

Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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**Priest in Charge: Fr Biju Chittuparamban**

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<b>13<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord</b>	
<b>Processional Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 19:28-40</b> <i>'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'</i>	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Isaiah 50:4-7</b> <i>'I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.'</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11</b> <i>'He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.'</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.</b>	
<b>The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	<b>Luke 22:14-23:56</b>	
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April + Palm Sunday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Confession</b>
<b>Blessing &amp; Distribution of Palms</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April + Palm Sunday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Judy Ashford RIP)</b>
<b>Blessing &amp; Distribution of Palms</b>		
<b>This is Holy Week</b>		
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b>
<i>Monday in Holy Week</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Bernard &amp; Anne White – Healing)</b>
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b>
<i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Maureen Hall RIP)</b>
	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Reconciliation Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Adoration with Confession</b>
<i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Priests of our Diocese)</b>
	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Chrism Mass – The Cathedral</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>		<b>No Parish Morning Mass</b>
<i>Thursday of Holy Week</i>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Here Ends the Season of Lent</b>		

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION - will be for the Holy Places of Palestine.**

The Sacred Paschal Triduum		
Maundy Thursday – 17 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper ( <i>Pro Populo</i> )
Good Friday – 18 <sup>th</sup> April	3.00pm	The Passion of the Lord Followed by Stations of the Cross
Holy Saturday – 19 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am	Office of Readings – Morning Prayer
Eastertime Begins		
Holy Saturday – 19 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00pm	The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night ( <i>Charlie Creed RIP</i> )
Easter Sunday – 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – ( <i>Agnes Wogan RIP</i> )



## THIS IS HOLY WEEK

The most holy and deeply moving week of the Christian Year



**Penitential 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 the **Tuesday evening of Holy Week – 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm**. Fr Biju has invited Bro John from Turvey to join him and encourages us all to avail ourselves of this great sacrament of grace and forgiveness.

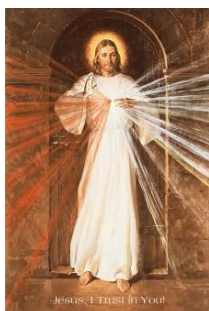
**The Sacrament of Confession will also be available each day during Holy Week**

**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 – male and female. Please contact Fr Biju or Deacon Peter if you would be willing to offer your services.



**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.

**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 – leaflets will be available.



**Divine Mercy Novena** – This lovely devotion was revealed to St Faustina in Poland and has spread throughout the world. It recalls God's infinite mercy and how we can pray for the gift of that mercy upon the world, the Church and ourselves. The Novena for Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday and over 9 days and culminates on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April it prepares us for Divine Mercy Sunday on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Details of how to pray the Novena and Chaplet of Divine Mercy can be found on the parish website under the **'Prayers & Reflections'** tab.

## Thank you for your Weekly Offering

- Offertory: £363.00
- Digital Collection Plate: £55.00
- Standing Orders: £502.00
- Total: £920.00



**Tea & Coffee** will be served after Mass today - **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April** when we will remember our dear parishioner and organist Judy Ashford. Our thoughts and prayers will be with David and the family.



**The Chrism Mass** is being held at **12 noon on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April** 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 Biju as well as Fr David and 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/>

**Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** – during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday evening, Fr Biju will re-commission those in our parish who have been appointed as Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Please come forward when called.

**Easter Offering** – as is customary, the Easter Offering is your personal gift to our Parish Priest, Fr Biju. If you wish to contribute, please either put this in the planned giving envelope or use the printed envelopes at the back of the church – if using online banking please insert ‘Easter Fr Biju’ in the description or you can use the Digital Collection Plate in the narthex. Thank you.

**From CAFOD Group** - Thank you for the magnificent sum of **£709.31** for the Family Fast Day Appeal. And now for a relaxing summer social gathering on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May Parish Hall 7.30pm** Talk by Astrophysics Professor Monica Grady - Current Adventures in Outer Space. This will be preceded by an Italian Style Supper. Bring your own wine /drinks. **Entry by ticket only cost £10.** Tickets will be on sale from w/e 26th/27th April. To gauge parishioners’ interest and catering arrangements a list has been placed at the back of the Church. Please sign up ASAP. Numbers might be limited. Thankyou - Cafod Parish Group

## Palm Sunday Reflection

**From Fr Biju's desk...** The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the time of year when we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising but our own dying and rising in Jesus. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem, and the drama of the trial, culminating in the crucifixion, death, and burial of the Christ.

Today's first reading foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Responsorial Psalm, "*My God, My God, why have You abandoned Me?*" plunges us into the heart of Christ's Passion. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of who Jesus is and of how his mission saves us from sin and death.

The first part of today's Gospel describes the royal reception Jesus received from his admirers, who paraded with him for a distance of two miles between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem. The second part of today's Gospel is a reading of the Passion of Christ according to Luke. We are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the Passion story – like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Herod who ridiculed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience as he condemned Jesus to death on the cross, and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus.

Let us ask ourselves, do we welcome Jesus into our hearts? Are we ready to surrender our life to him during this Holy Week and welcome him into all areas of our life as our Lord and Savior? Let us remember that we are all sinners who have crucified Jesus by our sins, but we are still able to turn to Jesus again to ask for pardon and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Are we like the humble donkey that carried Jesus, bringing Jesus' universal love, unconditional forgiveness, and sacrificial service to our families, schools, places of work, and communities by the way we live our lives?

**"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*



*With our love and prayers to you all – Fr Biju & Deacon Peter*