

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR A**

**2 April 2023**

On Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story - the tale of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS**

**PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

**2. READINGS**

**First: Isaiah 50: 4-9a** - The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue ... I offered my back to those who struck me ... It is the Lord GOD who helps me.

**Psalm: 31:9-16** - Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress / For my life is spent with sorrow / I am the scorn of all my adversaries / But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

**Second: Philippians 2:5-11** - His state was divine yet Christ Jesus ... was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. But God raised him high.

**Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66** - The Passion, from Judas making a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus to them, through to Joseph of Arimathea being given Jesus's body, and the Pharisees getting permission to put a special guard at the tomb.

**3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY:**

During Holy Week we reflect on the Passion of Jesus as we share his journey from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to His victory over death on the cross. This was a difficult and lonely journey for Jesus: Judas betrayed him. Peter denied knowing Him. His other friends abandoned Him and fled in fear. He was rejected, wrongly condemned, and suffered death on the cross. Throughout His journey, however, we see Jesus' perfect obedience to His Father's will and His love for us. There was no anger or hatred. Jesus demonstrated His service to others as He washed the feet of his disciples and showed mercy and forgiveness to those who persecuted Him. Jesus' final prayer of surrender highlights His firm desire to fulfil His Father's will. 'Father, into your hands I place my spirit!' (Luke 23:46) Let us reflect on the kind of followers of Jesus we are. Are we strong in faith, putting our trust in God when faced with challenging times or do we easily give into temptation? Lord, Jesus, we pray that we may follow your example of humility, mercy and forgiveness. Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

**4. BAPTISM:** We welcome into the Divine Mercy community Toby and Theo, who were baptised in the Parish last weekend.

**5. EASTER LITURGY – 2023**

**Maundy Thursday:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm  
**Good Friday:** Corpus Christi at 3.00 pm  
**Easter Vigil:** St Herbert's at 7.00 pm  
**Easter Sunday:** Corpus Christi at 9.30 am  
St Herbert's at 11.00 am

**6. STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN:** The Stations of the Cross for children (and anyone else who would like to join us) will take place on Good Friday at 10.00 am in St Herbert's Church. Come early if you wish to dress up.

**7. CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** Thank you for your donations to CAFOD'S Family Fast Day collections. The amount raised was £523.00.

**8. CHRISM MASS AT SALFORD CATHEDRAL:** Nine tickets are available for the Chrism Mass at Salford Cathedral on Wednesday, 5 April at 11.00 am. If you would like to attend the Mass, please see Fr Lawrence after Mass. The Mass will be livestreamed at <https://salfordcathedral.co.uk/>

**9. CORPUS CHRISTI COFFEE MORNING:** Come and join us for our Monthly Coffee Morning, this Sunday 2 April after the 9.30am Mass. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes. Everybody Welcome!

**10. ST HERBERT'S COFFEE MORNING:** Come and join us for Tea / Coffee & Refreshments on Easter Sunday 9th April, after 11am mass. All are welcome.

**11. PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY FEAST DAY CELEBRATION LUNCH:** On Sunday 16 April we will celebrate our Parish Feast Day with a buffet in the Parish Centre after 11.00 clock Mass. We hope you will join us for this special day. If you would like to join us, please add your name to the list at the back of Church purely for catering purposes. Thank you.

**12. CHILDREN'S LITURGY (Corpus Christi):** There will be a short meeting for Children's Liturgy staff in the presbytery after Mass.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 346; Offertory: 362, 175; Communion: 681, 656; Recessional: 310.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 113; Offertory: 583; Communion: 346, 870; Recessional: 593.

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

**12. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP:** takes place every Thursday in St Herbert's Parish Centre from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. £1.00. All welcome.

**13. PIETY STALL (Corpus Christi):** First Holy Communion Cards and gifts will be available from the Piety Stall at the back of Church after Easter!

**14. GIFT AID ENVELOPES (Corpus Christ):** The BLUE gift Aid envelopes are still available for collection in Church. You will be using your last Yellow one at Corpus this Sunday. The new ones start on Easter Sunday. If you pay tax and would like a Gift Aid Form, please see Ken Coop.

### 15. SCHOOL NEWS

**Corpus Christi:** This week our children in Reception, Wren, Hawk and Eagle Class led our final Lenten mass all about promises. The mass was beautiful, and the children's singing was lovely to hear. It has been lovely to share our Lenten masses with our parish family over the last couple of weeks.

We welcome our parish to our Holy Week service on Thursday (6th) in our school hall. The service will begin at 9:15am.

At the back of the church, we have left some Easter chicks and rabbits. Our Mini Vinnies are raising money for Francis House. We are asking for a donation of £1 and we thank you for your support and generosity.

**St Herbert's:** St Herbert's football team had a fantastic result this week! They beat Mills Hill 7-1 and are now through to the quarter finals. We are super proud of them. Reception had a super time on Wednesday – They had a topic day where they came to school dressed as Kings and Queens and knights, oh yes and dragons! In the afternoon they had a tea party and then learnt medieval dances. Take a look on Twitter reception@stherberts! Finally, we would like to invite parishioners to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April to join us at 3.15pm for our Easter Experience. We hope you will join us.

### 14. SUNDAY SMILE

A certain bishop was very fond of using quotations from the Bible when officiating at various functions. One day he arrived to open a new maternity home and the organisers thought, "I think we've got him stumped this time!" However, after some suitable preliminary remarks, the bishop smiled and said, "I know what you are all waiting for, my quotation as usual. Well here it is. From First Corinthians Chapter 15, Verse 51. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed!"

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed.
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY:</b>	<b>No Mass at Corpus Christi</b> <b>St Herbert's:</b> The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 pm
<b>GOOD FRIDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's:</b> Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.00 am <b>Corpus Christi:</b> The Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at 3.00 pm
<b>EASTER SATURDAY:</b>	<b>No Evening Mass at Corpus Christi</b> <b>St Herbert's:</b> Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm
<b>EASTER SUNDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am <b>St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

## MASS REQUESTS

**Missa pro populo**

**Special Intentions:** The Lawson family

**Lately Dead:** Daniel Moore, Jean Wall

**RIP:** Elsie Lawson

**Anniversary:** Christine Gaffney (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary), Eileen Wright, Robert William Power

**Easter Mass:** Florence & George Ramsden, Thomas Wood, Margaret Connolly

## PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



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## ARE YOU...

New to the Parish?

Know someone who is sick or in hospital?

Can you help the parish or us you?

Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.