

The week ahead...

Saturday 24 March Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday	5:00pm	Mass: Tom Allcroft and pro populo
Sunday 25 March Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	NO MASS	
Monday 26 March Monday of Holy Week	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention
Tuesday 27 March Tuesday of Holy Week	9:30am	Mass: Private Intention (MB)
Wednesday 28 March Wednesday of Holy Week	9:30am	Mass: Carey & Wilson families
Thursday 29 March Holy Thursday	6:30pm	Mass: Nancy (Anne) Adams
Friday 30 March Good Friday	10:00am 3:00pm	Stations of the Cross Comm. of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 31 March The Great Easter Vigil	5:00pm	Mass: Private Intention (to Our Lady of Mount Carmel)
Sunday 01 April Easter Sunday	10:00am	Mass: Joseph & Dorothy Dowdle and pro populo

MINISTRIES

Saturday 24 March

Eucharistic Ministers
John & Irene Carey
Kevin Boyle

Readers

Ann Canavan
Angela Tosley

Children's Liturgy

Maria Griffiths
Joanne Lidster

Welcomers

Paul & Anne Kelly

Music

Richard Openshaw & Choir

MINISTRIES

Saturday 31 March

Eucharistic Ministers
Helen Musham, Jane Smith
Wilf Lavery

Readers

Claire Lavery
Margaret Purdom

Children's Liturgy

(Resumes on 14 March)

Welcomers

Angela Harmston
Christine Tracey

Music

All musicians

Passion Sunday

Should you have any items for the bulletin or wish to have it emailed to you, please contact the parish via phone or email. Contact details are on the front of the bulletin. Items need to be submitted by **12:00noon on Thursday**.

We pray for our beloved deceased, including....



Tom ALLCROFT
Mary Elizabeth ELLIOTT
Mary McMAHON
Peter KILVINGTON
David Nicholas SIMPSON

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish....

Doreen Carroll, Margaret Pouton,
Pat Harrison, Sylvia Kelly,
Mary Spears,
Rose Crick and
Maureen McCrann



St Patrick's R.C. Church

A Parish of the Finchale Partnership

Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham, DH7 8JJ

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St Patrick's R.C. Primary School: Ph: (0191) 378 0552
Hospital Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully Ph: (0191) 526 5131

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

25 March, 2018

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

AND SO THE drama begins....

Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final time. Having entered the city he celebrates the Passover with his disciples, then experiences the agony of Gethsemane, and finally his arrest, trial and the agonising execution normally reserved for the worst of criminals. We better know this as his Passion.

And this is why the more correct term for Palm Sunday is "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord." This weekend we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with the common people greeting Jesus joyfully, laying their cloaks on the road, along with "greenery which they had cut in the fields", as a sign of respect. But this Gospel which we hear at the beginning of Mass is one of two proclaimed on Palm Sunday. The second, of course, is that of the Passion. We not only recall Jesus entering Jerusalem this weekend at the start of Holy Week; we also fast forward to the outcome of his action. We recall these events in greater detail on Holy Thursday and Good Friday but get a foretaste today. We can't afford to revel as the people did when Jesus rode astride the colt into the great city, for unlike the crowds we know the rest of the story. Our joyful celebrations will begin once the Passion is over and Jesus rises from the dead.

The crowds greeting Jesus will soon fall silent. The one who enters Jerusalem as a king will show that he is not a normal king, not the king that the common people were expecting. A normal king would summon armies to mow down those who dare to treat him with such a lack of respect but this king maintains a dignified silence throughout most of the drama. The fevered action happens around Jesus as he stands still, only uttering words when necessary. This king is not going to lower himself to the level of his torturers and accusers. This king, rather, understands the power of choosing not to seek revenge on his persecutors but rather seeking to bring about a change of heart in them through the power of love. This king, after all, is God.

As we gather for this Palm Sunday celebration let us make a choice to enter into Holy Week with an open heart that we may know the power of silence over angry words, of peace over clenched fist, of love over vengeance. Lent has given us an opportunity to be open to conversion - Holy Week affords us the chance to intensify that experience as we live out the drama that is the Passion of the Christ in a few short days' time.

