

PARISH OF ST ANNE & ST BEDE

PASSION SUNDAY – 5 APRIL 2020



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Dear brothers and sisters,

Since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection.

For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Link to Mass: Check Parish website under
News & Events on Saturday, 4 April from 5pm
for Palm Sunday online Mass celebrated by
Fr John.



Find a palm or olive branch from the garden, and place it on a table with your family crucifix. Gather the family around the table. If you have a copy of the Palm Sunday entrance Gospel (Matthew 21:1-11) you might like to read that first.

Leader

In Holy Week, when the bitter sufferings of Jesus are put before us, we are invited to walk to Calvary and to follow the footsteps of our Redeemer; to carry the cross willingly with Him; to reproduce in our hearts his spirit of forgiveness.

Reader 1

We ought to glory in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

All

In whom is our salvation, life and resurrection.



Leader

God our Father, you have chosen to give humanity a model of humility in Jesus, who took on human flesh and subjected himself to the Cross. Give us the grace to faithfully keep the lessons He has given us in his Passion and to have a share in His resurrection. We ask this through Jesus, Your Son.

All

Favour our home, Lord, with your presence. Let your angels live here to guide and guard us. Keep us in peace and free from all harm. May your blessing remain always with us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep the crucifix and palm/olive branch in a prominent place in the home for Holy Week.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50: 4-7

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm PS 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24.

R. (2a) **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him."

R. **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

R. **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.

R. **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

R. **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**



SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 27:11-54

Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.
Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished.
And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over.
While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him."
The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"
They all said, "Let him be crucified!"
But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?"
They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!"
When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves."
And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him.
They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him.
Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand.
And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head.
And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha — which means Place of the Skull —, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.
After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.
And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.
Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.
Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!"
Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel!
Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him.
For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"
The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.
And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah."
Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him."
But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.
The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Each year on this Sunday we read an account of the Passion of Jesus.

As we listen to it, we are reminded of the cowardice of the followers who abandoned him in his hour of greatest need, of the wickedness of the religious leaders who plotted his death, and of the cruelty of the soldiers who carried out his execution.

And we need to be reminded of these things, because we have a kind of kinship with them.

But that is not the purpose of the Passion reading. We hear too much bad news as it is.

The emphasis is not there. The emphasis is on Jesus, the central character in the story.

What we are remembering is the fidelity, the courage, and the sheer goodness of Jesus.

Against the darkness of Calvary his goodness shines all the more brightly.

The day of his death is not called 'Bad Friday' but 'Good Friday'.

What makes it good is the love of Jesus: *'Greater love no man has than to who lay down his life for his friends.'* It is that love that we are remembering this week. The early Christians saw in the passion and death of Jesus the triumph of failure. With the help of the Scriptures, they came to understand that this was precisely how Jesus triumphed and entered into his glory. His glory cannot be separated from his passion.

On the surface, it may seem as if it was a defeat for Jesus. It was not a defeat. It was a victory.

It was the triumph of good over evil, of love over hate, of light over darkness, and of life over death.

The Passion Story shows how Jesus responded to what was done to him.

He absorbed all the violence, transformed it, and returned it as love and forgiveness.

This was the victory of love over all the powers of destruction. There was nothing but love in him.

Even as they beat him & nailed his hands and feet, he was loving.

It helps to think about that when we are going through hard times. It is a consolation for us to know that Jesus suffered.

Yet his suffering would have been wasted if he had not endured it with love.

It was not Jesus' suffering that saved the world but his love.

Anyone who pretends to love suffering is crazy. Suffering is something that you would give almost anything to avoid. Yet we are glad to suffer for someone we love. Our love gives a meaning to our suffering. Suffering that is merely endured does nothing for us, except perhaps harden them.

It is the spirit in which we bear our burden that matters.

It is not suffering that redeems the world, but love.

It is not our suffering that God wants but our love.

However, love unavoidably brings pain. But it also brings great joy.

Love makes suffering for others holy.

Brothers and sisters, as we celebrate Passion Sunday, we pray in thanks to a God who places himself in solidarity with the weak and voiceless in our world and we pray that we might be impassioned to show a love, care and concern for God's creation to the point that we may have to sacrifice, suffer and even die by being on the side of goodness and love.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL



Let us pray that all of God's children may be gathered into the kingdom of salvation.

1/ For the followers of Christ: that they may not be afraid to profess their loyalty to him before an indifferent and sometimes hostile world.

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

2/ For all those who administer our justice system: that they may exercise their office in a just and compassionate manner.

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

3/ For those who are suffering: that they may unite their suffering to those of Jesus, and know his power in their weakness

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

4/ For all people of the parish of St Anne and St Bede: that we may be sensitive to the suffering of those around us, and ensure that they do not have to carry their cross alone.

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

5/ For all healthcare professionals who are working selflessly to care for those affected by COVID-19, and for all public officials and volunteers who are on the frontline.

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

6/ We pray for those in our parish community who are ill; for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Edward Walsh and Domenico Andreana, that they may see the light of God's glory; and for those who have requested special intentions.

[Let us pray to the Lord](#)

Heavenly Father, look with compassion on all who suffer. Strengthen our faith that we may walk with confidence along the road that leads to your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

PARISH NOTICES

The Parish office is being attended regularly for any messages left by phone, email or mailbox at the office's front door.

Contacts

Parish office: 9401 6355

Emergency: 9401 6368

Website: www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

Easter Offerings and Thanksgiving

Thank you to all those who have continued to support the Parish financially through direct debit or credit card and by donations left at the Parish. We realise that others may wish to continue to support the Church and Presbytery who previously gave on the collections each Sunday. As this is no longer possible, the Parish account details are printed below for electronic funds transfer. If people are unable to use ETF, envelopes can be left at the post boxes at the front door of the Parish office or the Presbytery at St Anne's. These are monitored regularly.

Church account:

BSB: 083 347

Account no. **458706734**

Account name: **St Bede's Church Account**

Presbytery account:

BSB: 083 347

Account no. **666017079**

Account name: **St Bede's Presbytery Account**

In these difficult times, we are very aware that many people's financial circumstances have worsened. Any assistance that can be given to the Parish and Presbytery is very gratefully received.

ONLINE MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK

Please visit the Parish website on the days listed below and click on *News & Events* for the online Mass link.

Holy Thursday: Thursday, 9 April from 5pm celebrated by Fr Toan.

Good Friday: Friday, 10 April from 3pm celebrated by Fr John and Fr Toan.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, 11 April from 5pm celebrated by Fr John and Fr Toan.