



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Administrator: Fr. Michael O'Brien.
Associate Pastors: Fr. Tom Duncan and Fr. Nandana Saparamadu
Safeguarding Officer: Ann Marie Pawsey (safeguarding@stpats.org.au)

**St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1700)
St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)**

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD [Year B]

Sunday 28th March, 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7 I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:8-9 He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

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!

Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47 The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

What Connects You to the Passion of Christ?

This weekend, unlike last year we will receive blessed palms and, maybe as my mother used to always do, put it inside her Mass book to remind her throughout the year of the importance of Easter in our lives. At the Seminary we used to put them outside our rooms along the corridor, so as we came and went during the week we were reminded what the week was about!

When Mel Gibson put out the movie, "The Passion", many people asked me "Have you seen the movie?" to which my normal reply was, "No, but I've read the book!!" When we read this year's version of the Passion from Matthew we are invited into his world of understanding. Please read it through. When we explore the people in the narrative we are invited to place it not only alongside our own story, but more to overlay it – like the old overhead projector transparency – the narrative in its own way brings understanding to our fractured story. When we look at each "player" we are drawn to see ourselves in them.

So I invite you to recall the passion and use these as starting points for reflection:

Peter's story is one of betrayal, then a moment of realisation and later, forgiveness. We take a moment to remember those times in our lives where we have said or done the wrong thing in relation to another person. When, maybe we have failed to support or stand up for someone. Peter's story reminds us that sometimes the highs and lows in life can somehow strengthen us. Hold up to God those experiences that seemed devastating at the time, but in hindsight brought a renewed sense of strength in who we are.....

Judas' role is complex and sad. We take a moment to remember that in a mysterious way, his betrayal to the Romans was part of the needed power of Christ's story. A version of Judas' story recalls that he betrayed Jesus, knowing that a revolution was on its way, so as to have Jesus put in prison and therefore relatively safe. It also meant he wouldn't be part of the violence that Judas thought was coming. So he handed Jesus over. Hold up to God those times we have tried to do the right thing, with the best motives, but for whatever reason it has not worked out for the best.....

Joseph (Jesus' father) At the time of the crucifixion we have no mention of Joseph, so the assumption is that by this time Joseph had died. Joseph guided Jesus throughout his life, moulding him, teaching him, loving him and leaving him with his imprint in some real way. Hold up to God all those people who are no longer with you, but have been "Joseph" for you.....

Mary Magdalene has loved Jesus from the moment their eyes met – at the lowest and most needy time of her life. It is no surprise that she follows Jesus to the final moments of his life. To say she is thankful to him for accepting her as she was, and respecting her life journey seems trite – she loved him. Hold up to God all those people who you love for walking the journey with you this day – those who accept you – warts and all – someone who respects you and whom you love in return.....

I invite you to again read the gospel and reflect on how do the **Crowd, Soldiers, Joseph of Arimathea, Robbers** and others overlay with your life experience. Spend this time with God as we celebrate the coming days. As the government likes to remind us - "We are all in this together", let us keep everyone in our prayers and in our hearts and in our actions of love to be there for anyone who needs us.

Keep well and God Bless.

Fr. Michael

We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently: Mary Kennedy, Vonnie McMahon, Rita Sullivan and those who have died from Covid-19. May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.

We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Donald Stephens, Beryl McKewin, Fr Patrick Brady [1954].

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially,** Levi Smith, Eileen Hanna, Rohitha Jayamanna, Ray Frelek, Patsy Quinn, Brian Machin, Graham McGovern, Madeline Gray, Loan Smith, Maria Brown, Kim Ireland, Christine [Faus] Barron, Greta Berge, Matt Vlietstra, Dr Peter Reiter, Elijah Rolls, Hayden Smith, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, Tina Hobson, Bev Boundy, Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Teresita Pamulaklakin, and those in our nursing homes and hospitals, and those suffering from Covid-19.

St Saviour's College, Toowoomba Boarding School for Girls in Years 7-12 OPEN DAY, Thursday 29 April, 3pm – 6pm Register online at www.ssctwb.catholic.edu.au
Enquiries: welcomestsav@twb.catholic.edu.au

URGENT: EASTER ROSTERS: READERS, WELCOMERS, MUSICIANS AND SINGERS are invited to be part of the Liturgies during Holy Week and Easter. There are folders with blank rosters on a table in the Eastern transept. If you are available please put your name on one of the forms this weekend. Please note extra Readers will be needed for Palm Sunday. Readers will be required to attend a practice session beforehand. Please indicate if you will be away at Easter.