We move quickly today from "Hosanna!" to "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Triumph to despair, or so it would seem....

We await the final and ultimate triumph, the Resurrection, with keen anticipation and great joy.

Wishing you blessings during Holy Week,

Fr Robert



LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £232 Loose Plate: £190

TOTAL: £422

Mass Attendance: 137

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE
CHARITY NUMBER 1143450

What's going on...?

Social Committee: Many thanks to everyone who supported the recent Social Night and for the generosity of so many parishioners through kind donations. A total of **£513.50** was raised, after expenses, and this will fund our Spring Party on Saturday 21 April at The Royal British Legion Club, Meadowfield. Any senior parishioners who would like to come to the party please add names of those attending to the list at the back of church as soon as possible, please. Any donations for raffle prizes for the party will be very gratefully received and raffle tickets will be on sale at the back of church from Saturday 31 March. Grateful thanks, your support is very much appreciated.

Stations of the Cross: Our final Stations of the Cross for Lent will take place **Wednesday evening at 7:00**. There will be, of course, a solemn celebration of the Stations of the Cross on **Good Friday at 10:00am**.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Our final total came to **£668.50**. Thank you all for your generosity.

Lenten Alms Collection: There will be a retiring collection taken up for Lenten Alms after Mass today. Please be as generous as you can as the funds go to assist **St Cuthbert's Care** and the marvellous work they do. A collection for the **Holy Places** will be taken on **Good Friday**.

Holy Week Service Times: Please note on page three opposite the times of the various Holy Week Masses and services, noting too on page four the extra Mass on Monday and the change of time for Tuesday. There will Mass offered each day during the Easter Octave. Please keep your eye on the Mass schedule on the back page of the bulletin next week.

Annual Leave: Please note that I will be away for a little under two weeks in April. This will not affect Easter or the Easter Octave but I will be away from 08 April and returning on 20 April. Fr Brian Murphy will

celebrate the Vigil Mass on 14 April and there will be the usual service of the Word with Communion on the two Wednesdays of my absence, 11 April and 18 April.

Daylight Saving: A reminder that daylight saving begins **tomorrow, 25 March**. Clocks go **forward** one hour before bedtime tonight.

CCS Tenth Anniversary Mass: The Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University is having a Mass at Durham Cathedral on the evening of Thursday, 19 April, to mark its tenth anniversary. This is to be celebrated by Bishop Séamus. If you wish to go, it is by **ticket only**. Application forms at the back of church. Please return to Fr Robert.

Practical Steps for Parishes and Partnerships: A conference will take place on Saturday 12 May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The keynote speaker is Fr Dominic Howarth, responsible for Youth Services in Brentwood Diocese, and the programme includes 12 workshops. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.vmt.org or contact admin@vmt.org.

"Joy" – The Surprise of the Gospel: The Bishops' Conference Scripture Working Group has been working alongside the Northern Dioceses and religious orders to organise events celebrating the Word of God – one in the north-east, the other in the north-west. The event closest to our own diocese is to be held on Saturday 12 May at All Saints School, York (5 minutes from the railway station). It is open to all but might be of special appeal to clergy, school and university chaplains, readers and students (6th form and above). More information on the flyer on the noticeboard or from Kathryn Turner who can be reached by email at spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk.

SCHOOL NEWS

Statement to Live by

This week's statement was, 'I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world around me'. We reflected on all of the things in creation that we wanted to give particular thanks for.

Visits to Church

This week, each class visited church, where Father Robert supported the children in learning more about each of the Stations of the Cross. Many thanks to Father Robert for his time and support.

Stations of The Cross – 9:15am Thursday 29 March

Stations of the Cross will take place in the school hall, at 9:15 am on Thursday 29 March. Hot cross buns, tea and coffee will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Egg Decorating Competition

Each child has been invited to submit a decorated egg for entry into our Easter Egg Competition. If you are able to come along to Stations of the Cross on Thursday morning, there will be refreshments afterwards and a chance for you to see the entries on display.

