

Our Lady of the Valleys Parish
Palm Sunday
5th April 2020



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THE DEEP END

Today we read Matthew's account of the death of Jesus; yes it is the long Gospel but we should not miss out on the journey that spending time with this account offers. As you read perhaps you might notice the various characters and their roles, their words and actions. A good question to ask as we enter into this text is '*Where do I stand?*' Are you looking on as a bystander, are you in the group of disciples or some other character: Pilate? Pilate's wife? Perhaps it is a more difficult journey as you relate to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, a Jesus who is 'grieved' because of many things: isolation, the disappointment he must feel because of the abandonment of his friends, betrayal, loneliness, mocking, torture? This is not an easy journey. We know the story does not end here, but for this week we enter into the reality of betrayal, trial, suffering and death.

We might remember today those who stand for justice, those who are counter-cultural, those who stand against oppressive systems even though the path is often dangerous and lonely. We might recall times we felt betrayed, abandoned or times we were in despair.

Try to return to this text during the week, perhaps reading a small section each day as we continue to ask ourselves: 'Where do I stand?'

Weekly Collection: \$ -



The Archdiocesan website wn.catholic.org.nz is being regularly updated with changes in restrictions, news and resources for the time at home in lockdown. Please encourage your parishioners to check in to it for both information and spiritual resources.



UPDATE ON COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

See the Parish website for the latest update and directives from Cardinal John with regard to Parish activities during this Covid-19 incident

IN THE PARISH

AS PER CARDINAL JOHN DIRECTIVE ALL PARISH GATHERINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED

TIMES OF CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY TRIDUUM (PRIVATE

Holy Thursday	7:30 pm
Good Friday	3:00 pm
Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday	10:30 am

COMING UP

MARKING PALM SUNDAY

The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit posted this idea on their Facebook page. What if everyone on Sunday **April 5** in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to *celebrate Palm Sunday?

It could be *any green branch* you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

Want to join? *We may be physically isolated, but not separated.

We are united as the body of Christ.

We are the Church.

Yes, we are. We've got this. Let's do it.

As Catholics across the Archdiocese let us pass on message of having the "green leaves" or "branches" or "trees" on our door posts and on Facebook



PARISH NEWSLETTER

While the public gatherings are suspended the Parish will continue to be issued each week and distributed as widely as possible. During this time of self-isolation, it is only sent to those who have requested it to be emailed to them or off the web-page. There may be fellow parishioners around you who are not on the internet. Without breaking the 2-metre separation have you thought about asking them if they would like a copy, then printing one out for them and dropping it into their letterbox. They can join the email distribution by email the Parish Office and asking to be included.

If you know someone who is not able to receive the newsletter please tell them that by ringing the Office we can arrange to have the newsletter posted to them when it is published 04 972 4282

PARISH OFFICE

Though Jovena our Parish Administrator is self-isolating and not coming to the Presbytery, Fr Tony is endeavouring to keep the administration of the Parish continuing in her absence. Please feel free to call, or send an email, if I can be of assistance with administrative matters



HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

Father Patrick Bridgman has put together some reflections for Holy Week. These have been included with this bulletin.



THE LITTLE WHITE BOOK



is meant to help you enjoy six minutes of prayer each day during the 50 days of the Easter season. Reflections will be based on the Acts of the Apostles and the early Church. This Little Book has been carefully crafted to help you explore the depths of Scripture and deepen your relationship with Christ.

There are still about 10 copies which can be mailed to you if you like. Please send an email or call 04 972 4282.

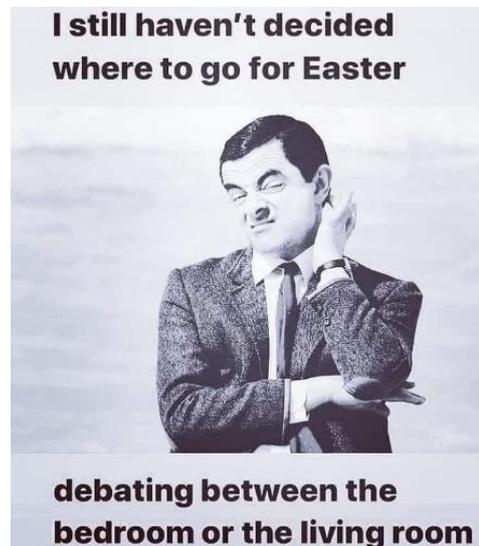
HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES



With the unusual events of these times and the ceasing of public gatherings, the Catholic Bishops have suspended all liturgical celebrations until the end of the self-isolation process. This has included public celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. As Easter is a determined day in the Liturgical Calendar it cannot be moved as other feast days may be. While public celebrations are suspended during this most holy of weeks a mandate has been received from the Vatican on how we are to celebrate the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil Service and Easter Sunday)

In essence while public celebrations are suspended Parish Priests are given permission to celebrate the three holy days as **PRIVATE MASSES**. (This means that a service is held but there is no physical participation of the faithful.)