Please make sure you have a **GREEN** sheet to explain the process of TryBooking and the other options that are available. Extra copies are available on the table. Thank you for your cooperation. A huge thank you to Celia and Melissa in the office for all their work on this future approach! Much appreciated. Fr. Michael

TRY BOOKING: As from Monday 15th March on the parish website (www.stpats.org.au) you will find TryBooking available for the following events: Mass of the **Chrism** 5.30pm 29th March; **Holy Thursday** 6.00pm 1st April; Good Friday **Stations** 2nd April 10.00am; Good Friday **Solemn Service** 2nd April 3.00pm; **Easter Vigil** 3rd April 7.00pm; **Easter Sunday** Masses 7am, 9am and 5.30 4th April; **Masses** 10th/11th April.

YOU MAY BOOK ALL OF THESE EVENTS USING THE TRYBOOKING SITE AS INDICATED ON THE PARISH WEBSITE. Any queries please phone St Pat's office on 4637 1500.

Sunday 28 March	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass 9am Live stream available SPC	11am Baptism of Sophie Maree Boden 4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Monday 29 March	9am Mass STM 5.30pm Mass SPC	5.30pm Mass of the Chrism
Tuesday 30 March	7am Mass SPC 5.30pm Mass STM	6.30am Rosary
Wed 31 March	7am Mass SPC	7.15pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre 6pm SVdP Meeting
REMEMBER TO	BOOK FOR ALL EASTER SERVICES.	
Thurs 1 April <i>The Lord's Supper</i>	No Morning Mass 6pm Holy Thursday Mass	Due to Holy Thursday evening Mass there will be no ADORATION, but Cathedral will be open from 5pm. LIVE STREAMED
Friday 2 April <i>The Passion of the Lord</i>	10am Stations of the Cross 3pm Solemn Service	3PM LIVE STREAMED
Saturday 3 April	No morning Mass 7pm Easter Vigil Mass	LIVE STREAMED
EASTER SUNDAY 4 April	7am, 9am, 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo in the Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$840; Loose \$754; PayPoint \$710; Sandra & Peter Daly, Jan-Nell & Errol Chase Thank you for your generous giving to assist the works of St. Patrick's.		

Taking time to Prepare and Reflect

TRIDUUM



"Triduum" is an odd-sounding word that comes from the Latin term for "three days." These most sacred days begin Holy Thursday evening through to Friday sundown (day one), continue Friday evening through to Saturday sundown (day two), and conclude with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday (day three).

Although for us in the modern world (as was the case with the ancient Romans) a day starts at midnight, the Jewish day starts at sundown. These "three days" are the most sacred of the year. And the pinnacle liturgical celebration of the Triduum is the Easter Vigil (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, #19). Parishes sometimes begin this only an hour after sundown. It's as though the church can't wait to celebrate Easter.

Reflecting on the Triduum

These three days are the backbone of our faith. We commemorate and celebrate the paschal mystery par excellence. Jesus' Last Supper, betrayal, suffering, death, and ultimate resurrection are the featured acts in these most holy of days. Indeed there is so much to commemorate we cannot do it in only one day, or even two.

This triad of days reaches into the depths of our such elemental symbols as fire, water, light, of course, bread and wine.

We let these symbols speak to us on an existential stand outside the church building, gathered before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded of our faith, and perhaps even the ancestors in the our species who gathered around fires for 700,000 years seeking warmth, light, companionship, safety, and food. These images and symbols have new meaning because of Christ, who becomes for us, warmth, light, companionship, safety, and even food.



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We begin our Triduum with the celebration of Holy Thursday, combining the Passover meal of the Synoptics with the washing of the feet in John's gospel.

Jesus gave us a prime example of service in washing the feet of his disciples, and in becoming the bread and wine shared by them. The master who serves is a radical departure from ancient or even modern models of power.



This is not merely "servant-leadership" but a Master who literally serves, and not merely dinner, or serving at table, but much more than that. The Master is performing the menial task of washing another's feet.

What CEO today cleans up after a lowly subordinate? Or washes a subordinate's dishes? But the example Jesus gives is much more profound than that.

The act of washing another's feet is personal, tactile, and lowly.

If Jesus acts this way, how are we to act?

Then we learn this act of service is only a precursor to a paramount act of self-denial when Jesus is crucified. Liturgically, this is commemorated not with a Mass, but with readings from Scripture, veneration of the cross, and distribution of Communion.



Not until the Easter Vigil will we truly celebrate the resurrection, scarcely forty-eight hours after we celebrated Holy Thursday; but in so doing, it is as though the church cannot contain its joy. We must celebrate at the earliest possible moment, after sundown, thereby marking a new day. The vigil is marked by fire, candles, light in the darkness, singing, the Gloria and an Alleluia, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

These sacred rites mark us as Christian; they form our identity. They touch something deep within. We will never exhaust these rites. Let us enter into them, and drink deeply from their well.

