

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

John 12:13

24th March 2024	<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord</i>	
Processional Gospel	Mark 11: -1-10 <i>Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>	
First Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7 <i>I did not cover my face against insult – I know I shall not be shamed.</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11 <i>He humbled himself, but God raised him high.</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.	
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Mark 14:1- 15:47	
Saturday 23rd March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass - (Pro Populo)
Sunday 24th March +	10.30am	Mass – (Daniel McCarthy RIP)
<i>This is Holy Week</i>		
Monday 25th March <i>Monday in Holy Week</i>	10.00am	Service of Word & Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th March <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Ann O'Connor RIP)
Wednesday 27th March <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i>	9.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	10.00am 7.00pm	Mass – (Ray Valentine RIP) Service of Penance
Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday	11.00am	Chrism Mass - The Cathedral
<i>Here Ends the Season of Lent</i>		

The Sacred Paschal Triduum		
MAUNDY THURSDAY – 28th March Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	8.00pm	Mass – (Annie Doyle Birthday Ints.)
GOOD FRIDAY – 29th March	11.00am 3.00pm 7.00pm	Confession Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord Stations of the Cross – Divine Mercy Novena
HOLY SATURDAY – 30th March	9.00am 11.00am	Office of Readings – Morning Prayer – Divine Mercy Novena Confession
HOLY SATURDAY – 30th March	8.00pm	Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection <i>(John & Kathleen Mullan RIP)</i>
EASTER SUNDAY – 31st March	10.30am 12.00pm	Mass – (Pro Populo) Divine Mercy Novena



THIS IS HOLY WEEK

The most holy and deeply moving week of the Christian Year

As we journey towards Good Friday, we remember the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and pray:

- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **defeat** and turn it into a symbol of **Victory?**
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **guilt** and turn into a symbol for **Grace?**
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **condemnation** and turn it into a symbol of **Freedom?**
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **pain and suffering** and turn it into a symbol of **Healing and Hope?**
- Who else but God could take a cross that represented **death** and turn it into a symbol of **Life?**



Penance Service for Holy Week – as part of our parish preparations for the great feast of Easter, there will be a Penitential Service here at Our Lady's on **Wednesday evening 27th March at 7.00pm** - Fr David has invited three other priests to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.

Confession available Friday 11.00am and Saturday 11.00am

Good Friday Collection – as is tradition, this will be for the Holy Places of Palestine.

URGENT APPEAL – We are still in need of volunteers for the Washing of Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening 7.00pm – three male + three female. Please contact Fr David or Deacon Peter if you would be willing to offer your services.



The Chrism Mass is being held at **11.00am on Thursday 28th March** at the Cathedral with Bishop David as the Principal Celebrant. During this Mass Bishop David will bless the oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens and, together with the Priests of the Diocese, will consecrate the Oil of Chrism. These Holy Oils will be used by the Priests and Deacons of our Diocese throughout the coming year. Also, at this very special Mass, the Priests of our Diocese will renew their Priestly Promises. We thank God for our Bishop, David, and for the Priests of our Diocese, especially of course our Parish Priest, Father David as well as our retired Priests, Fr Malcolm & Fr Patrick – we pray especially for them on this day. You are welcome to attend if you wish or alternatively the Mass will be ‘live streamed’ and you can access this via the Cathedral website: <https://northamptoncathedral.org/>



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Passing on the Faith

Many thanks to all who came to our last meeting and to those who helped provide tea and coffee. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 27th March at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. Where we will be discussing Truth and Relativism in today's society. All welcome!

MORNING PRAYER - HOLY SATURDAY we are encouraged to pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. The Readings and Prayers can be found on the parish website under the ‘Prayers & Reflections’ tab. We will celebrate this in church at 9.00am on Holy Saturday (30th March).

EASTER OFFERING - as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr David. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or a plain envelope and mark it ‘Easter Offering’ – if using online banking please insert ‘Easter Fr David’ in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you.



The Sacred Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and concludes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Easter Sunday. A brief guide to the events that form the Sacred Triduum, which includes references to passages from Scripture, is available on the parish website under the ‘Prayers & Reflections’ tab.

Lenten Breakfast and Raffle - The Social Committee would like to say a very big thank you for your support with the Lenten breakfast and raffle. We are very pleased to confirm that we raised a magnificent sum of **£589.53** for Mary's Meals. Sharing food and good company is clearly a winning way to raise money for a great cause. We have 4 raffle prizes unclaimed so please check your tickets:

- **Orange strip 101 -105 - Large bar of Cadbury's Dairy Milk**
- **Orange Strip 186 -190- Scented Candles**
- **Green Strip 71 - 75 - Box of Black Magic**
- **Yellow Strip 231-235 Calcot Spa Products.**

If you are a lucky winner, please leave the ticket and take your prize from the staircase in the porch.

Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £413.85

DCP – £10.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

Total: £887.85

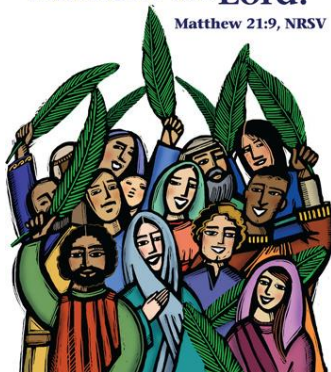
OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - New envelopes will be available **from this weekend**, anyone who no longer requires them or if you are new to the parish and would like a set please contact Denise.

CONFLICT IN SYRIA - 'With millions of Syrians displaced in country, it's urgent to facilitate their return home'. In an interview with Vatican News, Daniel Solymári, the Director of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, discusses the ongoing unrest in Syria, and insists that with 6 to 7 million internally displaced people still living within the country, "one of the most important tasks is to help them create the possibility for a realistic chance to return home." For more information, please go to:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2024-03/interview-syria-hungarian-charity-service-order-of-malta.html>

**Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

Matthew 21:9, NRSV



PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION

‘Today, Palm Sunday, we remember how the crowds went out to meet Christ calling out: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” Then we listen to that part of the Gospel which describes the passion and death of Our Lord. This Holy Week then, we are to set out to meet Christ in His passion, in those last days of His suffering.

We go out to meet Him first, in order to follow Him. He said to us, “If you want to be my disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.” So, in what we read in the Gospel story and from our own experience of life and what is going on in the world around us, the experience of the world’s suffering is taken by Christ in order to sanctify it, to give it meaning and significance. During this Holy Week, hour by hour, we can follow Christ in those moments of His passion.

It is good then to decide now that this is indeed going to be a Holy Week, a different week, a week when we meet Christ in His passion in order that, when the resurrection is celebrated, we can, after Easter Sunday, follow Him more closely and witness to Him – Christ who suffered, died, and rose from the dead.’

Cardinal Basil Hume, Palm Sunday, Westminster Cathedral 1997

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Sorrows, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, pray for us all as we journey through the events of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter