



**PALM SUNDAY
YEAR A**

2 April 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*Lord,
increase the faith of your people and listen to our prayers.
May we honour you every day by living always with Christ
who 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 Matthew 27:11-54

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew by Dianne Bergant CSA

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted

precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. 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 must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus 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 holds 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 our sake.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all agents of peace, that they will persuade humankind to renounce anger, hatred and violence. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for nations that enjoy prosperity and peace, that they will share their blessings with the multitude who have fled their homeland. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who are persecuted or victimised for their religious beliefs, that their faith will give them the strength to stand firm. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for victims of injustice, that the wrong they have suffered may be set right. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all the disadvantaged communities aided by Project Compassion, that with our support they will grow strong and flourish. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our parish community, that the services of Holy Week will renew and deepen our faith in Christ. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who are suffering ill health, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Eadaoin Corcoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the recently deceased Lisa Drury, Brian Walsh, Albertina van den Broke, Ann Fisher and Phillip Lee. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be raised on high with Christ the Lord. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

may the death of your Son give us hope and strengthen our faith

and may his resurrection give us perseverance and lead us to salvation.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm
Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10.00am
Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am
Social Justice Group: Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery
First Rite of Reconciliation: 5-5.15pm Saturdays during Lent.
Krawarree Mass: 30 April at 11am.
Blessing of the Sick Mass: Tuesday 28th March at 10am.

Easter Service times:

Palm Sunday: 1 April at 6pm (Vigil)
Holy Thursday: 6 April at 7pm (Mass of the Lord's Supper)
Good Friday: 7 April Stations of the Cross: 10am; Passion: 3pm.
Easter Vigil: 8 April at 6pm
Anzac Day Ecumenical Service: 9.30am in St Bede's Church followed by a cuppa and Anzac Biscuits. Please bring a small plate to share.

SAVE THE DATE: All women are welcome to come along to a Mother's Day Breakfast on Saturday May 6th. Let's get together to enjoy each other's company and conclude with prayers of thanks and celebration for the mothering roles in our lives.



Happy Birthday to Gloria Collins who recently turned 101.

CHRISM MASS: Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 3 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the Holy Oils used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

Tech Help Drop In at Library on Monday 28 March 1-3.30pm

Daylight saving ends 3am on Sunday 2 April.



Don't forget to put your clocks back.

First Thursdays Community Lunch 6th April, commencing at 11.30am. Please book for the bus 4842 2108. Special guest Harry Laing – word juggler, pot hole poet – laughs guaranteed.

Readings for Mass:

Palm Sunday 1st: Isaiah 50:4-7.. 2nd: Phil. 2:6-11. Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

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

Good Friday: Passion: John: 18:1-19:42.

Easter Vigil: (1) Gen. 1:1-2:2. (3) Exod. 14:15-15:1.(5) Isaiah. 55:1-11. NT: Rom. 6:3-11. Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10.

Ministries for our Easter Ceremonies

	<u>24 March Palm Sunday</u>	<u>29 Mar Holy Thurs</u>	<u>30 Mar Good Friday</u>	<u>31 Mar Easter Vigil</u>
Welcomer:	Helen P	Helen H	n/a	Geraldine
Acolyte:		J Gunderson	Wendy H/H Bopping	Felix
Reader 1:	Wendy H	Ann T	n/a	OT 1 Mandy
Reader 2:	Bobbie	Tommy	n/a	OT 3 Michael
Passion: Narrator	Wendy M-B	n/a	1. Germaine	OT 5 Brian
Speaker	Michael	n/a	2. Michael	NT Tommy
			3. Cathy F	
			C. Wendy H	

<u>Ministries of service:</u>	<u>8 April (Easter)</u>	<u>14 April</u>	<u>21 April</u>
Altar Decorating:	all arrangers please	Joy	Helen P
Cleaning:	Helen P & Sarah		Bani & Ella

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
 3rd Sunday: volunteer please 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.



Please return your Project Compassion boxes now.

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water.

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations.*** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Take care of each other,
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.