



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

“Yet it was our pain that He bore, our sufferings He endured. We thought of Him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but He was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole; by His wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon Him the guilt of us all.

(Isaiah 53:4-6.)

READINGS

1st Reading Is 50:4-7

2nd Reading Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Mt 26:14—27:66

Scripture lessons summarized: Today's first reading, the third of Isaiah's four Servant Songs, like the other three, foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22), "*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 the two miles between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem. In the second part of today's Gospel, we listen to/participate in a reading of the Passion of Christ according

to Matthew. 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.

Passion Sunday The Passion of Christ (by St. Thomas Aquinas)

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him may not perish; but may have life everlasting.-- John iii. 14, 15.

We may note here three things. 1. *The Figure of the Passion.* As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert. When the Jews said, Our soul now loatheth this very light food (Num. xxi. 5), the Lord sent serpents in punishment, and afterwards, for a remedy, He commanded the brazen serpent to be made--as a remedy against the serpents and also as a figure of the Passion. It is the nature of a serpent to be poisonous, but the brazen serpent had no poison. It was but the figure of a poisonous serpent. So also Christ had no sin, which is the poison, but He had the likeness of sin. *God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and of sin* (Rom. viii. 3). Therefore Christ had the effect of the serpent against the movements of our blazing desires.

2. *The Mode of the Passion.* *So must the Son of Man be lifted up.* This refers to His being raised upon the cross. He willed to die lifted up, (i) To purify the air: already He had purified the earth by the holiness of His living there, it still remained for Him to purify, by His dying there, the air; (ii) To triumph over the devils, who in the air, make their preparations to war on us; (iii) To draw our hearts to His heart, *I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all things to myself* (John xii. 32). Since in the death of the cross He was exalted, and since it was there that He overcame His enemies, we say that He was exalted rather than that He died. *He shall drink of the torrent by the way side; therefore shall He lift up His head* (Ps. cix. 7).

The cross was the cause of His exaltation. *He became obedient unto death even to the death of the cross, wherefore God hath exalted Him* (Phil. ii. 8). 3. *The Fruit of the Passion.* The fruit is eternal life. Whence Our Lord says Himself, *Whosoever believeth in Him, doing good works, may not perish, but may have life everlasting* (John iii. 16).

And this fruit corresponds to the fruit of the serpent that foreshadowed Him. For whoever looked upon the brazen serpent was delivered from the poison and his life was preserved. Now the man who looks upon the Son of Man lifted up is the man who believes in Christ crucified, and it is in this way that he is delivered from the poison that is sin and preserved for the life that is eternal.

MARCH 25/26 COLLECTIONS

Gift Aid collection	131
Loose cash	180.52
Tea/Coffee	42.40
Total	353.92

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277

Your Attention Please....

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE APRIL 1-9, 2023

1. April-2 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

April-1-Saturday. Vigil Mass Evening 4 pm

April-2 Sunday Mass 10 am

2. April-6 Holy Thu. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

3. April-7 Good Friday Retreat 10 am-3 pm

Stations of the Cross 3 pm

Passion Liturgy 5 pm

4. April 8 Easter Vigil 8:30 pm

April 9 Easter Sunday 10 am

5. Washing of the Feet:- An invitation for those who like to participate in the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday. If you are interested, kindly give your names to Gerard Rhodes.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Thanks to all the parishners for your generous financial support given to the parish. We are in a deficit budget. Your wholehearted cooperation on Christmas day collection is well appreciated. I request you be generous in the same way during the Easter love offerings, so that the financial deficit may be brought down.

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	Intentions
02/04/23	Gerard Rhods	Patricia Gabriel
03/04/23	Gerard Rhods	Anna Brizzi
04/04/23	Carmel Jones	Daniel Messham - RIP
05/04/23	Angela and Jean Tailor	Cathrina Parry-
		-For safe Operation

Gift-aid envelope boxes are ready at the back of the church

To the Heavenly Abode- Joan Devis

ANNIVERSARIES (April-1-7)

Vincent Dilworth '84: Eric Frank Rhodes '09, Eric Rhodes, Margaret Barratt '77:, Thomas Frances Swarbrick: Patrick & Sara Lee: Dr. Bartholemew Hamilton '79: Cecilia Morgan '88: Sarah Fleming, Mary Murphy: Kenneth Rendell '74: David Griffiths '74: Lilian, Thompson '81: John Cahill: Bernard Merriman:, Helen Blower '91: John M Davies, 2020

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