



**PALM SUNDAY  
YEAR B**

**24 March 2024**

**LITURGY AND BULLETIN**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Lord, increase the faith of your people and listen to our prayers.  
Today we honour Christ our triumphant King.  
May we honour you every day by living always in him,  
For he is Lord for ever and ever. 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:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:15:1-39

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

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 Nick Brodie**

'Let us ask for the grace to be amazed', reflects Pope Francis. 'A Christian life without amazement', he warns, 'becomes drab and dreary'. Palm Sunday is about so much more than an annual waving of branches.

Whether our faith has become what the Pope styled 'dull from habit', or we find ourselves 'trapped in our regrets', or 'crippled by our disappointments', or easily inclined to 'take refuge in legalisms', the Pope suggests we return our gaze to Jesus' self-sacrifice and allow ourselves to be amazed. 'Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again,' the Pope says, 'for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realising that we are loved.'

When we allow ourselves to embrace this fact our lives will be changed. As the Pope points out, many of those who welcomed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem quickly abandoned him. They were, he suggests, 'following an *idea* of the Messiah rather than *the* Messiah'. Their public demonstrations seem to have proved self-oriented and shallow.

'To admire Jesus is not enough', the Pope declares. 'We have to follow in his footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement.' This, he says, enables us to really 'know that we are not alone: God is at our side in every affliction, in every fear; no evil, no sin will ever have the final word.'

'And with the grace of amazement', the Pope adds, 'we come to realise that in welcoming the dismissed and discarded, in drawing close to those ill-treated by life, we are loving Jesus.'

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Reader: For the Church: *(pause)*

that it will be a sign of Christ's humility and compassion in the world. In your mercy:

For peoples who live in fear of violence and war: *(pause)* that peace will reign. In your mercy:

For those who are tormented and insulted because of their beliefs: *(pause)*  
that they will be treated with tolerance and respect. In your mercy:

For those who will be washed in the waters of Baptism at Easter: *(pause)*  
that they will draw strength from the redeeming Christ. In your mercy:

For this community: *(pause)*  
that we will empty ourselves and draw close to the cross. In your mercy:

For the sick, including Patrick Thomas, Kerry Prothero, Tony Riley, Patrick Hynes, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers: *(pause)*  
that in their suffering they will become one with Christ. In your mercy:

For those who have gone before us, including Val Goodsell, Ellie Alderink & Craig Morgan:  
*(pause)*  
that they will share in Christ's victory over death. In your mercy:

### **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.*

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**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Tony Percy** M. 0431 225 574

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**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tues: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Mass:** Saturdays at 5.00pm.

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Social Justice Group:** 2 April at 3pm in the Presbytery

**Scripture:** Tuesdays at 4pm in the Presbytery.

### **Holy Week services in Braidwood**

Palm Sunday: 24<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm

Holy Thursday: 28<sup>th</sup> March – 7.00pm

Good Friday: 29<sup>th</sup> March – Stations of the Cross at 10.00am; Passion at 3.00pm

Easter Mass: 30<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass at 5.00pm

Holy Thursday and Good Friday will be services without a priest in attendance. There will be distribution of communion.

**Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 1pm Saturday 23 March:** Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle – this month the raffle prize is a \$100 voucher to Mitre 10. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench 0418262011



**SAVE THE DATE: Mother's Day Breakfast with prayer:** Saturday 4th May 8-9.30am in St

Bede's school hall, more details to follow.

**This is a call to sign the e-Petition to restore palliative care funding to support people throughout NSW with a life-limiting illness.**

The [End of Life and Palliative Care Framework 2019-2024](#) articulates NSW Health's vision of an integrated approach to end-of-life and palliative care planning and services within the NSW health system. On 9 June 2022, the NSW Government announced an additional \$743 million over 5 years (2022-23 to 2026-27) to enhance end-of-life and palliative care in NSW. The purpose of this funding is to improve hospital care and community health services for people with a life-limiting illness and to strengthen equity and access in rural, regional and remote areas. This amount was reduced by \$150 million in the last budget (2023-2024). An e-parliamentary petition has been created on behalf of NSW citizens to voice their concerns regarding this reduction of funding for the expansion and provision of appropriate palliative care to our most vulnerable.

If 10,000 signatures are achieved, the withdrawal of funding and redistribution of funds will have to be debated in Parliament. The petition has been posted online via the link below. The names and email addresses of signatories will not be used for any other purpose.

**Please consider**

1. signing and
2. sharing with your family & friends.


**Closing Date: 03/04/2024**

[Click here for Legislative Council ePetition: Restore Palliative Care funding](#)

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 50:4-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Phil. 2:6-11. Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47.

**Easter Sunday readings:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 10:34, 37-43. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Col. 3:1-4. Gospel: John 20:1-9.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm

 As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities. Please return your Project Compassion boxes now.



<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>23 Mar (Palm Sun)</b>	<b>Easter 30 Mar</b>	<b>6 April</b>	
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Geraldine	Helen P	
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)			
Reader 1:	Cathy F	Ann T	Cathy F	
Reader 2:	Michael	Wendy H	Michael	
	Passion: N: Germaine S: Wendy M-B		Sequence: Michael	
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>30 Mar Easter</b>	<b>5 April</b>	<b>12 Apl</b>	<b>19 Apl</b>
Altar Decorating:	All arrangers please	Helen P	Cathy F	Joy
Cleaning:	Helen P & Sarah	Pauline & Bobbie	Bronnie & Felix	
Counters:	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Brenda	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H 4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen	5 <sup>th</sup> Helen Bopping	
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster or get a substitute from the list on the reverse side of the roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.				

**Rosters for Holy Week: if you cannot fulfill your ministry, please contact Helen ASAP**

**Holy Thursday:** Welcomer: Helen P; Readers: Tommy, Bobbie, Anne T.

**Good Friday:** Welcomer: Cathy F

Readers of Passion: Germaine, Mandy, Michael.

Readers of Solemn Intercessions: Cathy F, Michael

Readers of Veneration of the Cross: Ann M, Wendy H

Communion: Acolyte: Felix

**Father Tony writes:**

**Dear Parishioners,**

Palm Sunday has its own joy. We – the crowds – acclaiming Christ as King, yet with the twinkling of an eye, we enter the Passion of Jesus:

**Why is it that we proclaim the Passion of Jesus on Palm Sunday, when it is proclaimed on Good Friday?**

The Church desires that we contemplate the Passion of Jesus for the week that is called ‘**Holy Week.**’

This is not a request that we deepen our intellectual knowledge of Jesus and his death. Rather, we are being asked to **feel** what Jesus felt.

St. Ignatius (1491-1556) bequeathed ***The Spiritual Exercises***. He is insistent that the *Exercises* are not about head-knowledge but about intimacy with God.

His introduction to the *Spiritual Exercises* is important:

**For it is not knowing much, but realising and relishing things interiorly, that contents and satisfies the soul (Fleming, *Draw Me Into Your Friendship*, 6-7).**

So yes, we are being asked to **feel** the way Jesus felt during his passion and death:

**The sorrow of the abandonment and physical suffering, yet the spiritual joy of knowing that it all leads to the salvation of humanity.**

As we gather together for these beautiful and evocative liturgies in the next few days, let’s be conscious of each other – how much we need each other in our journey of faith.

Blessings,

Father Tony

Please join us in our Holy Week liturgies

Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede’s Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.