



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: PALM SUNDAY OF LENT : B

Sixth Week of Lent: 28th March – 3rd April 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

Saturday 27th March: *Lenten Feria*

Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish

Sunday 28th March: *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: B*

10:00 am: Mass; Celebrant's Intentions

Monday 29th March: *Monday of Holy Week*

10:00 am: Mass; Marianne Walton RIP (Cookson)

Tuesday 30th March: *Tuesday of Holy Week*

10:00 am: Mass (St Francis); Intentions of Caroline Robinson (Val)

Wednesday 31st March: *Wednesday of Holy Week*

11:30 am: Chrism Mass at St Barnabas Cathedral (Live Stream Only)

THE SACRED EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday 1st April: *Maunder Thursday*

7:30 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper; Audrey McCoy RIP (McCoy Family)

Friday 2nd April: *Good Friday*

3:00 pm: The Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross for Good Friday

7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross for Good Friday (St Francis)

Saturday 3rd April: *Holy Saturday*

8:00 pm: Easter Vigil; Pro Populo; People of the Parish

Sunday 4th April: *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

10:00 am: Mass; Special Intention

11:30 am: Mass (St Francis) Intentions of Kiera Morgan Harvey

Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:

Isobel Alana Barnes,
Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame,
Margaret Brown,
Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable,
Francesca Lina Craparotta,
Jim & Margaret Dougan,
Fr Theodore Gomes,
Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey,
Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem,
Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid,
Canon Owen O'Neil, Alan Roberts,
Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and
John Wilcox.

HOSPITALS

A number of priests are still trying to maintain an 'on – call' rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

POOR CLARES: I will be visiting the sisters **THIS Monday, 29th March 2021** to take donations from our Parish, so it will be good that the Sisters will receive our gifts before Easter – in time for their celebrations. When I visited them three weeks ago they were all well and some of them had received their first Covid vaccinations. Any donations for the Sisters can be left in the box at the back of Church or given to me or Father Christopher. Please remember in your prayers *Sister Francesca Hofmann*, who died on 13th March 2021, after 62 years in the Religious Life. Sister Francesca was from Frankfurt, Germany. She originally entered the Palletine Sisters in Germany and was sent to Hull University to study Classics. She decided however, that she was called to the Poor Clare Life and entered the Poor Clares in England. During her 62 years as a Religious she served as Abbess and then as Novice Mistress. She loved reading and was very involved in the Franciscan Movement. For the last few years, she was lovingly cared for by her community. Three weeks ago, Sister Francesca was taken into the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, where she contracted the Corona virus. We are asked to pray now for the happy repose of Sister Francesca's soul and remember in our prayers the Sisters at Bulwell. Thank you – *Diane Wilson*.



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!! English Martyrs' Chaplaincy Team, with some members of EM staff and parishioners from both St Francis and The Assumption are taking on the Lent Walk for Water Challenge. We will each be aiming to walk 10, 000 steps a day for 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's

work around the world. Follow the link below for sponsorship or share the link with your friends and family if you would like to join in with the challenge: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/english-martyrs-chaplaincy-team-and-catholic>. Check out our Social Media platforms for regular updates throughout Lent @em_chaplaincy Instagram and English Martyrs' Youtube Channel. Thank you so much for your continued support. – *Year 6 Chaplaincy Team*

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY WALK FOR WATER – ONE MORE WEEK TO GO!: The children from the parish are doing brilliantly in their efforts for CAFOD's Walk for Water over Lent. Taking part, we have: *Gethín, Carwyn, Fiorella, Gino, Phoebe, Lottie, Flora, Blathnaid, Dylan, Oliver, Max, Grace, Flo, Frank, Arthur, Bella, Niamh, Freddie* and *Henry*. So far they have walked over 3 million steps! Their fundraising total stands at **£ 1076. 00!** Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored them so far. All of the donations are really spurring them on. If you would still like to sponsor them, you can do so by going to this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/assumptionchildren> Thank you in advance for all your support. – *Catherine Agius and the children and families of the Children's Liturgy Group*.

MISSIO: Red Boxes – There are copies of the Spring edition of Mission today at the back of the Church – please help yourself to a copy. If you have a box that needs to be emptied would you contact me on the number on the bottom of the box or leave it with Father Christopher. Many Thanks – *Diane Wilson*
Parish MISSIO Secretary.

