masses: No weekday Masses until further notice.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: has been suspended until Father Mick is in the parish and times can be discussed.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every month. All welcome.

Social Justice Meeting: Sunday 11 April in the church at 10.30am.

Anzac Day Service: 9.30am in the church, followed by a cuppa and Anzac biscuits.

Easter Services: **Holy Thursday April 1 at 7pm** with Father Mick

Good Friday: April 2: Stations 10am; Passion 3pm with Br Brian

Easter Vigil: April 3: Service of Light 6pm with Father Mick.

Grounds Committee working bee 10am Thursday 1st April at 10am to mow etc before Easter.

Easter flowers: all arrangers please on Easter Saturday morning at 9am. Please advise Margaret or Cathy if you have flowers.

Planned Giving Envelopes: due to the number of parishioners now giving online, we are re-evaluating the number of boxes we order. They will now cost us \$20 per box, which is such a waste if not used. If you would like to continue receiving envelopes, please contact Helen Hart at the office or on 0430 169 849

Holy Land Good Friday Collection: The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 2nd. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, due to the global pandemic, it was an extremely difficult time for the Church and people of the Holy Land with very little income due to the lack of pilgrims and the closure of churches around the world. Despite this, Australian Catholics did manage to donate \$406,000 (compared to the \$1.3 million in 2019). This year, the Holy Land will continue to face an extreme shortfall in income due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic and so we are urging Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.



This Lenten season is themed "Be More". As Teresa of Calcutta said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love."
Project Compassion boxes can be returned to the church from this weekend.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: As we approach the Holy Season of Easter consider offering up a Mass for your loved ones and supporting priests in need. The Mass will be offered up for your intentions by priests in the poorest parts of the world who have no other means of support. You can also send them a Mass card. Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings

Cleaners:

1 April: Wendy M-B and Judith. **16 April:** Bobbie and Pauline. **30 April:** Margaret and Barbara.

Please note the ceremonies happening in the church when cleaning will be required beforehand will be advised at the beginning of the newsletter.

Readings for next week:

Holy Thursday: 1st: Exod. 12:1-8,11-14. 2nd: 1 Cor. 11:23-26. Gospel: Jn 13:1-15

Easter Vigil: 1st: Gen. 1:1-2:2. 3rd Exod. 14:15-15:1. 5th Is. 55:1-11. NT: Romans 6:3-11 Gospel Mark 16:1-7.

Ministry Rosters for Easter Services

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	Passion	PowerPoint
27 Mar Palm S.	Felix	Cathy F	Wendy M-B/Ann	Michael/Rod	Helen H
1 Apl. Holy Thurs.	James	Geraldine	Rod/Bobbie		Helen H
2 Apl Passion		Helen P		Wendy M-B/ Germaine/Wendy H	Helen H
3 Apl: Easter	Geoff	Cathy F/Geraldine	1. Cathy F 5. Bobbie	3. Mandy O'Brien NT. Ann	Helen H

Please let me know as soon as possible if you won't be attending, so other arrangements can be made.

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Mass Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

Take care and keep safe,
Helen Hart