

Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

ANDREW: *Welcome to the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. I am Andrew and my task is to guide you as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Our celebrants today are Fr Paul and Fr Tan. Fr Mac is leading us in music and our reader is Brianna.*

We are dedicating this mass for Marissa Ziesing, aged 34, who returned last week from the UK where she was studying on a Churchill Scholarship. She is currently being treated in the RAH for acute COVID 19, and pneumonia. Please keep Marissa in your prayers.

Ordinarily we begin our Palm Sunday celebration in our Church Hall, where we listen to the Word of God and then process as a community out into the street as a witness of our faith. Please take a moment of silent reflection to imagine such a journey, as we follow in faith, hope and love, the cross.

(pause for a few moments)
(Fr Mac to sing Hossanna)

Blessing of the Palms

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 **(FR PAUL)**

When they drew near to Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
'Go into the village facing you,
and immediately you will find an ass tied,
and a colt with her: untie them and bring them to me.
If anyone says anything to you, you shall say,
"The Lord has need of them,"
and he will send them immediately.'

This took place to fulfil
what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
'Tell the daughter of Sion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
they brought the ass and the colt,
and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.
Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,
and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road.
And the crowds that went before him
and that followed him shouted,
'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!'
And when he entered Jerusalem,
all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'
And the crowds said,
'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.'

The word of the Lord

The Introductory Rites

Greeting

Penitential Act

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First reading Isaiah 50:4-7 (BRIANNA)

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.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24 (SUNG FR MAC)

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.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

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.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

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!

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second reading Philippians 2:6-11 (BRIANNA)

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.
 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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! (SUNG FR MAC)

Christ became obedient for us even to death,
 (BRIANNA)
 dying on the cross. Therefore, God raised him on high
 and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! (SUNG FR MAC)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Matthew 27:11-54

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Jesus. O. Other single speaker. C. Crowd, or more than one speaker.

N. Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O. Are you the king of the Jews?

N. Jesus replied,

✠ It is you who say it.

N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him,

O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N. But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them,

O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. they said,

C. Barabbas.

N. Pilate said to them:

O. But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N. They all said:

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Pilate asked:

O. Why? What harm has he done?

N. But they shouted all the louder,

C. Let him be crucified!

N. Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said,

O. I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

N. And the people, to a man, shouted back,

C. His blood be on us and on our children!

N. Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying,

C. Hail, king of the Jews!

N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

C. So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God.'

N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

✠ Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

N. That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said,

C. The man is calling on Elijah.

N. and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

C. Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said,

C. In truth this was a son of God.

The Homily

At the end of the Homily it is appropriate for there to be a brief silence for recollection.

The congregation then stands.

The Creed

Prayers of the Faithful (Andrew)

1. The Christ is suffering as we suffer: May YOUR LOVE shine out over the whole land and be a beacon of Hope for us all, and may we then become that Hope for each other.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

2. Teach us to bow down in humility to each other and to our Earth especially during our times of darkness and sorrow.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

3. As we weep with Peter to see YOU on the Cross: Give us the Grace to turn and look into Your eyes loving us and calling us to be free of what binds us.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

4. For the times we have crucified Love in our own lives: teach us to see your Presence in all things and all people and embrace our World with honour and respect.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

5. For those who have suffered at our hands, and ALL those who are victims of violence, particularly women and children: Help us to put an end to such shocking suffering.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

6. For all those who will die this day: May they now know the truth of Faith, Hope and Love as they are held in your Embrace.
God of Hope, hear us
GOD OF HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Offertory Prayer

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung Fr Mac)

The mystery of faith. (sung Fr Mac)

The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

The peace of the Lord

Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **(sung Fr Mac)**
 have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Song during Holy Communion

Supper invitation **(sung Fr Mac)**

Andrew: *We ask that during this time, you bow your head and reflect...as we pray together...*

*Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament.
 I love you and desire you above all things.
 Since I cannot receive you now in Holy Communion
 Come spiritually into my heart and soul and remain there with me forever, Amen*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
 Nourished with these sacred gifts,
 we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
 that, just as through the death of your Son
 you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
 so by his Resurrection
 you may lead us to where you call.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Concluding Rites

Andrew: *Large palm fronds have been placed outside our church doors, the entrance to our parish office and attached to the cross on Seaview Road for you to collect at your leisure. Please come past when you can to cut a blessed frond yourself. A special thanks to Maria and Jan for providing the palms that we have used today and decorating our church.*

Remember that the glass porch of our parish office is open during the week for you to collect weekly bulletins and handouts for those of you who do not have access to the internet and are unable to log into our Facebook and webpages.

Blessing

Dismissal

Hossanna (sung Fr Mac)