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2021 THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH St Joseph was more familiar with wooden crosses, than he was with rejoicing crowds and popular kings. Herod the Great was never a popular king. He was a Roman puppet ruler, a cruel tyrant, not even a Jew. He persecuted the Holy Family and his family would go on doing so throughout Christ's earthly life. The Herodian Clan did not provide a single model to copy, if you wanted to be a King. It is entirely possible that the Romans compelled Joseph to make crosses in his workshop, because the province of Galilee was always rising up and producing false messiahs; the Romans put these insurrections down violently and swiftly, with lines of crosses lining the roads for miles. Maybe Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem scared the Procurator that another rebellion was imminent. On the other hand, maybe Christ's rough-hewn cross reminded Him of Joseph the Carpenter and happier times in the workshop.



DO JOIN THE ST MICHAEL'S COFFEE ZOOM MEETING AT 10:30 each Sunday morning, using the following link and access details Thanks to Brian for organizing this. Meeting ID: 431 764 5775; Passcode: coffee
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4317645775?pwd=YTNQanpaM0NhZnVaVFhNejM1TDgzdz09>

WEEK DAY MASS IN HOLY WEEK AND THEREAFTER It is very important that everyone in both parishes understands that **the masses and other services advertised on this bulletin are open to all parishioners and to the general public, up to the limits imposed by the Pandemic Regulations.** Father Philip now hopes that with so many of us vaccinated or about to be vaccinated, it will now be possible to open up once more for daily mass with the necessary cleaners and stewards to make this happen. We will try this in the Easter Octave.

CAPACITY AND TICKETS As far as we know in the Parish Office, we have not once had to turn anyone away because our legal capacity has been exceeded in the last year. Fr. Philip does not believe we need a ticketing system for the crowds we do not have. He is also worried that we have no one to run the Booking Office. There are 3 Easter masses in St Peter's and St Michael's will happily cope with an extra mass at 10.00am on Easter Day if necessary.



St Peter's RC Church
7 St Peter's Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

St Michael's RC Church,
Silver Street
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GL8 8DH



Hosanna to the King



PARISH BULLETIN

LENT VI – THE SUNDAY OF PALMS AND PASSION (YEAR B)

Sun 28th Mar. 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)

11.00am Mass in St Peter's (Margaret Caton RIP)

Because of Covid 19 Restrictions, there can be no Palm Procession, but the Lord's Triumphal Entry will be commemorated at both masses and blessed palms given out as you leave church. Equally, reading the Passion in parts is not allowed this year.

WORSHIP THIS WEEK

- Mon 29th Mar **IN HOLY WEEK – Fig Monday**
10.00am Mass in St Michael's
Noon Mass in St Peter's
- Tue 30th Mar **IN HOLY WEEK – Temple Tuesday**
10.00am Mass in St Michael's
Noon Mass in St Peter's
- Wed 31st Mar **IN HOLY WEEK - Spy Wednesday**
10.00am Mass in St Michael's
Noon Mass in St Peter's

CONFESSION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY AT PRESENT

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

THE FIRST DAY – the Table and the Cross

- Thu 1st Apr **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
6.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord Supper in St Michael's
8.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Peter's
- Fri 2nd Apr **GOOD FRIDAY**
2.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion in St Michael's
4.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion in St Peter's

Because of the Pandemic, it is not safe to venerate the cross individually, but we shall, as always, adore the Crucified and receive Holy Communion.

THE SECOND DAY – The Waiting and the Praying

- Sat 3rd Apr **GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY**
The Church around the world watches and waits in prayer, whilst the Saviour descends to the Realm of the Dead to rescue the souls of those gone before

THE THIRD DAY – The Empty Tomb and the Rising Again

- Sat 3rd Apr **THE RESURRECTION OF O.L.J.C. IN THE FLESH**

9.00pm The Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter in St Peter's Church. *Because of the Pandemic, this celebration will be a little simplified, but will retain its dignity and beauty, as always. The fire outside and the hand candles are dispensed with and, though blessed, there will be no sprinkling with Easter Water.*

- Sun 4th Apr **9.00am Mass in St Michael's**
11.00am Mass, Reception & Confirmation in St Peter's
12.30pm Traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's



Prayer to St Michael: Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits, who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

UPCOMING DATES

- Sun. 4th Apr. First Sunday of Easter - The Resurrection of the Lord, start of the Great 50 Days.
- Thu 13th May **ASCENSION THURSDAY – the 40th Day of Eastertide**
12th Jul. Frs. Ian McCarthy, Michael Fountaine & Philip Thomas reach 25yrs of the Priesthood. Look out for details of celebrations on **Sunday 11th July 2021**. Remember also Frs. Gerry Walsh, Bernard Shackleton & Michael Lewis, whose silver jubilees also occur this year.

