

# Parish Newsletter

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | 14 April 2019  
Cycle C | Issue 20

## THE REAL WEEK

**A**s I'm writing this, the terrible news of the desecration of the crypt of St Michan's in Dublin is in the news. The remains that were disturbed at this ancient site included those of an 800-year-old crusader and a 400-year-old nun. We may wonder what our society has come to. Is there any respect for the living or the dead? But, as with all news stories, we move on ...

Well, Lent has moved on too. With Palm (Passion) Sunday comes the Week that Christians mark as no other. Our ancestors called it a *Seachtain Mór* or 'Great Week'. We usually call it simply Holy Week. With Palm Sunday comes the high solemn feast of God's dark glory and grandeur. With Palm Sunday comes the most awesome and terrifying time in the Church year. As Advent is to Christmas, so Lent is to Holy Week.

### Today's Readings



Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56

### Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9



Except Christmas has a birth – and sure who'd be afraid of a baby? But Holy Week has a certain tone of anxiety and fearful waiting. Of course, we know the end of Holy Week (which is really a beginning) leads us to an empty tomb and Resurrection. Still, maybe we should call it the 'Real Week' – because it mirrors so much of the reality of our human vulnerability. God, in Jesus, is stripped bare, manhandled and seized, beaten and mocked and spat upon. And we do not like vulnerability. And we certainly don't easily grasp the willingness of God to suffer with us and for us. The child Jesus is easy to accept – the suffering Jesus remains a struggle for us.

My late uncle, a priest, had a pretty gruesome picture of Jesus crucified – you could feel the pain etched on his features. The more I think of it, the more accurate I feel it was. In

modern life we have sanitised and smoothed over the rough edges of our reality – so much so that we have a problem when the cross swerves into our lives. For instance, in modern language people don't 'die' – they 'pass away'. I've heard that the death of a patient in a hospital is recorded as 'negative patient-care outcome'! Yes, euphemisms are alive and well as they make it easier for us to describe hard realities. But this week is a time to be real and to grapple with the matter. Life is beautiful, yet it can be tough – but for the Christian, while we may be unsure of what the future holds for any of us, we do know who holds the future.

– Tom Cox



## Reflection

How does the Lord want to enter my life this Palm Sunday?



## Lesson

The end, which Jesus' entry into Jerusalem signals, is Easter and eternal life.



## Prayer

Eternal Father, we thank you for the gift to us of your Son Jesus Christ.

Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever.

– Brennan Manning

## This Week (15-21 April)

- 15 **Mon** Monday of Holy Week
- 16 **Tue** Tuesday of Holy Week
- 17 **Wed** Wednesday of Holy Week
- 18 **Thur** HOLY THURSDAY
- 19 **Fri** GOOD FRIDAY
- 20 **Sat** HOLY SATURDAY
- 21 **Sun** EASTER SUNDAY



ST PAULS is an activity of the Priests and Brothers of the Society of St Paul who proclaim the Gospel through the media of social communications. Tel: 01-6285933

PN20C



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**MASS TIMES & SERVICES (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)**

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)  
Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9.30am, 1pm & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am  
Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am. Friday at 7.00pm.  
Wednesday: Communion Service discontinued until further notice (Day off)  
Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass at 7.00pm & Morning of Feast Day 09.30am  
Confessions: Before each Mass and By Arrangement.  
Baptisms: Saturdays at 4pm (3 weeks notice required)



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS  
John 8:1-11

*This passage is a very rich one and it would be a mistake to attempt to pray each and every part of it. Almost every phrase has something new: actions, images, symbols, words. When you read the passage, stay with whatever part of it resonates with your own life, but make sure when you pray it that you stay with the passage until you get beyond the violence and the horror to find a good news lesson for you. A few specific points taken at random are:*

1. In this scene of great tragedy, there are people helping others, either reluctantly or with compassion: Simon, the women of Jerusalem, the criminal on the cross, and Jesus himself. Note the differences in the manner in which the help given (as a burden, with sympathy, etc). What has been your experience of helping and being helped?
2. Despite the persecution by the leaders Jesus still shows forgiveness. When have you seen that spirit of forgiveness in yourself or in others? In your experience, what is the effect of a forgiving spirit, or of its absence?
3. Towards the end, there is a ray of light. Jesus says 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'. His relationship with his Father was one of trust, even at a moment like this. What difference has it made to you in times of difficulty or pain to have a relationship of trust with God, or with someone else?

John Byrne OSA. Email [jbyrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jbyrneosa@gmail.com)

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Brian McCaughan (brother of Fr Aidan), Winnie Fleming (mother of Fr Paul)  
Anniversaries: Fr Pat Gallagher, Maire Smyth, John Riordan, John Mahoney (Sat 13th Apr at 6:30pm), Mary Riordan (Sun 14th Apr at 11:30am), Olive McCormick (Sun 21st at 11:30am).