CHRISM MASS: This year the Chrism Mass will be closed to the general public due to the restrictions on numbers permitted to gather for public worship during the time of the Covid – 19 Pandemic, only members of the presbyterate have been invited to attend. The Mass will be live streamed and recorded and can be watched via the Cathedral website: stbarnabascathedral.org.uk

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communion and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on **21st June 2021**. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked to contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21st June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communion, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course.

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass is available once again.* Needless to say, that we still need to be aware of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven't already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. ***PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.*** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. ***PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.*** If you do not have access to or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass, by telephone, by calling Marie Calladine for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you are unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on ***Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays*** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on ***Tuesdays***, all at ***10:00 am***. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY: HOW HAS COVID – 19 AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR FAITH?: Bishop Patrick would like to hear from you! The Diocese of Nottingham has launched a short survey in order to deepen its understanding of Covid – 19's impact on all Catholics across the Diocese. Bishop Patrick is eager to know more about peoples' experiences of the pandemic, with a view to ensuring that the faithful are well supported and understood in the years ahead. Please visit: <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/news/share-your-story-how-has-covid-19-affected-you-and-your-faith> and fill out the short questionnaire. ***The deadline for submissions is July 4th 2021.***

SENIOR SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR: The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham seeks to appoint an experienced Safeguarding Professional to lead and manage its Safeguarding Service. Working with the Bishop, the Diocesan Trustees, Safeguarding Commission and Clergy and Parishes of the Diocese, this person will lead and develop safeguarding strategy and practice to the highest levels, and implement national policies and procedures fully and consistently. This is a key senior role, central to the commitment of the Bishop and the Diocese to minimise safeguarding risks, achieve excellent outcomes with and for children and vulnerable adults, and enable a protected, supportive environment in which the Mission of the Church demonstrably takes place safely across the Diocese. The successful applicant will be a highly motivated, energetic and enthusiastic individual with proven team leadership skills, and an expertise in, and commitment to, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. **Salary:** £43,800 – £47,800 dependent on qualifications and experience **For more information and an application pack email:** office@dioceseofnottingham.uk *Closing date 11th April 2021. Interviews are expected to take place in person week commencing Monday 19th April 2021.*

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: B.

(*READINGS: Mark 11¹⁻¹⁰; Isaiah 50⁴⁻⁷; Psalm 21^{8-9; 17-20; 23-24}; Philippians 2⁶⁻¹¹ and; Mark 14¹⁻¹⁵⁴⁷)*

With today's Liturgy, we stand at the threshold of Holy Week, the week in which we commemorate the most profound mysteries of life and death, of God and man, of love and sin. We have prepared for forty days to step into Holy Week and remind ourselves that by doing so we step into a new life won for us by Our Lord Jesus Christ at so great a cost. So, we must not take this step lightly. We call today "Passion" Sunday not just because of Our Lord's passionate love for us, even though He does love us passionately, in the true sense of the word. Passion comes from the Latin word *passio*, which means to suffer or to undergoing something important. Our Lord enters Jerusalem knowing that a new level of suffering is at hand, but He does not hesitate because what is at stake is our salvation. If we think life is hard, imagine how hard it was to set Heaven aside even for a moment and become a man as Jesus did. But He not only became man, He became a servant of all and the servant who suffered for all.

In today's Second Reading Paul reminds us that Christ had no need or desire for more glory, yet He did something for us and for His Father, worthy of even greater glory. His Incarnation was lowly and poor; He didn't do anything by half – measures. Even from the very beginning He wasn't looking for the royal life in palaces. God became a slave for us. He taught us humility and obedience so that we would be able to follow His example. In today's Passion narrative we walk with Him in His last hours of torment, betrayal, solitude and pain when all He sought from us; and for us, was peace, loyalty, communion and joy. There is not much more to say: Our Lord's actions on our behalf say it all.

The Church calls this day by two names: Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday: The first, for victory – the name most people recognize; the second, for suffering – the one most people would sooner choose to forget. But in the logic of the Church, which is the Divine Wisdom on the subject, these two names are complementary, not mutually exclusive nor even paradoxical. The symbols of victory achieve their significance only in and through the Lord's enduring of His Passion. So, what are the lessons we can learn from this truth?