YOUTH MINISTRY Are you interested in working with youngsters in your parish, but feel you've not the knowledge or skills to do it? If so, then this course may be of interest to you. Equally, you could brush on your skills or hear how others are doing the work. It's an on-line course so no travel required! Cost £48 for 10 sessions with highly skilled speakers experienced in Youth Ministry. Starts Tuesday 16 March: <https://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/engag>:

SAINT ROSE'S SCHOOL IN STROUD seeks to raise £1.5 million to build Quentin House, a specially-adapted residential home-from-home for some of its children. For information about the project and how to donate/fund-raise, please contact the appeals office at the school (01453 763793 ext. 225 or gail.mattocks@stroses.org.uk) or visit <https://stroses.org.uk/quentin-house/>

CAFOD Our Tetbury parishioner Mary Dignan has nearly completed her personal Lenten challenge to Walk for Water. She walks 10,000 steps a day, every day, for the 40 days of Lent [Resting on Sundays!]. If you would like to support her, please speak to her in person or go to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-for-water550>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION & UNDERSTANDING IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND WE WISH YOU A BLESSED SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK



We intercede: -

- For Pope Francis as this Holy Week begins: that he will have the health, strength and courage to lead the Church around the world to a deeper understanding of Jesus' love and self-sacrifice.
- For Bishop Declan as he celebrates the Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination: that he may be given the health and strength to perform his Ministry as our Shepherd.
- For our strife-torn world: that, in following Christ' example, the people of our generation may find peace through forgiveness and reconciliation.
- For all those preparing to be received into Full Communion with the Church: that they may come to the celebration of Easter renewed in mind and heart.
- For our family of two parishes in partnership: that we may take this Holy Week's opportunity to enter deeply the Paschal Mystery, the heart of the Christian faith.
- For the Bristol parishes of Knowle and Knowle-West: that, together, we will receive a spirit of penance, reflection and gratitude during these chosen days.
- For the doctors, nurses, carers and researchers and all working unceasingly to assist those in most danger: that they may be safe and their sacrifices appreciated
- For all who carry a cross of suffering: that they may bear their burden with patience, placing their hope in the healing strength of God
- For all who have died: that they may be blessed with the eternal vision of Christ the Lord, Who endured the shame of the Cross, yet now reigns on high.



MASS TEXTS

Entrance Antiphon to remember the Triumphal Entry: Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet Him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, Who have come in Your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the King of glory! Who is this King of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, Who have come in Your abundant mercy!

NO GLORIA UNTIL THE EASTER TRIDUUM

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed

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

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised Him high and gave Him the Name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!



Mark 14:1-15:47 The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The Passion is greeted with faith, but not with words. Respectful silence marks the beginning and end of this long gospel. If standing presents you with a problem, please do sit, until the Lord reaches Golgotha. When Fr. Philip says ... "But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.", we all kneel and pause for a moment.

Apostles Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come and judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

Act of Spiritual Communion Lord Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I do not now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to You, now and forever. Amen.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK Donkeys are often mistreated, now as in the past. Unscrupulous business men and women prefer money and profits to care and concern. Even today we have to have charities and donkey sanctuaries to provide appropriate help and retirement for weary donkeys. They are often over worked and their hooves untended, their coats left matted and uncombed. They are forced to work in terrible conditions under the hot sun.

Imagine the honour of one ass, singled out to represent his entire race, whom everyone remembers for the day he carried a Carpenter and travelling Preacher into Jerusalem. Instead of the task master beying for his blood, the crowds sing for joy.

He is covered with soft cloaks and surrounded by waving palms. He is praised, not cursed, more fortunate he, than the beast that carried Our Lady from Nazareth to Bethlehem. He is more blessed than those royal donkeys in David's Royal City, who carried the king to the Gihon Spring in the Kidron Valley to drink its holy waters on the way to the coronation in the Temple.