Easter Journey

Pupils in Class 1 took part in an 'Easter Journey' at St Andrew's Methodist Church on Friday afternoon. They visited different prayer stations, depicting the journey Jesus took on Good Friday.

Destination Judo

On Friday of this week, each class took part in a judo lesson, delivered by 'Destination Judo'.

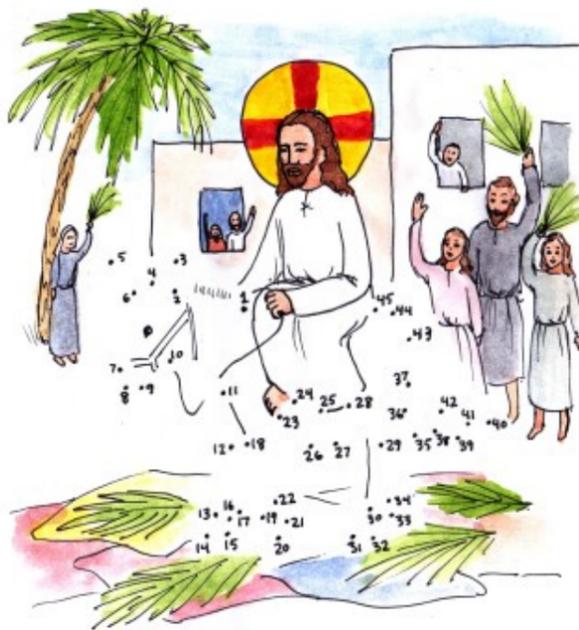
Easter Break

School closes for the Easter break on Thursday 29 March and re-opens on Monday 16 April.



The Kids' Bulletin

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
March 25, 2018



A few days before He died on the Cross, Jesus came into Jerusalem while the people waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna!" He was riding on something that was a sign of peaceful times. What was it? Connect the dots to find out!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St John of Egypt - 27 March

John was born about the year 304. At the age of 25, John left his home and became a monk. He lived under the tutelage of a wise hermit and when his master died, John decided to withdraw into a more remote cave on Mount Lycos. There he lived a very strict life, devoting himself to prayer and manual work. People started to visit him, since he was able to perform miracles, heal the sick and read people's hearts. He died in 394 at about the age of ninety.



(Information taken from Universalis)

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, 29 March: Mass of the Lord's Supper @ **6:30pm**

Friday, 30 March: Stations of the Cross @ **10:00am**

Friday, 30 March: Celebration of the Lord's Passion @ **3:00pm**

Saturday, 31 March: Easter Vigil Mass @ **5:00pm**

Sunday: 01 April: Easter Sunday Mass @ **10:00am**



Easter Week Schedule

There will Mass at **9:30am only every day** at St Patrick's during Easter Week, beginning on **Monday, 02 April** through to **Saturday, 07 April**. Please note that during this week the **6:30pm Tuesday and 7:00am Friday Masses will not be celebrated**. Mass times will be disrupted for the two weeks following Easter Week due to my annual leave. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for more details. Thank you for your understanding!



DID YOU KNOW...?

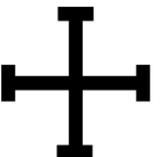
...that the gospels that tell of Jesus entering Jerusalem that we hear on Palm Sunday, do not specifically mention palms?

In fact, in Luke's version of this Gospel there is no mention of the crowds placing anything on the road Jesus was taking except that they "spread their garments on the road." Matthew and Mark, whose Gospel we hear today, both mention the crowds spreading garments in the path of Jesus. These two Gospels also talk of the people cutting branches and spreading them before Jesus, but no mention in particular of palms. We can only assume that because palms are so common in the Middle East that these were cast before Jesus as he entered the Holy City. In any case, it is the gesture that counts!

"QUOTE OF THE WEEK"

"There are layers of our minds, both personal and corporate, still untransformed; not indwelt by Charity, resisting the action of God. There are many things the Spirit could do through us, for the healing and redeeming of the world, if it were not for our cowardice, slackness, fastidiousness, or self-centred concentration on our own jobs."

Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941)
English Mystic



PLEASE PRAY... for the following intentions this week as requested by Bishop Séamus: candidates for the sacraments of initiation; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....**

