

28 March 2021

The journey of discipleship:

Our opening reading from Mark's Gospel captures the elation of the crowds who welcome Jesus in Jerusalem. They spread greenery on the road in front of him, they lift their voices in praise, singing 'Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!'. But their hope and loyalty is short-lived, as we discover in our reading of the Passion. Jesus is left almost alone to face humiliation and death. His followers have heard his radical message of reversal and upheaval, but when it comes down to it, the challenge is too much. We are told 'they all deserted him and ran away'. While Peter follows Jesus at a distance, he is soon denying he even knows him. Soon, the crowds are shouting for Jesus to be crucified.

We are very familiar with the Passion Gospel and it can be tempting to allow ourselves to tune out, particularly when it comes to the unpleasant parts. We do not like to think of ourselves as part of the mob shouting 'Crucify him!' Yet if we enter fully into the experience, we can see ourselves in the story. When things are going well, it is easy to praise God and shout 'Hosanna!', and promise we will not lose faith. There are other times we fall asleep, become complacent. And then there are days when we struggle, when we are confused or do not know what God expects of us or whether we are able to handle the difficult times. We pull away from God. The different disciples display this range of human reactions and emotions. This week, Holy Week, we are the disciples walking with Jesus on a journey that leads to the cross. And yet here at the cross, we find Mary Magdalene and the other female disciples, and Joseph of Arimathea. We know the story is not over for these disciples, or for Peter and the others. The journey of discipleship is just beginning.

'We don't have to be able to articulate all the logic of what is happening now. But Christians walk on with the conviction that there is One who does make sense of the apparent madness of shattered human dreams.'

(Bishop Donal McKeown)

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Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



Please pray for the sick
Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those who are preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Please pray especially for Ailish, Frank, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, Agnes, Lilia, Muirinn, Orla, Ruby, Carmel, Pat, Michelle.
Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love.

a guide to HOLY WEEK

By Melinda McPherson

Palm Sunday

- People of Jerusalem welcome Jesus as king as he triumphantly enters the city
- Crowd waves palms and lays cloaks on the ground before him
- Jesus rides in on a donkey to fulfill Old Testament prophecies

The liturgy begins with blessing of palms, an extra reading about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and a procession while the congregation waves palms to play the part of the crowds

Take the palms and place them in your home or workplace as a witness to faith in Jesus' Paschal Victory

Put yourself in the shoes of the people who first welcomed Christ as king, but in a matter of days, called for his crucifixion

Though chronologically three days, the PASCHAL TRIDUUM is one liturgical day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery

Holy Thursday

- Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his Apostles
- Jesus institutes the Eucharist and constitutes the Apostles as priests
- Displaying great humility, Jesus washes the feet of his Apostles
- Gives *mandatum*, command to love one another as he has loved them
- During the agony in the garden, he accepts God's will, then is arrested

At the end of Mass the altar is stripped and all decorations are covered or removed. Even the tabernacle is emptied and all consecrated hosts are moved to an Altar of Repose to mimic the absence and loss felt by the disciples during Jesus' agony and death.

No final blessing as the liturgical day continues

Make a pilgrimage to visit seven churches in your area
Spend an hour in adoration

Good Friday

- While Jesus was being questioned, Peter denies him three times
- Pilate has Jesus scourged and a crown of thorns put on his head
- Jesus carries his own cross to Calvary, where he is crucified
- With the words, 'It is finished,' Jesus dies and darkness descends
- Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb

This is the only day of the year where no Masses are celebrated, and no sacraments are performed, unless it's an emergency

Candles are only lit during the liturgy when the Eucharist is present and during the Veneration of the Cross

Fasting and abstinence from meat
Pray the Stations of the Cross
Maintain silence during the hours Jesus was on the cross

Easter Sunday

- Jesus rises, conquering death, and opening the path to new life!
- Empty tomb is found first by the holy women, then by Peter and John
- Jesus appears to multiple groups of disciples, they see and believe

Catechumens receive sacraments of initiation, and the whole congregation renews baptismal vows

We sing Alleluia again for the first time since the beginning of Lent

The new Paschal candle is carried into the church and the congregations' candles are lit from it



A prayer for Palm Sunday

Loving God,
Give us joy in our hearts as we shout Hosanna, welcoming Jesus our King with palms, celebrating all that we hope for as the Easter story unfolds.
Then, as the journey of Jesus turns towards Good Friday, help us know that you are with us when celebration turns to sadness.
Give us the faith we need to follow you on the way of the cross, which leads to life. Amen.

#LiveLent



ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 28th March 2021

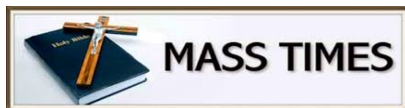
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



All public masses are online from St Nicholas Church.

St Nicholas Church is open daily from 9am to 3pm for private prayers.

WEEKDAY 9.45am Monday to Friday

WEEKEND Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon

TOILET FACILITIES Please note that toilet facilities cannot be provided in St Nicholas' Church in order to adhere to strict Covid19 guidelines.

PARISH MASSES LIVE STREAMING Masses from St Nicholas Church can be viewed live via the parish webcam at the parish website www.saintnicholasparish.ie or

<https://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstnicholas>

You can download the free app from the App store and click on St Nicholas church in the Limerick section.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, share good news, etc. please send details to

Newsletter stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



Maura. 086 0429952

Grace. 086 8296193

The parish Facebook is updated daily. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the page.

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

ALONE 0818 222024

SENIORLINE 1800 804591

Community call, Limerick City and County :

Phone: 1800 852 389 or

email: covidsupport@limerick.ie

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Tues 2pm–4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries.

Phone: 061 341300

email: saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com



Baptism times will be 4.30pm on 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, and 1pm on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

EASTER CEREMONIES 2021

HOLY THURSDAY 1ST APRIL

9.54am Morning prayer
7.00pm Mass of the Lord's supper,

GOOD FRIDAY—2ND APRIL

9.45am Morning prayer
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.30pm Prayer around the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY –3RD APRIL

9.45am Morning Prayer
8.00pm Solemn celebration of the Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY—4TH APRIL

10.30am Mass of the Resurrection
12noon Mass of the Resurrection

Fr Derek, Fr John, Fr Gerard, Fr Liam & the Pastoral Council and Salesian Sisters wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies.

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 IN 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.

SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION