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 14th April (PALM SUNDAY)  
READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford  
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kay Dunn

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright  
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 21st April (EASTER SUNDAY)  
READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney and others  
Easter Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Eileen Dunn

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy and 2 others  
Easter Morning Mass: James Henderson



**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly £490.89, Shrines £74.30

**New Boxes of Envelopes** are now available. If you would like to receive a Box (and sign a Gift Aid declaration), or if your details are changed, please contact Fr McCann ASAP.

**Mary's Meals Raffle and Cake Sale** after all masses this weekend.

**Fundraising.** The Polish Community is organising funds for a family from Poland. They are grandparents who look after grandchildren, but now they have lost their house, due to a gas pipe explosion. They have lost everything. The Polish city council is helping with clothes and temporary accommodation they need our help as well. Together we can help build a new house for them. A special collection will be organised for the masses THIS weekend. More information forthcoming. Please support this worthy cause.

**Trócaire's Lenten Boxes** If possible, coins should be converted to notes and placed in the envelopes provided in Trócaire box pack, and enter your name and address details in the spaces provided. Any cheques should be

payable to Trócaire and similarly placed in the envelopes as described. Collections should be placed in the Basket on Holy Thursday, or in collection baskets at the Ceremonies or ASAP. Last Collection Sunday 28th April. Thereafter you should send to Trócaire yourselves.

**Food Bank.** We are again collecting toiletries and non-perishable foodstuffs as part of a Food Bank working with local parishes. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the bags provided.

**Holy Week Ceremonies Liturgy Sheet.** A sheet for volunteer readers and eucharistic ministers, and other volunteer roles can be found in the Sacristy. They include times, ministries and other roles within the liturgy. Please put your name in the time slots if you are willing to participate.

### Times of Masses/Services of Holy Week and Easter:

Palm Sunday 14th April	Penitential Service St Colmcilles @ 3pm
	Penitential Service St Brigid's @ 4pm
Monday: Mass 9:30am	Penitential Service Holy Rosary @ 7:30pm
Tuesday: Mass 9:30am	Penitential Service Drumbo @ 7:30pm
Wednesday: Mass 9:30am	Penitential Service St Bernadettes @ 7:30pm
Holy Thursday: Chrim Mass (Cathedral) 11am	
	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm followed by procession to altar of repose, adoration until Night Prayer @ 9:30pm.
Good Friday: Stations 3pm. Passion 6:30pm (English) 8pm (Polish)	
Holy Saturday: Blessing of food (Polish) 9:30-11:30am	
Easter Vigil: Mass of the Lord's Resurrection 9:30pm	
Easter Sunday: As Sunday Masses.	

**Bishop Treanor's Pastoral Letter—To Follow Jesus Closely:** Bishop Treanor has written a pastoral letter on priesthood and vocational discernment. In it, he invites us to pray for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life. He encourages us to contribute to a culture which supports young people to listen, discern and live God's call in their lives. Copies of the letter will be distributed at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. Please take one and reflect on its themes with your loved ones. For further information on vocations to priesthood, please visit [vocationsdownandconnor.org](http://vocationsdownandconnor.org) or contact Fr Kevin McGuckien on 02890614567.

**Evangelium Course on the Creed** A Powerpoint Presentation Course to deepen our understanding of the fundamentals of our faith, as explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and showcasing famous church art, will begin in St Anthony's church after Easter, on Thursdays, 7:30-9pm, starting on Thursday 9th May. If you are interested, contact Fr McCann or put name on sheet in Sacristy.

**Feast of Divine Mercy.** The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in Belfast on 28th April in:  
St. Peter's Cathedral, Falls Road and Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road - starts at 2:15pm with Holy Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Holy Mass.  
St. Paul's Church, Falls Road - starts at 1:30 with Exposition and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Holy Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass. Poster and flyers in the porch.

**The Evangelium Project.** A one-day conference for young Catholics. Topics of the day: Sin, The Eucharist, Scripture and the Complementarity of the Sexes. Saturday, 13/07/19 in DCU All Hallows Campus, Dublin. 9am - 8pm. Cost including Lunch, Dinner and Goody Bag, 30. To book go to [www.evangelium.ie](http://www.evangelium.ie) or search "The Evangelium Project" on Eventbrite. See poster in porch.

**SMA Retreat Centre, Dromantine, Newry is offering 2 short Retreats.** 1. Awareness and Mindful Living. Conducted by Martina and Patrick Sheehan. From 10am on Fri. 10th May - Sun. 12th at 2pm. 2. Forgiveness; the journey from hurt to healing, freedom and peace. Conducted by Fr. Des Corrigan SMA, Sat. 22nd June 9.30am - 5pm. Contact retreat Centre, Dromantine Tel. 028-30821964. E mail: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com). See poster in Porch for times/cost.

**Lough Derg Pilgrimages** For 1-day and 3-day pilgrimages see [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org), or poster in porch.

**Parish Safeguarding.** Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks. Fr Henry McCann PP.

The Parish of St Anthony's is part of the Diocese of Down and Connor and operates in accordance with the Diocesan Privacy Notice, copies of which are available in porch.