



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



March 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY

“Jesus entered the Holy City riding on a donkey, that is, the animal of simple country people and, moreover, a donkey that did not belong to him, that he had loaned for this occasion. It was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt". The prophet makes three affirmations: First, he says he will be a king of the poor, a poor man among the poor and for the poor. Second, the prophet shows us that this king will be a king of peace. The prophet's third affirmation is the pre-announcement of universality of His kingdom”. (Pope Benedict XVI)

HOLY WEEK LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass	4.00 pm
Palm Sunday Morning Mass	10.00 am
Holy Thursday	7.30 pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm
Good Friday, Passion Liturgy	5.00 pm
Easter Vigil	8.30 pm
Easter Sunday	10.00 am

READINGS

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7
Second Reading Phil 2:6-11
Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

Reflections:

Today we begin Holy Week. In our readings today we are taken through the events of the next eight days. It begins with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The glory at the end of the eight days is alluded in Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians.

The readings are quite powerful in what they say about Who Jesus is and why He came to the earth. The first Gospel is the description of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Jesus prepares to enter The City Jerusalem ("the place of peace"), the place where GOD has chosen to dwell and makes the divine presence known and experienced. It is this city that welcomes Jesus. The crowds cry out with joy and praise as Jesus enters. They praise Jesus as the descendant of David who comes in the name of the LORD GOD. The people are ecstatic that Jesus is coming to The City for the feast of Passover. They have yearned for His arrival, but they were afraid that He would not come because of the tension between Jesus and the religious leaders. The crowds cut down branches from trees and wave the branches as Jesus passes by. They put their cloaks on the pathway just as today we roll out the red carpet for stars. "Hosanna! Hosanna!" they scream as they welcome Jesus into The City – the very place where He will experience His Hour of Glory in His death and resurrection.

In the First Reading of the regular Liturgy of the Word, the tone switches as we hear one of the "Suffering Servant Songs" of Isaiah. Isaiah speaks to the exiles in Babylon. He tells of One Who will suffer for the sake of the people. Scholars are not sure if the "suffering servant" was an individual or the people of Israel who experience persecution during their time in exile. The Christians have seen the pre-figurement of Jesus in these passages from Isaiah. The lines of Isaiah are paralleled in the suffering of Jesus: "GOD has given me a well-trained tongue. . .to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me. . .my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. . .The LORD GOD is my help." How true these words will be for Jesus later this week as He refrains for His preaching

to the weary and willingly faces scourging, belittlement, and death. Yet, through it all Jesus calls on His Abba-Father as the source of His strength.

Psalm 22 begins with words that we use as our refrain: “My GOD, My GOD, why have You abandoned me.” Jesus will quote these words as He dies on the cross. The psalm continues as it describes the suffering of an individual: the ridicule by people who belittle the relationship that the Suffering One has with GOD; the piercing of the hands and feet, the casting of lots for the garments of the One being punished. The psalm ends with trust being ultimately placed in GOD.

In the passage from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he uses an early Christian profession of faith in Who Jesus is. He inspires his readers (including us) to put on the mind of Jesus the Christ – the One Who was willing to let go of His equality with GOD, in order to humble Himself to share in our humanity. The Gospel relates the events of this week, from Judas’ making a pack with the religious leaders to hand over Jesus, to the Last Supper, to the agony in the garden, to the fake trial, to His passion – condemnation, scourging, crowning with thorns, crucifixion, death, and burial. We need to read the passion story over and over again this week. We should take time to realize all that Jesus did in order to bring the Good News to us.

A key line in the Gospel is the words of the Roman soldier after the death of Jesus: “Truly, this man was the Son of GOD!” This should be our profession of faith this week, and always. Let us proclaim it by living as the daughters and sons of GOD, the sisters and brothers of the Lord Jesus. Let us live lives that show we accept the salvation and redemption for which Jesus poured out His blood. Let us be transformed through the Paschal Mystery (the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus).

The personal question/action for today: When I think of the events of Holy Week, what thoughts come to mind? How do I make this week

the holiest week of the year? How can I share the Good News of the paschal mysteries to those with whom I come in contact?

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS-March 17, 2024

Loose cash	125.00
Gift Aid	145.06
Total	<u>270.06</u>

Sacrament of Confession:

Sacrament of Confession at 11:30 am on Saturday

On Emergency any time – 07417494277

ANNIVERSARIES

Eliza Brizzi, Fr. Shaji Thomas Punnattu, Joan Alexandra Davies,
John Hughes, Linda Winnard, William Neville, David Pawson, Fr.
Columba Randal, Mary Neile, Br. Roch Mallinder, John Waters,
Veronica Mary Comerford, Bridget Golightly
May they rest in peace!

Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer:

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WASHING OF FEET

Those who like to sit for the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday please give your name to Gerard Rhodes.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust

Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

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Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

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