Nevertheless, he did carry a king, who would cross the Kidron Valley towards Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives. He did not see a High Priest anoint and crown his Rider, for he was taken back to his tethering post in Bethphage after the Master's need of him was over. Happily, he did not see a cynical High Priest attempt to try the Messiah before the Sanhedrin. Caiaphas was more the servant of expediency than of God. He was desperate to please his Roman overlords and political allies.

Though the king of donkeys for a day, he was not privileged to see the anointing in Bethany, even though it was just near his home in Bethphage. He may well have seen the Garden of Gethsemane on a regular basis, but he was not there on the Night of the Arrest. A mere beast of burden, he never got to enter the Roman fortress of the Praetorium adjacent to the Temple and thus, he never got to see his Rider assaulted, spat at, ridiculed and crowned in jest with thorns. But he did carry a King, who would cross the Kidron Valley and mount the throne of a wooden cross outside the Holy City. They said he was humble and lowly, on that triumphal day, but he would be remembered for ever for that one moment, when he held his head high and walked into Jerusalem, a Royal Donkey, king of his kind, with the King of Kings on his back.

WORDS FOR THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

LAZARUS - St John tells us not only the wonderful story of the Lord restoring Lazarus to life, but also that this miracle caused great consternation amongst the Jewish authorities. They were worried that this would spark a religious rebellion. John also tells us that many of the crowds who turned out for Palm Sunday wanted to see the Raiser of Lazarus.

TRIUMPH & DISASTER - 'These two imposters' Rudyard Kipling called these in "If". The disaster may not have been real, but the triumph of Christ in His Hour of Glory is very real. The difficulty for us is that what looks like one of these is mostly the other throughout the week.

ATH & LIFE - Who are the dead and who are the living? Jesus called the Pharisees 'whited sepluchres', white washed tombs of the dead. Was the Roman occupying army any more alive to God and the needs of people? Most of the 12 were willing to die with Him and 10 of them did die as martyrs later on in their lives. Christ's death to take our sins away and restore our relationship with the Father is what makes Friday good.

COMPANIONS - Friends, yes, but also litterally, bread-sharers, participators in Him the Bread of Life. Together at the breaking of the unleavened bread of the Passover, one of the 12 was merely at table with Him and the other 11 were His companions. Will I be His companion this week?

BETRAYAL - Don't we all fail to live up to our commitments and to honour our relationships as we should? Frail human beings are all betrayers and Holy Week has two of them to represent us all, Peter and Judas. Whether it was money, or the hope that he could precipitate Christ revealing Who He is to the world, Judas came first to the darkness and bitterness of betrayal. Shortly after, Peter denied the Lord three times at the High Priest's house. The difference is that Judas never came back to Jesus and admitted his fault. The hot headed Peter did. May we turn away from bitter darkness and towards the sweet light of repentance.

ARREST – A legal taking of someone into custody for an alleged crime. He had committed no crime against the Romans or the Temple, even if they thought He had. "Stop in the name of the law!" we say, for arrest comes from Norman French. This week as Christians must stop and reflect on the events of Salvation, pause and pray.

PASSION & CROSS – Passion means suffering, rather than simply strong emotion as the Romantic Novelists would have it. Love is only passion, when the flame burns so brightly that it causes pain. Suffering is part of the Human Condition. Some is necessary, but much is not. We eliminate what we can and bear the rest with serenity with Christ. Crosses were certainly about suffering. Usually, these Roman means of execution caused a slow death through asphixiation and blood loss, over several days. Christ died in just 3 hours. Is a cross just a gibbet for Christians or else the Tree of Life and the Key that opens Heaven?

TOMB – These were often reused, like an old graveyard around a country church, redug each century. Joseph of Aramathea would give his unused tomb for Christ to use, whilst the Temple authorities bought Aceldama, the Field of Blood to bury strangers in.

REST – Laid to rest, as the old saying goes. They put His body in a borrowed tomb, so quickly they did not have time to wrap it in the usual spices and preservatives. They planned to come back after the Sabbath to complete the process. In one sense, Christ rests in the tomb after His work of redemption and recreation, like the Father rested on the 7th day after His work of creation. In another sense, He did not rest at all, but went to share the fruit of His labours with Adam and Eve, ploughing open graves with His Cross.

RISING & RAISING – Is it not the work of Christ's entire life on earth to raise human beings and all Creation itself to a higher dignity than it had with Him in the beginning? He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. His Resurrection raises us.