

Catholic Parish of St Patrick Guildford

Est. 1933

Fr. Peter Blayney - Parish Priest

Sr. Helen Cunningham OP

Pastoral Associate

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**To Live, Love and Act
Like Jesus**

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am to 3:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Closed daily: 12:30pm to 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Mr. Steven Jones

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Website:

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4 & 5 April 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

STAY IN TOUCH!

Parishioners are reminded to stay connected within families, with friends and fellow parishioners as much as possible while we live through the current health crisis. If you know of someone without internet access, please give that person a phone call. As you would be reading this on the parish website, you are already connecting with us through this medium. There is a "Guildford Catholics" WhatsApp group whereby parishioners are connecting with each other.

Download the "WhatsApp" Application on your mobile phone, then use the following link to get onto "Guildford Catholics": <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LxCYnBNeF8X6S5L9WK865K>. Explore our website as there is a FaceBook, Instagram and YouTube link. The pre-recorded Mass from St. Patrick's for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord can be found on the YouTube link on Saturday, 4 April after midday. Remember, you are welcome to phone the Parish Office for any reason on 9632.2672 or the parish mobile 0457 717 220.

~ Fr. Peter Blayney

A PRAYER DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME OF TRIAL

Let us pray:

Loving God watch over all the peoples of our world during this special time of trial. Give wisdom to those in leadership and special strength to those who care for the sick.

Deepen our faith that our trust in You may not falter. Open our hearts that we may be generous in our response to those in special need. Enliven us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may bring His Presence wherever we go.

PARISH PRAYER

Loving God we thank you for being with us always. Open our hearts to hear your voice.

Help us, Lord, to make this Parish a place of mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, respected, forgiven and encouraged.

In your love and wisdom, help and guide all of us to be good ambassadors for Christ, both in service to others and in proclaiming the Gospel.

Send your Holy Spirit among us Lord so that we may be filled with your grace and peace as we go about our lives in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



1ST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

2ND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he 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 other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: PHILIPPIANS 2:8-9

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!

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee'.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



'Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heavens!'

LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY [MATTHEW 26:14-27:66]



The journey of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday can be divided into two parts – vv. 1-5 where Jesus directs his disciples to get the young of an ass that was unbroken, and therefore ritually clean, and his actual entry into Jerusalem (vv. 6-11). This passage has messianic significance, showing Jesus as being in charge of what is happening - as the people welcome the King into Jerusalem with palms, singing 'Hosanna to the King of Kings.' The question for us is: Who is the King of King for us?

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION – MT. 26:14-27:66

As this is a long reading, I have chosen to focus on just a part of the Gospel for this reflection)

The passers-by jeered at him, they shook their heads and said, "so you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!" The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying "he saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord

Quiet reflection on the Gospel in dialogue with the reflection above the Gospel Reading Commentary

We are coming to the end of our Lenten journey. We have travelled a long way, from the moment of Jesus entering the wilderness to be tempted, then returning to Jerusalem, the place of his passion, through his transfiguration - to his encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, before curing the man born blind and raising Lazarus from the dead. We are nearly at journey's end as we celebrate Easter joy next Sunday.

The temptations in the wilderness are all about whether Jesus will use his miraculous powers for his own advantage, or whether he would see being the same as God as a reason to seek his own glory instead of seeking to be obedient to the Father's plan for him, even to death on the cross (Phil. 2:5-11 – our second reading this Sunday). Jesus will not seek bread apart from the word of God. He will not blackmail God into protecting him from harm, and he will not seek his own glory in being in charge of all the kingdoms of this world. That is not the way of the Loving Father.

We return to these temptations on the Cross. In the part of the Passion reading above, Jesus is tempted to save himself by coming down from the Cross. Since he is God's Son, he could use his power to save himself and to demonstrate his glory ---- yet will anyone believe even if someone should rise from the dead? No, no one from the crowd will believe even if Jesus comes down from the cross. The crowd are blind, like the religious leaders two weeks ago who questioned the man born blind who can now see. The mission of Jesus was to inaugurate the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of love – if the crowd and the religious leaders truly loved Jesus, they had the power to take Jesus down from the cross. In condemning Jesus, they demonstrate that their hearts lie elsewhere – their hearts are hardened, and they are unwilling to listen to the Psalmist crying out, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart." (Ps. 95:6-11)

On the cross, we are nearly at journey's end as Jesus dies, and gives over his Spirit to the Church community. Some disciples will walk away, bewildered, disappointed and turn their backs on Jerusalem as they head towards Emmaus. Yet, the Risen Christ does not abandon them, joining them as a fellow traveller, and explaining Scripture to them. **Just as the disciples' hearts burned within them, will we listen to the still, small voice of the Spirit inviting us to invite Jesus to stay, and to break bread with us?** Our grief can then turn to joy as we return to Jerusalem, to recognise Jesus at each breaking of bread with the community, and to allow Jesus to heal our grief and our sorrow.

CLOSING PRAYER – RESPONSORIAL PSALM PALM SUNDAY

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

‘He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;

Let him release him if this is his friend.’

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Many dogs have surrounded me,

A band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet

I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,

My strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will tell of your name to my brethren

And praise you where they are assembled.

You who fear the Lord give him praise;

All sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel’s sons.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?



The second reading for Palm Sunday speaks of Jesus who is, for us, the humility of God. It may be good to reflect on the words in John’s Gospel (3:16) in this respect – **“For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son into the world so that we may have eternal life.”** In being sent on this mission of love, Jesus did not see being the equal of God as a reason to dominate and wield power over us. Instead, he was obedient, even to death on the Cross. Hence, in Jesus, humility is not just a concept, a philosophy of life, or a value. Instead, Humility is a person – the person of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, who has been tempted as all of us are, yet did not sin. In Jesus, Humility is not something passive, but is an active obedience to the Father’s will, such that temptations to pride and self-glorification are effectively confronted at the foot of the cross.

Let us then stand with Mary and the Beloved disciple at the foot of the Cross as we look at Him whom we have pierced with our sins. Let us then rejoice at seeing the Life-giving death of Jesus, pouring out the Spirit, so that we may have life to the full this Easter season.

Contributed by Michael Tan