While private celebrations will be undertaken on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening and 10:30 am on Sunday morning Cardinal John has asked that parishioners be advised of the times of the ceremonies so that though not physically present they can join in prayer from their own homes at these times



TELEPHONE TREE UP AND RUNNING



Our Passionist family groups in the parish have set up phone trees to each other to check people are safe and have support. As well as this about 14 others have taken the task of keeping in touch with parishioners who may be alone, unwell or just need to speak to contact someone. If you would like to join a phone tree, please let the Parish Office know and she can organise this.

NZ CATHOLIC GOES DIGITAL FOR COVID-19



Below is a link to a digital edition of the latest NZ Catholic, produced by the paper's staff from their homes during the lockdown because of the Covid-19 corona virus pandemic:

www.indd.adobe.com/view/888733fa-9004-4e70-9b91-df418a9f5d2a

This issue is being made available free because NZ Catholic apparently does not qualify as an essential media service at this time.

Pages may take a few seconds to load. With the current pressure on online services, please be patient.

Pages can be turned by hitting arrows at the side of the screen. The paper can also be downloaded as a whole pdf by hitting the download icon at the bottom of your screen.

PLANNED GIVING – IRD CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS



With the suspension of Masses etc if you are on the Envelope system you can drop these into the letter slot beside the front door of the presbytery. You might like to consider switching to Automatic Payments, directly from your bank account to ours. With the spate of burglaries in the past couple of the years the Finance Committee encourages parishioners to consider this option. If you chose to make the change please contact the Parish Office anytime 972 4282

The New Tax year began on Wednesday the 1st of April. Over the next couple of weeks the Parish Office will be preparing and checking the tax Inland Revenue charitable donation receipts for 2019-20. These will be available by end of April early May, and will be distributed as soon as practical.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER all who are sick and unwell especially Mary Duncan, those affected by the COVID-19 virus, and those who are lonely and worried. *We pray also for those who have died recently including, the Anne Guenole (the first COVID-19 death), Noeline Casey, Sister Catherine Hannan, Ian Simpson, Fr Pat McCann SM, and Donald O'Grady. We also pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.*



Sunday Readings		Sunday Readings	
5th April Palm Sunday		12th April Easter Sunday	
Gospel	Matthew 21: 1-11		
First Reading	Isaiah 50:4-7	First Reading	Acts 10: 34, 37-43
Second Reading	Philippians 2: 6-11	Second Reading	Col. 3:1-4
Gospel	Matthew 26: 14-27, 66	Gospel	John 20: 1-9



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL
Palm Sunday
5th APRIL 2020



1. Let each of us pray that those who follow Christ may find fresh courage for life's trials at this time of COVID-19 when we reflect on the Passion of Jesus Christ himself.
We pray to the Lord.
2. Let each of us pray that those who suffer injustice and cruelty at the hands of others may be given fresh strength and hope.
We pray to the Lord.
3. Let each of us pray that those who feel abandoned and alone at this time of self-isolation may experience God's presence in time of darkness and despair.
We pray to the Lord.
4. Let each of us pray for a speedy restoration of daily life in our county and the world, and that we will, as we can reach out in love to those around us who are in need.
We pray to the Lord.
5. Let each of us pray for the sick, aged, infirmed and terminally ill, particularly those with the corona virus: that God will heal them and restore them to their families and communities
We pray to the Lord
6. Let each of us pray that as we enter this Holy Week in our own homes, may we journey with Christ in his suffering so that we may experience the true joy of Easter.
7. We pray to the Lord
8. Let each of us pray for those who have died recently including, Anne Guenole , Noelene Casey, Sr Catherine Hannan, Ian Simpson, Fr Pat McCann SM, Donald O'Grady. We also pray for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.
We pray to the Lord.

SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNGER ONES

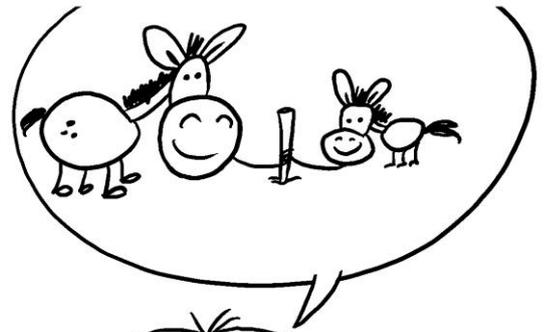
 Read the Gospel and Color

17 April • Matthew 26:14-27:66
Jesus is Betrayed

Wordsearch

P	W	B	E	T	R	A	Y	T	W	B	Q	Q
A	A	M	F	D	A	M	Y	M	C	L	L	M
S	C	X	U	Q	I	I	T	J	D	O	N	A
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S	N	X	A	R	U	G	B	L	A	O	A	G
U	H	W	J	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	Z	S

BETRAY • BLOOD • BODY • BREAD
COVENANT • DISCIPLES • FATHER • JUDAS
MEAL • PASSOVER • RAISED • SILVER
TEACHER • THIRTY • UNLEAVENED



 Puzzle

Color the robe and the cape.

