

PALM SUNDAY 5th, APRIL 2020

**DEAR PARISHIONERS,
THIS NEWSLETTER IS MY WAY OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOU
AND TO UPDATE AND SHARE NEWS ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE.**



HOLY WEEK embraces the last days of Lent and the Easter Triduum. *Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts.* SC110

The approach to our most important week of the year - Holy Week - the way we follow Christ from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem - to the foot of the Cross - to an empty tomb - will be completely different this year. Our Catholic churches would have been packed on Easter Sunday but sadly in 2020 there will be no liturgical celebrations with a congregation. We will not be able to receive Communion nor celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour in our churches. This year we will follow Holy Week and Easter Sunday at home.

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For various reasons we may be prevented from receiving the Eucharist at Mass. This could be because we are unable to leave our home to attend Mass. This is especially relevant for us in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In these cases, the Church encourages us to make an act of "*spiritual communion*," where we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion. Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over the years. It can be prayed if you find yourself at Mass unable to receive the Eucharist, or at any time at home, especially if you are unable to attend Mass. The ultimate goal of our lives should be communion with God and an act of spiritual communion can help a person draw closer to that goal.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Adapted from <https://aleteia.org/2018/09/20/cant-receive-the-eucharist-hereshow-to-make-a-spiritual-communion>



HOLY WEEK READINGS

PALM SUNDAY or THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Matthew 21:1-11/Isaiah 50:4-7/Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

MONDAY of HOLY WEEK

Is 42, 1-7; Jn. 12, 1-11

TUESDAY of HOLY WEEK

Is 49, 1-6; Jn 13, 21-33. 36-38

WEDNESDAY of HOLY WEEK

Is 50, 4-9; Mt 26, 14-25

THURSDAY of the LORD'S SUPPER

Ex 12, 1-8. 11-14; I Cor 11, 23-26; Jn 13, 1-15

FRIDAY of the PASSION of the LORD

Is 52, 13 – 53, 12; Heb 4, 14-16. 5, 7-9; Jn 18, 1- 19, 4

HOLY SATURDAY

Gen 1, 1-2,2; Gen 22, 1-18; Ex 14, 15-15,1; Is 54, 5-14; Is 55, 1-11;
Baruch 3, 9-15. 32-4,4; Ezek 36, 16-28; Rom 6, 3-11; Mt 28, 1-10

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10, 34. 37-43; Col 3, 1-4; Jn 20, 1-9

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 2020

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ into Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospel, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.



A PRAYER AT A TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF CANBERRA GOULBURN
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Heavenly Father,

We praise and thank you for your loving presence, especially in the Lent/Easter season. We offer heartfelt thanks, dear Lord, particularly for our recent rains. Once again, we come to you in our need. As your children we are in need of your healing and protection.

Just as we have been recovering from our dangerous bushfire summer, we have now been thrown into a fearful coronavirus (COVID 19) autumn. We are tired and frightened. We feel a sense of panic and future uncertainty on a global scale.

Be with us now, Loving Master. Without you all is nothing – only empty hearts and a total reliance on our own feeble resources.

But with you “there is mercy and fullness of Redemption” (Psalm 130/7). With you there is “the loving mercy of the heart of our God (who) will give light to those who sit in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1/79).

It seems that so many public gatherings are now postponed or cancelled. There is virus death, the sick, and the anxious. We are spending more time on our own, or with family or friends.

We pray for the sick and those looking after them. Help us to offer practical help to those who struggle.

Let us use these times, O Lord, for your greater glory, especially during Lent and Easter. Let us pray more, and truly listen to you more in loving silence, stillness and simplicity.

Almighty Father, you always journey with us in life’s challenges. Help us to meet you often in the scriptures and our sacraments. Increase in us faith, hope and trust.

Protect us from this coronavirus. Remove it from our common home. Heal those who are sick and dying.

Mary, Help of Christians, as always we fly to you in our need. Be close to us and point out your Son, Jesus, to us in this pandemic. St Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin, pray for us. We make this and all our prayers through Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, AMEN

DAILY ONLINE MASSES RESOURCES

<https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>
<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass
<https://www.catholic.org.au/prayathome>

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

Channel 10 at 6.00am. Sunday morning

THE DIVINE MERCY OF JESUS

3 o'clock prayer - the hour of great mercy

Jesus said: *Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion.*

Let us pray: **O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you. Jesus, I trust in You**

THE SICK

As we journey with our Lord through this tough time let us remember in our prayers our family, parishioners and all those who are sick. May the healing power of God touch and give them strength and heal them.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for the recently deceased in our parish community. Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of Lyn Matthews' mother and Mary Roberson, who passed away last Thursday evening. *May all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Amen

PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

WE CAN STILL PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE ACROSS OUR WORLD

'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love' (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

Through your generosity during Project Compassion in 2020, you are empowering communities with hope and helping those in need to shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Mindful of all the needs here locally in our own community perhaps we can give 'something small with great love'. 'We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community'. (Dorothy Day)

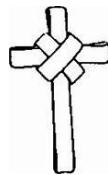
If you would like to contribute online go to the Caritas website.

<https://lent.caritas.org.au>

NEED A PRIEST

I am available for any urgent call on contact number **64951880**.

If I am not able to answer the phone, please leave a short message with your contact details and I will attend your call asap.



PALM CROSSES

Palm Crosses will be blessed on Sunday Morning. I will leave them on a table in front of all three Churches. Crosses will be available for collection after 10.30am on Sunday.

Stay safe everyone and have a prayerful weekend.

Fr Pale Leota

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