

Parish Priest

Fr Kevin Mowbray SM smoapp@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priests

Fr Peter McAfee SM Fr Pat Brophy SM Fr Joe Savesi SM

Pastoral Worker

Sr Frances Gibbs CSB

In Residence

Fr Brian Wysocki SM

Director of Music

Robert Oliver chant4robert@gmail.com

Parish Accountant

smoamanager@xtra.co.nz

Parish Office

smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

While the nation is in alert levels 3 and pain and sacrifice.

- The parish office will be answering emails remotely
- A **priest** will be available via our office phone at (04) 473 8074 from 9am - 12pm.
- The **Angelus** newsletter will still be published online each week.
- Our website will have reguarly updated information, as well as links to prayer resources and livestreamed Masses: www.smoa.org.nz

5 April 2020, Palm Sunday

THE CROSS – SYMBOL OF LOVE

When I was a little boy, still in primary school, I was taught by Irish nuns - the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. There was a joyful determination about everything they did which was all focused on making us good little Catholics. Every morning school began with a boisterously sung hymn, followed immediately by our catechism lesson. Each night we had to learn the answers off by heart to the catechism questions set for us each day. And woe betide anyone who couldn't remember them! The strap was never very far away. Though we knew the nuns cared deeply for us it was a strange, fearful way for them to teach the 'Faith of our Fathers'.

Such memories of the nuns came back to me as I began to think about Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the day on which we read the Gospel account of the passion and death of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Those many years ago the good nuns, well aware that as we stood at Mass to listen to this long Gospel we would become restless, taught us that if we stood still and didn't make a noise we would succeed in freeing a little soul like ours from purgatory. Our sacrifice would somehow save another from more pain and suffering.

Fear, pain, sacrifice. Perhaps many still associate those words with memories of our Catholic childhood. Yes, there was the joy and wonder of Christmas, the excitement of First Holy Communion, the mystery of incense and candle-light. But there was also fear,

4, the church building will be closed And Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, really made that pain and sacrifice fearfully and there will be no Masses, liturgies clear. Jesus suffered and died for us because of our sins. This struck so deep into the or Sacraments celebrated. hearts of Catholics that Good Friday was the day when the churches were overflowing with believers coming to honour the cross of Jesus.

> What got lost in my Catholic childhood was the true reason for Holy Week, for Palm Sunday, for the passion and death of the Lord. What was lost was Jesus' love for his Father. A love which made it impossible for him to deny that he was truly the Son of God the Father. Nothing could prevent him from preaching this truth. This so infuriated some of the most powerful leaders of the Jewish people they persuaded the Roman authorities to crucify him. Jesus went to the cross because of love.

> The cross is a symbol of love, the cost of true and faithful love. That is why we honour it. Pain and sacrifice make no sense unless they are born of love. That is what the cross means. That is what we are called to believe. Jesus was not sent by God to be punished in our place for our sins. He was sent to reveal the Father's love for us. And that love cost him his life. He died because, with the Father, he loves us.

How many people would still be catholic if that was the truth they had learnt from their catechism so long ago?

Fr Kevin Mowbray sm

—Parish Priest

Planned Giving Donations

As we cannot take cash or envelope donations during this time, we ask that you make your donations via internet banking. Our details are as follows:

Bank: BNZ

02 0536 0003242 24 Bank Account:

Account Name: St Mary of the Angels Parish [your planned giving number] Reference:

Code: [your surname]

If you are unsure of your planned giving number, or are interested in signing up for our planned giving programme, please email the parish office at smoaoffice@xtra.co.nz

WelCom and NZ Catholic online

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the Government's rules to stop delivery of printed 'community' newspapers and magazines, the WelCom, due out for Palm Sunday, 5 April, has been adapted as an online publication. Printed copies of WelCom will not be available during the lockdown. Here is the link to this issue: https://issuu.com/dartworks/docs/ welcom 381 april 2020 5-6 final web

The NZ Catholic newspaper is also being made available free. This latest edition is produced by the paper's staff from their homes during the lockdown. Here is the link to the digital edition; https:// indd.adobe.com/view/888733fa-9004-4e70-9b91df418a9f5d2a

Prayer at Home over Holy Week

Fr Patrick Bridgman, Liturgy Adviser at the Archdiocese of Wellington, has created a document with suggestions for prayer at home during Holy Week. There are suggestions for Palm Sunday and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday). Fr Patrick writes, 'You may like to pray at the times you would normally gather with your faith community in the parish so to emphasis the reality of our communion with each other.' Click here for the document.

Message from the St Vincent de Paul Society

Vinnies Foodbank Wellington have had a 380% increase in people accessing food supplies since COVID-19 lockdown began. To keep up with demand and make sure the community is receiving the items they need, we are bulk buying food and supplies every few days. We can't do this alone. We need your help, since our shops and churches are now closed. Monetary help is the best way now. If you are in a position to do so, please donate directly to:

St Vincent de Paul Society Wellington

Bank: BNZ

Account # 02-0576-0017817-00

Reference: COVID 19

Stay safe and look after your neighbours. God's Blessings to you all.

—St Vincent de Paul City Conference.

Pope Francis' Special Urbi et Orbi Blessing

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you.'

Read the full text of Pope Francis' special 'Urbi et Orbi' blessing that he gave last weekend by clicking here.

