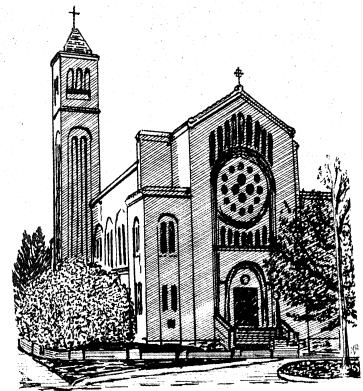


St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



Palm Sunday

— Year A

5 Apr 2020

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias

Masses will be offered without a congregation present until further notice.

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral
Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>
Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm (Working remotely)
Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm (Working remotely)



The Beginning of Holy Week

Dear Saint Christopher's Cathedral Parish Parishioners,
The saying goes: "how easy it is to be a part of a crowd!" Who would have thought that the crowd which today welcomed Jesus with such enthusiasm and awe, would be the same crowd to turn against him so quickly and call for His death? Psalm Sunday begins Holy Week and marks Jesus' triumphant entry *back* into Jerusalem. And I use that word quite deliberately. Nothing Jesus ever did was void of meaning.

On His way to Jerusalem, we hear "*[Jesus] came to Bethphage [and Bethany] on the Mount of Olives*" (Mtt. 21:1ff). Jesus is coming into Jerusalem and we're getting a few little geographical detail. No big deal, right? But for those who know the Holy Land, they know that just east of the City you have the Mount of Olives and just east of this are Bethphage and Bethany. Superfluous details? Not in the slightest! You see all of these places are directly *east* of Jerusalem, which is significant. The Evangelist is drawing deep images here from Jewish heritage. Jesus is approaching Jerusalem, *from the east*. Any pious Jew of the time knew the scriptures well and this detail would have struck them profoundly.

The Prophet Ezekiel had centuries earlier spoken about gazing upon the temple and witnessing something most distressing: "Then I looked, and behold... *the Glory of the Lord departed* from the threshold of the temple... by *the east gate*." (Ezk 10:18-19).

Jesus now enters from the east. Notice what is happening. Jesus, the *Glory of God*, is re-entering His temple once more and He is returning the same way he had left; from the East. The One they had been waiting for, the Messiah, *God's Glory*.

In today's readings we hear Jesus' Passion, all within the context of this Palm Sunday celebration and triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The new Temple will now be His Body, given for us, and of which we have become a part through baptism.

May you all know how close Jesus is to you this day, how close He is in His Church and how much He truly loves you. He enters Jerusalem for love of *you*, to die for love of *you* and to claim *you* back... for Himself.

Fr Trenton

Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

- Pope Francis

Please know that Holy Week resources and communications will be continually available on the Parish and Archdiocesan website.

Holy Week Liturgies will be live-streamed from our Cathedral Crypt, times are within and on the website. Let us be mindful of our Spiritual communion and unity in these most significant moments in our faith, and be assured of your priests love, prayer and closeness to you, now more than ever.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music: Jaki Kane

RCIA—Fr Trenton van Reesch
Weekly on Thursdays, 6pm

School of Religion

Youth Minister—Chiara Catanzariti

Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 6 Apr Mon of Holy Week

Tue 7 Apr Chrism Mass

Wed 1 Apr Wed of Holy Week

Thu 2 Apr Holy Thursday

Fri 3 Apr Good Friday

Sat 4 Apr Easter Saturday

Sun 5 Apr Easter Sunday

Group gatherings in recess for the moment

Legion of Mary

Wednesday at 6.15pm
Haydon Hall

St Vincent de Paul

Assisting people in need and combatting social injustice in our community

Young Adults

Animating parish and Archdiocesan life through prayer and event participation

Thursday 6.30pm Rosary/Bible Sharing/Fellowship SCC
Geetanjali Rogers

Good Shepherd Prayer Group

Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation

Saturday at 5pm SPC
"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Other Communities

Spanish Community

First Sunday of the month at 11.30am SPC

African Community

Second Sunday of the month at 11.45am SPC

Filipino Community

First Sunday bi-monthly at 5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the above, contact the Parish

HOLY WEEK 2020

All Holy Week Masses will be live streamed from the St Christopher's Cathedral Crypt. <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/> Alternatively you can search for 'Catholic Voice' on YouTube to find a [LIVE] tag. Masses are also be viewable after the livestreamed times.

Palm Sunday, Sunday 5th April - 11am

Chrism Mass, Tuesday 7th April - 11am

Easter Triduum:

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Thursday 9th April - 7pm

Good Friday, Friday 10th April. **Way of the Cross** (Lead by Youth), 10am & **Celebration of the Lord's Passion** - 3pm.

The Easter Vigil, Saturday 11th April - 7pm.

Easter Sunday, Sunday 12th April - 11am.

CANCELLED EVENTS - Please see parish website for full list (cg.org.au/cathedral)

- **2020 CATHEDRAL PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION PROGRAM** - suspended until further notice due to the Coronavirus.
- **ANZAC DAY MASS**
- **SUNG VESPERS**

Young Adults - Young Adults (including bible study) are looking at moving online during this time – keep up with updates on our parish website.

Parish Phone Tree—If you know someone who would appreciate a friendly call (and we may not have their details), please forward their name and number to the parish office. If you would like to be phoned in these day as part of our 'phone tree' please also email the parish office.