Today we usually hold in our hands palm branches. In the ancient world, palm branches were the symbol of victory. For the Israelites in the Old Testament, the elegance, strength and simplicity of this tree became a symbol of the just man or just woman, the one in whom God's Law triumphed. It also symbolized victory for the Romans. Palm trees were not native to Italy, and so, when the Romans started conquering other nations in the Mediterranean, the generals brought palm trees back to Rome as souvenirs of their victories. So, the crowds waving palm branches as Jesus entered Jerusalem were declaring His victory. Today, we echo them, we join them and we declare and celebrate Christ's victory.

But what victory is it? And how did Christ win it? It is the victory over Original Sin. Original Sin was mankind's disobedience to God and obedience to the devil. It shattered God's plan, it let loose the scourge of evil and gave the devil a certain power on earth. Jesus, through His Passion, Death and Resurrection, reversed the disobedience of Original Sin by obeying His Father's will in spite of all the devil's attempts to frustrate Him: The betrayal of Judas; the abandonment of His apostles; the false accusations; the condemnation; the humiliation; the scourging and crowing with thorns; the torture of Crucifixion – all of these sufferings were the devil's attempts to get Jesus to say, "no," to His Father, just as He had convinced Adam and Eve to say, "no," to God. But Jesus defeated the devil. He continued to love, He continued to forgive and He continued to obey throughout it all. And so, He, unlike Adam, unlike every other person in history, He can say like Isaiah in the First Reading, "I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed." Our Lord's Passion is D – Day for the devil and liberation for us. This is the victory we celebrate on this Sunday.

Today in the Liturgy of the Church, all Catholics throughout the world, are urged to turn their hearts and minds once again to the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. That suffering won for all mankind the definitive victory over sin and hopelessness – a victory we declare and celebrate with palm branches, the ancient world's symbol of triumph. But let us dig deeper into this mystery of our salvation. Let us not be just satisfied with the symbols.

God is all – powerful. He could have chosen to save us from sin in many other ways. Why did He choose to do it by suffering? What is the meaning of the Passion? The Passion tells us with perfect clarity the message we most need to hear. The Passion of Our Lord says to us: God is faithful and you can trust Him. Trusting God is the most important thing for us, but it is also the hardest, because our trust has been violated. We have all been wounded because people we trusted let us down, in little things and big things. As a result, we have all built up walls around our hearts, to protect ourselves from being let down again.

But those walls also keep God out. God knows that unless we let Him into our hearts, we can never experience the happiness we long for. So, He came up with a way to win back our trust: the Passion of Christ. The Passion is God saying to us: “No matter what you do, I will keep on loving you. I will never let you down.” If we reject Him, if we scourge Him, if we crown Him with thorns, if we betray Him, even if we crucify Him and try to do away with Him completely, He continues to love us: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

God’s love and faithfulness does not depend on us being perfect and it does not depend on His whims and fancies. He will never take it back. We can trust Him – COMPLETELY. That is the message of the Passion. And it is the message that each of us, wounded and sinful as we are, most needs to hear. We have to learn to trust God more and more in order to be transformed by Him into the kind of person we know we should be. The Catechism tells us, “Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God’s command. This is what man’s first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in His goodness.”

Today and throughout this week we have a chance to renew our trust in this God of ours, who went to such great lengths to prove that He is trustworthy. Today and throughout this week we have a chance to let this truth heal the wounds of our hearts and renew our lives. But we shouldn’t think only of ourselves. Many people have been wounded and have erected walls around their hearts and they have never heard the message of the Passion.

There are two ways that each one of us can make this Holy Week truly holy, not only for ourselves, but for those around us. There are two ways that each one of us can be a living image of Christ’s Passion to those around us: by our words and by our deeds. By our words: We should not be afraid to speak of Christ and the meaning of His Passion. We are His messengers. He wants to reach out to others through us. Who needs to hear the message? Maybe we can think of someone right away. Maybe we just need to be ready and willing, so that the Holy Spirit can work through us. And by our deeds: This week, we can image Christ’s Passion by doing what He did, by sharing our neighbour’s burdens, by taking upon ourselves the crosses of others. Today, on this day when we celebrate the victory of Christ’s love, let us ask Christ to show us what to do and let us promise Him that we will not keep the victory to ourselves, but everywhere we go, that we will do our part to be victors with Christ.

This holiest of weeks is given to us to determine our level of compassion; to allow us to show – by our lives – if we truly grasp how the Palms and the Passion go together; to remind us of the one overriding hope that God has had for each one of us from all eternity – the hope that we would share in His unbounded, faithful love forever.