Please pray for:

Fr Jim Beban sm, Margaret Hyland, Gerard O'Brien, Birja Nand, Leo Connolly **Anniversaries:**



Prayers for the Sick: Peter Aldridge, Tony Crawley, John Adams, Fr Tom O'Connor sm, Geoff Sweet, Dianne Sweet, Losalia Leo, Patricia Smyth, John Foden, John Mora, Kerry Barber, Pam Finlayson, Paul and Francisca Sparnaay, Brendan Gilmore, Shirley O'Brien, Pat Johnson, Peter Aston, Henry Prendergast, Barbara and Vic Stairs, Josephine McLean

> Please remember these and any others in the Parish who are ill. If you know of anyone confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact Sister Frances at the parish office.







Please contact me if I can help with a City Council issue

021 654 844

nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

Sunday's Readings—Palm Sunday

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. We see ourselves in the crowds who cried 'Hosanna to the Son of David' one day and 'Crucify him' just a few days later. Like Peter and the other disciples we can be fickle followers of Jesus. We should not, however, imitate Judas and despair at our infidelity. Rather, we should look to Jesus who allowed his blood to be poured out for many 'for the forgiveness of sins'. Let us praise him with grateful hearts.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

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.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

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, 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.

Responsorial Psalm 21

R. 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 songs of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R**



Gospel on next page

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Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, "The teacher says, "My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."



Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed; but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

Peter said to him in reply, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open.

He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him." Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and he kissed him. Jesus answered him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?"

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it." The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying, "Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!"

A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people

took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood." After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet,

And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me.

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he 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.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.



Need help?

Need someone to talk to?

- Wellington Catholic Social Services social workers working remotely, can help identify appropriate sources of assistance, 0274055469 or reception@wn.catholic.org.nz
- *Need to Talk helpline*—staffed by paid counsellors 24/7. Free phone or text 1737

Emergency food assistance

Society of St Vincent de Paul:

- Wellington area, Newtown office essential packs: Call 04 389 7122, Text 021 215 7098 or email info@vinnieswgtn.org.nz
- Hutt valley: 04-568 6408
- Kapi-Mana: 04-237 5968

Compassion Centre Soup Kitchen:

• 132 Tory St, Wellington. Serving 1 meal a day, everyday during the COVID-19 lockdown, 1.30-2.30pm

Foodbanks:

 A number of foodbanks are operating during the lockdown. Please see <u>foodbank.co.nz</u> for information on how to access foodbanks during this time.

Assistance with benefits, hardship grants

- Ministry of Social Development: 0800-559-009
- Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust hvbest@xtra.co.nz, 0284246295 or 04-529-8108
- Wellington Benefit Rights Service 04-210-2012, 0212927636 or benefitrights@gmail.com

Legal advice

Community law centres: Offices are closed during the lockdown but most are continuing to offer free legal advice by phone and email:

- Wellington & Hutt Valley Community Law: 04-499-2928
- Porirua Community Law: info@pkclc.com or 04 2376811
- Wairarapa Community Law: 06-377-4134 or info@wairarapaclc.org.nz
- Manawatu Community Law, incl. Ōtaki & Levin: reception@mancomlaw.org.nz (06) 356 7974, 0508 FOR LAW (0508 367 529)

Violence in the home

- Women's refuge: 0800 REFUGE or 0800-733-843 For more information womensrefuge.org.nz
- Shakti: Support for migrant and refugee women of Asian, African and Middle Eastern origin. 0800-742-584

Support during pregnancy and for young mothers

- Greenstone Doors (Lower Hutt): online counselling and practical support 04-566 5037 or info@greenstonedoors.co.nz
- St Vincent de Paul, essential baby packs: 04 389 7122, 021 215 7098 or info@vinnieswgtn.org.nz

Offer help

Opportunities to support wellbeing and support work during the COVID-19 lockdown:

As most services are operating remotely, and because of COVID-19 restrictions, organisations are mostly unable to accept donated goods at this time. Please contact any of the organisations above if you want to discuss the suitability of any donated items.

Ways to support financially:

Wellington St Vincent de Paul essential services response Account number: 02-0576-0017817-00

Reference: COVID19

www.vinnies-wellington.org.nz/donate

Kapi-Mana St Vincent de Paul

Plimmerton conference supplying food parcels in

Porirua

Account number: 06-0549-0128322-00

Compassion Soup Kitchen:

www.soupkitchen.org.nz/donate/donate-money

Upper Hutt Housing Trust:

Would appreciate donations to assist with purchasing warm winter clothes and blankets www.uhht.org.nz/?page_id=91

Wellington Catholic Social Services:

Account number: 02-0560-0213864-000 wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/Donate

Challenge 2000 youth development agency:

Support to families that Challenge 2000 works with: Account number: 01-0519-0057600-00 www.challenge2000.org.nz

Foodbanks

Details on how to donate to a range of foodbanks are available here: www.foodbank.co.nz/donate

This resource is taken from the Archdiocese of Wellington's website





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Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

Phone (04) 473 8074.

During this lockdown, we are sending out the Angelus newsletter, as well as other liturgical resources and reflections, through an email distribution list. If you would like to subscribe to this mailing list, Please fill out the form here.

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