Pastoral Visits—Our utmost concern at this time is the **pastoral and spiritual care of our parish family**. In these days where isolation has become the new norm, the pastoral arm of the Church must be more than ever front and centre. Those who do regular home visitations are encouraged to now consider phone calls, checking-in and assuring each other of thoughts and prayers.

Fr Norvin and I are continuing to visit the hospital and nursing homes upon request to minister to the sick, struggling and dying. Let us keep all those who need care and the sacraments in our prayers.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will not take Communion to sick persons until further notice. Keeping contact via phone and other means is highly recommended and I ask all EMHC to please do this with those they visit, if possible.

How to still contribute financially to St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

As our churches are not open for Masses due to Corona Virus, our weekend collections are not being taken up. If you would like to contribute to the First Collection, you can make a direct transfer from your bank account.

The First collection is for the support of clergy in the parish and beyond. Each priest in a parish draws a personal stipend from the first collection for living expenses, food and housekeeping. Funds are also directed to:

- Priests in parishes where the first collection is insufficient to meet their stipend
- The support of the Archbishop, Vicar General and Chancellor
- Priests in remote dioceses across Australia
- Clergy Retirement Foundation (in support of sick and retired clergy)

Account Name: CATHEDRAL
BSB: 062-786
Bank Account: 000029248
Reference: FORREST/ACT & SURNAME

The Second collection, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. The second collection funds are used for the day to day running of our parish. That is to pay for the repairs, wages, insurance, utilities and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning. If you would like to give towards the Parish expenses and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
BSB: 062786
Bank Account: 000015080
Reference: - Planned Giving Number and Surname (only for current Planned Givers); or Donation (for donations by parishioner's not registered Planned Givers).

ATTENTION: Scam Emails—Sadly, some have received scam emails from a Gmail account pretending to be Fr Trenton and requesting money for individuals in hospital etc... This is a scam and should not be responded to. If you ever receive emails like this from individuals pretending to be clergy, the email should be reported to the parish Office and ignored.

OTHER NEWS

An Easter Encounter:

The **Encounter: Way of the Cross** is a guided series of testimonies, scriptures, reflections and prayers that follow the final encounters of Jesus.



The Way of the Cross is the journey of Jesus. It is also our journey. As you undertake this journey, be open to encountering Jesus in a new way this Easter.

Join Archbishop Christopher, along with Youth Ministers within the Archdiocese. These testimonies have been tailored to **children and families** or **youth and adults** and are available at <https://www.cgyouth.org.au/become/encounter/>



Palm Sunday
5 April 2020



Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope who runs a safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Please visit www.catholicvoice.org.au for more resources, prayers and news.

'Spiritual Communion'

Saints often made an act of spiritual communion when they couldn't receive the Eucharist at Mass.

For various reasons we may be prevented from receiving the Eucharist in the Mass. 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.

Countless saints incorporated this type of prayer into their daily lives. Making an act of spiritual communion for them was an essential part of life and drew them closer to God, daily.

St. Josemaria Escrivá encouraged everyone to make a spiritual communion as often as they could, "What a source of grace there is in spiritual communion! Practice it frequently and you'll have greater presence of God and closer union with him in all your actions."

Padre Pio also had a habit of making a spiritual communion throughout the day outside of the celebration of Mass. He desired to be always united with Jesus Christ in everything he did.

Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over centuries. It can be prayed if you find yourself at home or at work, in the car or in bed, wherever you are - lifting up your thoughts to God, pray it often in these days!

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.

"The human heart desires joy. We all desire joy, every family, every people aspires to happiness. But what is the joy that the Christian is called to live out and bear witness to? It is the joy that comes from the closeness of God, from his presence in our life." — Pope Francis

Prayer for all who Seek Refuge: On Palm Sunday each year Christians remember Australia's refugees. We can show our support and care as we pray for them. We pray for the hundreds of people still in Papua New Guinea and Nauru who live in fear of the conditions they face and in despair of what their future holds. We ask you to hear our prayer, that all who seek refuge may be treated with respect and care, and that all may find the home that they deserve and need.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



Tap & Go PayWave Machine to contribute to the Church collections without the necessity of carrying cash. Please PayWave your card at the pre-set Tap N Go machine located in the Church Foyer when you exit the church. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

We pray for...

Those to be married: Emily Tighe & Thomas Kenyon

Those who are ill: Arianna Vignale, Anna Vincent, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, Lisette D'Cruze, David Kibbey, Jacqueline Khin, Katarina Kish, Mary Brennan

Anniversaries of death: Chris Nebauer, Peter Ryan, Francesco & Francesca Barbaro, Natalina Servello, Anne Lynch, Tim Ayers, Patrick Develin, Vince Gallagher, Madeline Nogrady, Fr John Butz, Brian O'Donavan, Catherine Nancarrow, Bruno Pini, Giustina Cadona, Ingrid Kemp, John Keating,

Recently Deceased: Regina Paredes, Hilda Quinones, Shirley Evans, Josip Persic, Don Furner, Henry Tabisz, Mary-Anne McGrath, Rod Frazer, 4 children killed at Oatlands, Roberto Emilio, Bruce Kennedy, Ronald D'Cruze, Brian Kelly, Betty O'Neill, Patricia Smith, David Cusack, Anica Soldo, John Gallagher, David Askew, Andrew Italiano, Stanley Marris, Patricia Brennan,

Readings of the Day – Palm Sunday —Year A

ENTRANCE ANTIphon: Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

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!

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

First Reading

Is 50:4-7

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.

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

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 Reading

Mt 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.'

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