

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

Newsletter – 9th April 2017 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (A)

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4 - 7: Philippians: 2: 6- 11

Responsorial Psalm: *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Christ 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 names. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Matthew 26: 14– 27, 66



Palm Sunday: Today we begin the commemoration of the high points in the history of salvation: the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus – the Paschal Mystery. Today we accompany Jesus on his solemn entry into Jerusalem where he will suffer, die and rise again. Palm branch is a symbol of peace and victory and we use them in all three Masses in our parish.

Monday: We offer the Holy Mass at **7pm** followed by Reconciliation Service. Priests are invited from other parishes to hear Confessions and please make use of this opportunity to prepare to celebrate the Paschal Triduum.

Wednesday: With other Christian Denominations, we are going to pray the Stations of the Cross at **7pm** in our church and afterwards we will join for Compline at St Peter's Church. (**Please Note:** There is no morning Mass in our parish and all are welcome to participate the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 11am).

Maundy Thursday: The Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated at **7pm**. Institution of the Holy Eucharist and of the priestly order, and the commandment of the Lord concerning fraternal charity are the principal mysteries commemorated on this day.



On Good Friday, we commemorate the passion and the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. The celebration of the Lord's Passion consists of three parts, namely, the liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion.

Bishop Paul Mason is the main celebrant of the liturgy and it begins at **3pm**. (we have the stations of the Cross and the sacrament of Confession from 10am). Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

Holy Saturday: on this day the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating the Passion and Death, and waiting his Resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: Easter Vigil is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities. The Vigil begins at **8pm** in our parish (sunset is at 7.57pm, this year). In this Vigil, we, carrying lighted lamps in our hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find us awake and have us sit at his table.

On the Easter Sunday, we do have all three Masses as usual and there will be no music played in the 6pm Mass.

WISH YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED HOLY WEEK

HOLY MASSES INUENSIONS.

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| Sunday 9th April | 9am 11am 6pm | People of the Parish. Michael Devitt - - R.I.P. Ger Walsh - R.I.P. | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION |
| Monday | 7pm | Margaret Devitt - R.I.P. | |
| Tuesday | 10am | Mary Taran. | |
| Wednesday | | No Parish Mass. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 11.30am. | |
| Thursday | 7pm | Maundy Thursday – People of the Parish | |
| Friday | 3pm | Good Friday. | Friday of the Passion of the Lord. |
| Saturday | 10am | Holy Saturday. | |
| Sunday 16th April | Sat 8pm 9am 11am 6pm | People of the Parish - Easter Vigil Pat Stanley - Thanksgiving People of the Parish. Annie Griffin – Birthday. | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord |

Sunday 2nd April

Collection: Loose - £223.36; Envelopes - £347.30= £570.66

Attendance: 9am – 67; 11am - 91; 6pm - 47= 205

100 Club: £20 – John Endicott N° 27; £10 – Mrs Liz Watts N° 119

Repainting the Church Hall. Many thanks to those parishioners who were able to spare time to refresh and redecorate our church hall. It looks lovely and clean again, and we hope many parishioners will enjoy the hard work put in by Michael Blandford, Theresa & Ken Bruce, Liz Drummond, John & Maureen Endicott, Jeremy Jarvis, Jane Polley and Pat Wiley.

This Tuesday, 11th April, from 12.30hrs we will be Spring Cleaning the kitchen area to complete our Easter cleaning programme. Many thanks to all who have participated over the last two Tuesdays to support our beautiful Church.

Earth Day: The Saturday after Easter Sunday, 22nd April, is 'Earth Day', an opportunity to ask ourselves how we can actually live Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical, caring for our common home.

Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter – Pope Francis.

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Bible verse to remember:

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. (Phil 2)